COVID-19 FAQ for International Students

How do I get my Curricular Practical Training (CPT) document signed?
Students should complete the CPT form and email it to their field advisor; the Office of Field Education (OFE) will review the document. If it is correct, OFE will add an electronic signature. If it is not correct, OFE will return the document to the student for revision. After successful completion, OFE will email the document to oiss@wustl.edu and copy the student on that email.

You do not need to submit a new CPT form for the spring semester unless your work status changes from part-time to full-time or vice versa (e.g., your schedule changes and you begin to work less than 20 hours a week). If you decrease or increase your overall hours, that does not affect your CPT.

What about Optional Practical Training (OPT)?
For now, you must be in the country to apply for this employment authorization – therefore, you should not plan to go home if you are applying for OPT. As of March 18, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) temporarily closed its domestic field offices and has suspended routine in-person services until at least April 1 to help slow the spread of COVID-19. However, USCIS staff will continue to perform duties that do not involve contact with the public, which includes OPT adjudications. For these reasons, we do not anticipate your OPT application being affected by this recent closure of USCIS field offices.

Can I go home?
This is a very personal decision. If you are considering traveling home – especially if you are a first-year student – we encourage you to talk to Tammy Orahood about all of the ramifications. Because the situation is changing so quickly, if you leave, we cannot guarantee you will be able to return to complete your degree.

My visa is expiring, what do I do?
If your visa is expiring, you should not leave the country. You can remain in the U.S. as long as you are enrolled (duration of stay). Since many consulates are currently closed, you may not be able to renew your visa if you travel home. If you are graduating, you will have 60 days to remain in the U.S., once the program ends, unless you have applied for OPT.

If I change apartments during this time, what do I need to do?
You need to report any change of residential address in the U.S. to the federal government within 10 days. Please remember to report your change of address via Webstac as well.