

Message from the OISS Director

Allison Blizzard

Dec 14, 2020

Dear Students, Faculty, and Staff,

During New International Student Week, **we welcomed 16 new international students** from 11 countries (Brazil, Egypt, Israel, Japan, Kenya, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Thailand, Turkey, and Vietnam). They will be joining the approximately 340 current international students (from about 65 countries) for Winter 2021. -- Many more students have applied but have had to defer to a future term because of the current COVID situation. We are keeping in contact with them, and we hope to welcome them in the coming year.

Last week, **SEVP provided an update** and confirmed that F-1 students will be able to continue to maintain their status in the same way as Fall 2020 (see brief [article](#) in Inside Higher Ed). This is good news for international students who already have I-20s in active status. It is, however, not great news for students with I-20s in initial status outside the US because they are (generally) not able to enter the country if their college/program is fully online. If you are ever in doubt, please reach out to our **SEVIS Team** (oiss-sevis@pcc.edu).

We are now embarking on the **3-week break** between Fall and Winter terms, and I hope that you will all have time to re-energize and celebrate the season! However, I know that you will also be looking forward to your new classes and you might run into questions about class cancellations, paying tuition, etc. If that is the case, please remember that the **OISS Team is here for you**. Some of our staff will be out of the office on certain days, but we will be open and available to assist you on all workdays except Thurs Dec 24, Fri Dec 25, Mon Dec 28, Fri Jan 1. However, we will have extra open hours for our Virtual Front Desk on two Saturdays Dec 19 and Jan 2 from 10 am - 2 pm (Pacific).

This will be the last message of 2020 from me, so I want to wish you all:

Happy
holidays



Until next year,

Blizzard

www.pcc.edu/international-students

