



Global Education

Spokane Community College

MS 2151
1810 N Greene Street
Spokane WA 99217-5399 USA
509-533-8671 • FAX 509-533-3237

Spokane Falls Community College

MS 3011
3410 W Fort George Wright Drive
Spokane WA 99224-5288 USA
509-533-4113 • FAX 509-533-3237

INFORMATION FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

Global Education Services and Contacts

In response to the Governor's Stay Home Stay Healthy order, all Global Education office staff can be reached daily by phone, email or video. While the campuses are physically closed, the Global Education office is available to you online, Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

SFCC students with questions about visa/immigration/travel/registration please contact:

Christiana Hennings

Email: Christiana.Hennings@ccs.spokane.edu

Phone: 509-533-4131

SCC students with questions about visa/immigration/travel/registration please contact:

Julie Hands

Email: Julie.Hands@ccs.spokane.edu

Phone: (509) 533-8885

All other Inquiries please contact our team at:

Globalprograms@ccs.spokane.edu

Information for Continuing International Students

We recommend that you remain in the U.S.

- Due to the quickly developing nature of COVID-19 and uncertainties regarding possible future travel restrictions, our recommendation is that you remain in the U.S. during this period
- All Spring Quarter classes will be offered online for the duration of the quarter. International students must maintain F1 visa status by taking all classes online during this period. International students still need to remain full-time (at least 12 credits) and make normal progress in your course of study.

Travel Restrictions and Our Advice

- **I am currently in the U.S. but was planning to return to my home country, should I cancel my trip?**

We do not know how long these travel restrictions will last and what additional countries may be added to the restrictions already in place. Additionally, due to the WA Governor's Stay Home Stay Healthy order, many flights departing from Spokane have been canceled.

If you decide to travel, be prepared, understand the risks, and be advised that you might not be able to return to the U.S. for an unknown period. Your trip could be disrupted, or you may be quarantined upon your return to your home country.

If you graduated at the end of winter quarter, you have until 05/24/2020 to depart the U.S. per immigration regulations. Consult your Global Program Coordinator if you cannot leave the U.S. by then due to any new travel restrictions.

- **Which countries are impacted by travel restrictions to the U.S.?**

The Presidential Proclamation provides information on travel restrictions. It suspends entry into the U.S. of all non-U.S. citizens who were physically present within the following countries during the 14-day period preceding their entry to the U.S.

- People's Republic of China (excluding Hong Kong and Macau)
- Islamic Republic of Iran
- Schengen Area
- United Kingdom, excluding overseas territories outside of Europe

The U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services will monitor the situation. No more than 15 days after the date of the proclamation, and every 15 days after, the Secretary will advise whether the restriction continue, change, or end. See the proclamation.

If you plan to be outside of the U.S. for spring term

Please understand that we do not know how the travel bans will expand, and that there is a risk if you depart the U.S. your return may be delayed.

If you plan to take online classes from your home country, to ensure the most successful online learning experience, please review these important reminders:

1. **Stay in touch with your Global Education Program Coordinator**

Keep us informed of your experience, questions and plans, so that we can provide you with advice and assistance when needed. Check in with us weekly. We want to hear from you even just an update that things are going well! If you anticipate that your email won't be working in your home country, please consider sharing your social media account or other means of contacting you.

2. **Make sure you have adequate computer hardware, software and internet**

- Find out what you need in order to take classes online as well as other resources here: <https://sfcc.spokane.edu/What-to-Study/Online-Learning/Online-Learning-Tech-Support>
- It is **critical** that you contact us if you cannot access your classes from home, as it might impact your immigration status and immigration procedures when returning to the U.S. If you cannot fully access the course content or have Canvas issues, communicate with your Program Coordinator (Julie Hands at SCC or Christiana Hennings at SFCC). Please update the Global Education office if you are experiencing any online issues.
- As a reminder: 100% refund deadline is April 17th.

