July 2020

To Whom It May Concern
U.S. Department of State Consular Services
United States Customs and Border Protection

Dear Sir/Madam:

Re: Carnegie Mellon University, Fall 2020 Semester.

For the Fall 2020 semester, Carnegie Mellon University has adapted our course delivery modes to respond to the challenges of operating during a global pandemic. Courses will be offered in a variety of modes including both in-person and remote instruction. Carnegie Mellon’s decision to adapt our instructional mode for the Fall 2020 semester has been reported to the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) as a COVID-19 procedural change per SEVP’s guidance March 2020 guidance.

While DHS’ July 6th guidance required schools to update SEVIS records and provide students with annotated I-20s, that guidance has since been rescinded as announced during a court hearing on July 14th (https://thetech.com/2020/07/14/ice-guidelines-rescinded). SEVP has returned to their March 2020 guidance, and updated FAQs published on July 15th, (https://www.ice.gov/doclob/coronavirus/covid19faq.pdf). As neither the March guidance nor the FAQs indicate a new requirement for institutions to issue updated or annotated I-20s to students, all I-20s issued by Carnegie Mellon University to its students should meet the requirements for them to apply for and obtain a non-immigrant visa and meet eligibility requirements for entry into the US.

Please be advised that we recognize that individual students may face difficulty in making travel arrangements or entry to the US prior to the official start of instruction on August 31st. While we are encouraging our students to arrive on time if at all possible, in acknowledgment of possible travel delays, most Carnegie Mellon University programs will allow new students in initial status to arrive through our course add period which extends to September 14th, 2020.

We respectfully request that all courtesies be extended to enable our students to obtain their visas and arrive on campus for our fall semester.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Linda Gentile
Director, Office of International Education
PDSO/RO