For New Incoming Students:

Q. I am a new graduate student, but I can’t get my visa interview before the semester begins. What should I do? You may study remotely while you are waiting to get the visa. If you study 3 credits remotely and your academic program offers at least 6 credits of coursework on-ground in the second mini-mester, you may arrive before October 15. Or, if you are unable to get your visa in time, you can defer to the next available start date. You should talk to your admissions counselor about your options. We encourage you to regularly check the website of the U.S. Consulate nearest to you for updates on visa interview availability.

Q. What if I can’t attend orientation because I can’t arrive before the semester begins? This year, orientation will be offered virtually, so you will be able to attend. Watch for more information to arrive to your email.

Q. Is it possible to study online and/or remotely if I am not in the U.S.? Yes. You may study remotely part-time or full-time because if you are outside the U.S. you are not subject to visa regulations. Depending on the situation in your home country, you may find it hard to travel at this time, or you feel unsure about traveling, so this could be a good option for you. If you study remotely during the fall semester, you can join your classmates on-campus for the spring semester.

If you have additional questions, as a new incoming student, please contact the Office of Graduate Admissions at Graduate@newhaven.edu.

For Currently Enrolled Students Only:

Q. What are the limits to online study on the F-1 visa?

Under normal circumstances F-1 visa regulations state that undergraduate F-1 students must enroll in at least 12 credits per semester, graduate students must enroll in at least 9 credits to maintain full-time enrollment. Usually only 3 online/remote credits can be counted toward meeting the full-time enrollment rule, and the remaining credits must be on-ground.

During the pandemic, SEVP granted temporary permission for students to count online classes toward a full course of study in excess of the limits. Therefore, F-1 students can take more than 3 credits online per semester.

Q. If I am a current student who traveled home but can’t return, is it possible to study online
**Q. Can I study if the courses are in a hybrid format where one course is partially on-ground and partially online?** Yes. During the unfolding situation with COVID-19, SEVP allows Universities to offer classes via alternative learning procedures, such as hybrid formats.

**Q. What if we start the fall semester, but there is another outbreak of the virus and classes go online again?** If that happens, you will be allowed to continue your classes in the format offered by the University. Currently, SEVP is allowing the universities to make decisions under extenuating circumstances related to the pandemic.

**Q. The University is planning to go online after Thanksgiving break. How will that affect international students?** International students will be expected to complete their semester coursework on time in the same way other students are required to do so. Again, SEVP is allowing universities to make some decisions based on circumstances related to the pandemic. International students living in campus housing who can’t go home at Thanksgiving break will be accommodated by the Office of Residential Life. Make sure you communicate with your community director in advance.

**Q. I am an F-2 spouse of an F-1 student. Can I study online?** An F-2 visa-holder may study part-time online. An F-2 may not study full-time neither online nor on-ground.

If you have additional questions, as a currently enrolled student, please contact the International Services Office (ISO) at ISO@newhaven.edu.