

September 18, 2020

Dear Friends of International Students,

We hope you are all still healthy and finding creative ways to enjoy yourselves as you await autumn's arrival next week. We write with updates about the FIS Host Program, the latest COVID-19 news from campus and details about fall term.

Due to the current conditions and necessary COVID-19 precautions on campus, we will not be matching new international students with hosts this fall. We will provide updates when we have news to share. Please check our FIS website throughout the academic year, where we'll post information about the program and announce when we plan to resume our recruiting and matching processes. You can find the FIS website at <http://www.middlebury.edu/international/iss/fis>. We continue to welcome any photos of you and your host student(s) from the past year that you have not yet shared with us. We would love to feature them in our next FIS newsletter.

We want to say a very special "THANK YOU!" to FIS hosts and community members who assisted our international students throughout the spring and summer by storing student belongings, giving rides to the airport, meeting up for socially-distanced walks or meals and even providing housing. Your generosity knows no bounds. Our students are truly lucky to have such incredibly caring people in their lives.

For the fall term, Middlebury has allowed students to choose among the following academic options: to return to campus and take a combination of online, hybrid, or in-person classes, engage in remote learning from home or at another university abroad, or take a leave of absence from their studies. (Some new students who could not obtain a visa in time deferred their start date to February or September 2021.)

Our fall term schedule will be different this year. Classes began on September 8, and there will be no October break. Friday, November 20 will be the last day of on-campus classes for the term, followed by a week of break. Classes will resume on November 30 with a week of remote instruction, followed by remote finals for all students. (The last day of exams is Sunday, December 13.) By early November at the latest, we anticipate that the Dean of Students will determine whether any students will be allowed to remain on campus for the Thanksgiving and December breaks, as they have in the past, and what the approval process will entail.

On Sunday, September 6, we welcomed the Class of 2024 with our first virtual Convocation. The ceremony included remarks and greetings by Dean of Religious and Spiritual Life Mark Orten, President Laurie Patton, Dean of Admissions Nicole Curvin, and Dean of Students Derek Doucet, as well as messages of encouragement from returning students. You can watch the ceremony [here](#). In all, 2,575 students are currently enrolled at Middlebury College this semester, including 2,161 living on campus, 329 studying fully remotely, and 85 students living off campus. Among these students, ISSS welcomed almost 20 new international students to campus to launch their Middlebury career, along with a small group of U.S. students from abroad. Another 25 will begin their Middlebury experience remotely from their home countries around the world.

To solicit a commitment to creating a safe and healthy community, students were required to sign a health pledge stating that they will comply with Vermont's COVID-19 guidelines and Middlebury College's COVID-19-related policies. Students living in off-campus housing are required to adhere to the same policies as those living on campus and only venture out for socially-distanced exercise, or to purchase food and personal items. If they need to attend a class or meeting on campus, they must travel directly from their housing to the College. At this point, all students have been tested for COVID-19 twice and we have no active cases in our community. As of September 17, the College has entered

[Phase 2](#) and our healthy students are now able to move about campus as well as venture into town or nearby Addison County locations (as they continue to adhere to COVID-19 safety precautions). Periodic dynamic testing (targeted and random) of students, faculty and staff will continue throughout the fall term. You can find detailed COVID-19 campus testing results at <https://www.middlebury.edu/office/midd2021/covid-reporting-dashboard>.

A few important reminders:

- Until further notice, campus remains closed to all visitors, with the exception of essential business partners.
- FIS Host families cannot visit students on campus.
- During Phase 2, students are not allowed to visit other students living off campus. To minimize close contact with members of the local community, we ask that host families not invite students to their homes. You may meet in town or at outdoor venues, as long as you wear masks and practice 6-foot physical distancing.
- The College has established a drop-off point for deliveries to students **only from local businesses**. We plan to continue this option throughout the semester, as long as health conditions allow.
- Please be aware that there are [certain sections of the TAM](#) (Trail Around Middlebury) that are closed to the general public because they are on College property. Please pay careful attention to signs posted along the TAM and in the town of Middlebury.

We recommend that you to stay up-to-date on the College's COVID-19 response and the State of Vermont's guidance. Find the latest news here:

- Return to campus guide: <https://www.middlebury.edu/office/midd2021>
- ISSS FAQ page: <http://www.middlebury.edu/international/iss/iss-covid-19-faq>
- State of Vermont guidance: <https://governor.vermont.gov/covid19response>

We also encourage you to reach out directly to your FIS host student(s) to find out their academic and personal plans for the fall term. You are welcome to stay in touch with them via email, phone and/or video conferencing as they truly appreciate your support. Thank you for being there for our students when they most need to connect with a friend who cares.

As always, if you have any questions, please email [iss@middlebury.edu](mailto:iss@middlebury.edu) or call 802-443-5858.

Best wishes for continued good health,

Carolyn and Kathy

Carolyn Dahm (pronouns: she/her/hers)  
Administrative Coordinator  
International Student & Scholar Services (ISSS)  
Middlebury

Kathy M. Foley (pronouns: she/her/hers)  
Associate Dean and Director of International Student & Scholar Services (ISSS)  
Middlebury College and Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey