March 23, 2020 Update
New Processes in RIT International Student Services

Our physical office is closed, so we ask you to please review the 5 brief updates below & our new information online: www.rit.edu/iss

For help, email iss@rit.edu or, email an advisor directly: Our Staff | International Student Services
For urgent matters, weekdays 9AM - 4PM, call: 585-371-8285
Emergencies, call Public Safety 585-475-3333

1. How can I interact with the ISS staff?
   a) We do not have on-site staff, and the SAU building is locked. However, we are all working for you from home, so please reach out for help.
   b) First check our website www.rit.edu/iss - as we are regularly updating new processes there.
   c) We now have some new ways for you to interact with our team, including Zoom conferencing.
   d) We will email you scans of your documents, and/or FedEx necessary hardcopies (such as OPT cards).
   e) You are encouraged to include your phone number when you email ISS. Our staff members are happy to give you a call back to answer quick questions.

2. OPT application process
   a) Please use our OPT Request Form to receive a new I-20 (scanned by email to you) with our OPT recommendation on it.
   b) Follow instructions provided by ISS to mail your own application to USCIS.
   c) For complete details visit www.rit.edu/iss/optional-practical-training
   d) Please note this important change: use your own US Mailing address. Do not use the ISS office. You will then be responsible for receiving your OPT card and for updating USCIS if you move before it is shipped.

3. Emergency travel signatures
   a) No travel signature is required to leave the US (just to re-enter). None is required if you are staying inside the U.S.
   b) If you got a travel signature on or after Aug 1, 2019, then you do not need a new travel signature.
   c) If your last travel signature was before August 1, 2019, email us and we’ll scan you a new I-20 with a travel signature. Print & attach that to your old I-20s prior to re-entering the U.S.
d) If you’re outside the US and need a hardcopy for a visa renewal, let us know and we’ll assist with that. Currently, there are almost no visa appointments available at US Consulates, and we expect it will be a few weeks or months before those resume.

e) Early this summer, we will be back in touch to let you know our plans for new travel signatures to anyone who cannot return to the U.S. by early fall.

4. Virtual (Zoom) walk-in advising

   a) Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 10:00am-12:00pm
             Tuesday & Thursday: 2:00pm-4:00pm
             * Additional times can be always arranged by emailing iss@rit.edu

   ISS is offering virtual walk-in advising every weekday according to the above schedule. Students can access this virtual advising room by phone or by using the Zoom app from their computer or device. We have a waiting room feature. When the walk-in advisor is available, they will bring you into the Zoom room from the waiting area.

   b) Instructions:

       Meeting ID: 446 908 886
       You will need this meeting ID to join the ISS Virtual Walk-In Advising room.

       Join Room Through the Zoom App:
       https://rit.zoom.us/j/446908886
       Follow prompts to download the Zoom app to your device.

       Join Room by Phone Call:
       Dial by your location: +1 646 558 8656 US
       Calling from outside of the US? Find your local number here.

       Trouble joining by phone? Click here for help.
       Zoom Help: https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us

5. The IRS extended the federal tax filing deadline to July 15, 2020.

   a) New York State and many other states have extended their deadlines as well.
   b) More info here: Taxes | International Student Services