When will Fall Quarter classes begin?

At this time, the Fall Quarter is scheduled to begin on Tuesday, September 22nd. We encourage you to check with your program and the Office of International Student Services (OISS) for new student Orientation activities and dates.

My deposit is due soon. Can I have more time to make my decision?

Every effort is being made to offer deposit flexibility to students in this time of uncertainty. Each program has a number of admitted students making enrollment decisions simultaneously; therefore, please reach out to your program administrator if you believe you need more time. Programs have run out of space in previous years, so it is important that you maintain contact. If you are considering graduate housing, deposit inquiries should be directed to Northwestern's Residential Services office.

Can I defer my admission offer to a later term?

Admission deferral is determined by your program. If allowed, you may defer one time for up to one year, or as little as one quarter. You must make your non-refundable deposit to hold your seat for future matriculation.

Can I take Fall 2020 classes remotely?

It is not fully clear at this time. For international students, if the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) maintains flexibility for remote instruction because the public health situation warrants it, new international graduate students may enroll in remote-instruction courses in Fall 2020 and push their SEVIS activation to a future term when they will be able to join on-campus academics if their program is able to support remote course delivery. New domestic students may also enroll in remote instruction courses in the Fall quarter if this option exists for their program. Please note that Northwestern University’s McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Science does not offer programs that can be completed fully online.

If the option exists and I elect to take courses in the fall term remotely, will I pay the same tuition rate?

Northwestern will continue to provide a high-quality education, whether remotely or in person, so tuition will still be charged at the same rate for the Fall Quarter. Degree program specific tuition rates for AY2020-21 will be posted as soon as they are available.

Visa applications/interviews in my home country are delayed or have a substantial backlog. What do I do?

We recommend you make an appointment as soon as you can with your country’s embassy or consulate. Apply for a Fall 2020 student visa and let your program team know your plans so they are able to anticipate your participation as an incoming student.
I won’t get my visa in time and/or will not be able to come to the U.S. in time for fall classes. Should I still apply for a Fall 2020 visa?

Check with your program. If the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) maintains flexibility for remote instruction because the public health situation warrants it, new international graduate students may enroll in remote-instruction courses in Fall 2020 and push their SEVIS activation to a future term when they will be able to join on-campus academics if their program is able to support remote course delivery. If your program is able to support remote course delivery, you should apply for a Fall 2020 visa.

If your program is unable to support remote fall courses, you will need to defer your enrollment.

I can get my visa for the fall term but am concerned with traveling to the U.S. for school. What are my options?

1. With program approval, you can request deferred enrollment to a later term or the fall 2021 academic year. You must make your tuition deposit in order to reserve your space for future enrollment.

2. If the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) maintains flexibility for remote instruction because the public health situation warrants it, new international graduate students may enroll in remote-instruction courses in Fall 2020 and push their SEVIS activation to a future term when they will be able to join on-campus academics if their program is able to support remote course delivery.

I am an international student attending on an F-1 visa. Will I be able to work/complete an internship in the U.S. in the summer of 2021 if I physically attend classes (activate my SEVIS number) in the Winter 2021 quarter?

At this time, U.S. universities have not received guidance from the federal government on exceptions to work requirements for international students on an F-1 visa due to the unprecedented international health situation we are currently experiencing. This issue impacts all U.S. universities. We will continue to monitor this situation.

I have third party financial assistance/support. Will I remain eligible for that assistance if I attend remotely?

You will need to contact the organization providing financial assistance to confirm your eligibility.

Can I take my entire program remotely?

No. The Student and Exchange Visitors Program (SEVP) is offering flexibility for remote instruction because the public health situation warrants it at this time. This is a temporary situation that is outside of Northwestern University’s control.
Additional Resources:

Office of International Student Services
Residential Services Office
2020-2021 University Academic Calendar
Student Financial Services