July 22, 2020

Dear Consular Officer and/or Customs and Border Protection Officer,

Yale University will be on a hybrid academic plan for the fall 2020. Yale is not operating entirely online and will offer different combinations of in-person, hybrid, and remote courses. Yale’s fall academic model ensures that, if necessary, students can take course loads for the fall 2020 semester that are not entirely online, and that the students will take the minimum number of online classes required to make normal progress in their degree program.

DHS/ICE/SEVP rescinded the July 6th guidance, so there is no longer a requirement that schools issue new I-20 Forms with special remarks about the fall 2020 semester. Furthermore, current “Frequently Asked Questions for SEVP Stakeholders about COVID-19” allows electronic Form I-20 issuance for the fall semester and permits schools to electronically send Forms I-20. In the same FAQ, SEVP also confirmed that they have “coordinated with both the Department of State and CBP regarding the policy to allow electronic issuance and signing of Forms I-20 for the duration of the COVID19 emergency” and that “both agencies are in support of this action.”

As the Yale University campus reopens, all students, faculty and staff will commit to following the university’s health guidelines, including viral testing and contact tracing programs. Students who are coming to New Haven will be tested upon arrival on campus, and throughout the semester if they are living in campus residences. Students arriving from outside of the United States or coming from states with high prevalence of COVID-19 will also be asked to quarantine for 14 days in accordance with the CDC and prevailing public health guidance and as required by the State of Connecticut.

We request your help in issuing a visa for or allowing entry of our student into the U.S. so that they can participate in their academic program.

Thank you for your understanding during these stressful and unpredictable times.

Sincerely,

Ann Kuhlman

Ann Kuhlman (PDSO), Executive Director
Office of International Students and Scholars, Yale University