3. **Online and alternative instruction will be offered through the end of Spring Quarter.**
All spring quarter classes will be offered in an online format. If you have “in-person” classes in your schedule that are now offered online, you may remain enrolled in these classes while overseas and your SEVIS record also remain active.
4. **Maintain at least 12 credits**
You are required to continue to maintain at least 12 credits, unless spring is your last quarter and you need less than 12 credits to graduate.
5. **Health Insurance in your home country**
Please be aware that your health insurance coverage will be limited in your home country. The home coverage benefits only cover you as a continuation of illness/sickness that occurred while outside the home country that requires additional medical care in the home country. Any new illness/sickness that occur in the home country would not be covered under this benefit.
If you have questions, or you have other insurance coverage in your home country and want to waive CCS insurance due to the limitations above, please email [Tiana Hennings](#) or [Julie Hands](#) and request your CCS health insurance to be waived for spring.
6. **Graduation**
We look forward to celebrating with many of you who will graduate at the end of Spring 2020! Taking your classes online from overseas will not impact your graduation status. You may still request to transfer your SEVIS record within 60 days from your spring graduation date.

Information for New Incoming International Students

Due to the ongoing effort to contain the spread of COVID-19 or Coronavirus, the Community Colleges of Spokane (CCS) are making swift and proactive changes to minimize the spread of the virus while continuing to serve our students in the best manner possible.

Due to the uncertainty and rapidly changing situation, and our desire and commitment to help provide you with a vibrant start to your college experience, we strongly recommend you postpone your arrival/studies to begin in fall quarter 2020. Please confirm this preference with [Global Education staff](#) immediately and we will help arrange your deferral plans.

We look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible and are available if you have any questions.

Please contact us at globalprograms@ccs.spokane.edu

Taking Classes Online: Trainings, Tools, and Resources

- Computer labs on campus are available with increased social distancing measures implemented.
- CCS Foundation Board has just allocated \$30,000 to support students through this time of uncertainty because of COVID-19. The money is intended to purchase laptops through a partnership with Comcast for students who need them to take classes online. The application portal will be opened soon on the CCS Foundation website: <https://ccsfoundation.org/Apply-for-Scholarships>
- Canvas training and many other resources can be found here: <https://sfcc.spokane.edu/What-to-Study/Online-Learning/Online-Learning-Tech-Support>

If you believe you may have been exposed to the coronavirus and think you need to be tested, please contact your doctor's office to discuss your symptoms and determine next steps. Treatment of the coronavirus is covered under the international student insurance plan similar to other illnesses.

For instance, you may be covered up to the plan maximum, unless it's determined to be a pre-existing condition. For questions about pre-existing conditions, contact the international student insurance provider LewerMark at 1-800-821-7710.

If you have not downloaded your insurance card, you may visit <https://www.lewermark.com/student-login/> and log in with your student (SID) number and your birthdate (format MMDDYYYY – for example, March 4, 2020 is 03042020). If you are having problems accessing your card, please contact us at globalprograms@ccs.spokane.edu

If you need assistance finding a local urgent care, please reach out to your SCC or SFCC Global Education office at: globalprograms@ccs.spokane.edu, Julie.Hands@ccs.spokane.edu or Christiana.Hennings@ccs.spokane.edu

Services included in your International Student Insurance coverage:

- **MySSP:** The international student insurance plan includes the My Student Support Program, or MySSP. MySSP is designed to help students with stress, sadness, loneliness, and more, as well as supporting students with adapting to a new culture and being successful at school. Students who use MySSP can connect to a support advisor 24/7 by mobile app, [online chat](#), or over the phone (1-866-743-7732).
- **Nurse Line:** Speak with a registered nurse over the phone, 24/7. They can help you decide what medical options are available or where to go if you are sick or injured. There is also translation assistance with Nurse Line. The phone number is 1-866-549-5076, and you should be ready to provide your name, SID, and date of birth.