Welcome Back from OISS

August 29, 2020

As we are about to begin the Fall 2020 semester, we would like to take a moment to acknowledge what a challenging summer, and year, it has been. While everyone has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, the additional challenges, stress, and anxiety that our international student and scholar community have faced are unparalleled. We know that your lives were upended in March, and there is still a sense of uncertainty for many of you as you begin the semester from abroad, await visa appointments, or are waiting for the opportunity to return home safely to visit your family and friends.

We also know that this is not the type of academic year that any of you planned for in your time at Yale. There will be new challenges with remote learning, including time zone difficulties, and new health protocols in place that will change the look and feel of Yale's campus. But with every new challenge comes new opportunity. We have seen incredible creativity and innovation over the last 6 months, and we cannot wait to see what comes out of this academic year.

Please know that our office continues to be here to support you and advocate on your behalf to university leaders. While our doors will remained closed this semester, we will continue to be available through Zoom appointments, emails, and our weekly newsletter. OISS is also anticipating and preparing for additional immigration guidance from DHS/ICE for the spring semester, but we promise to do our best to communicate with you as quickly as possible as
announcements are made.

Finally, it is so important, now more than ever, to rely on your community for support. OISS will be running a series of [virtual events this fall][1] to help keep you connected, informed, and well. Keep your eye on our program calendar and register for events as your schedule allows. We know Zoom fatigue is real, but we would love to see you on at least one event this semester.

[Please reach out to us][2] as questions come up and we wish everyone a successful semester!

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Links:
[1] [https://oiss.yale.edu/programs-events](https://oiss.yale.edu/programs-events)
[2] [https://oiss.yale.edu/about/contact-oiss](https://oiss.yale.edu/about/contact-oiss)