



SHWC Temporary Health Insurance Waiver Exemption Policy

Due to COVID-19 and the temporary changes made by Otis College for the upcoming 2020-2021 academic year, there will be additional insurance exemptions in Fall 2020. All requirements must still be completed by the August 15, 2020 deadline to be considered for waiver approval.

Per Otis College policy, **all** degree seeking students enrolled in BFA and MFA programs are required to have health insurance. All currently enrolled students are automatically enrolled in Otis College's Student Health Insurance Plan, **unless a waiver is completed**. Students with health insurance coverage that meets the College's [requirements](#) may waive out of the plan by completing an online waiver.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS:

1. Living in the United States
Any degree-seeking international student that will be living in the United States studying remotely or on campus at Otis College/in the Los Angeles area is **required** to have active health insurance that meets the College's requirements*
2. Living outside of the United States
Any degree-seeking international student that will be living outside of the United States studying remotely in their home country is **not required** to have active health insurance that meets the College's requirements should they successfully complete the required waiver exemption process by the August 15, 2020 deadline.

International Students – Waiver Exemption Process

In order to be considered for the Fall 2020 Waiver Exemption:

- Otis College must be notified that you will not be living in the United States
- Students must complete and submit the online [Student Health and Wellness Center Waiver Exemption Form](#) by the August 15th waiver deadline

NOTE: Once these steps are successfully completed and verified by SHWC staff, the waiver will be applied to the student's account 7-10 business days from approval.

Expiration of Temporary Exemption

- If an international student lives and studies remotely in their home country/outside of the United States during the Fall 2020 semester **and returns to live and study in the United States** for the Spring 2021 semester, they will be automatically enrolled in the Student Health Insurance Plan for Spring/Summer 2021. This waiver process will default to the standard waiver requirements.
- If an international student continues to live and study outside of the United States for Spring 2021, their waiver exemption status will remain unchanged.

***Requirement Exemption**

Should a student be studying **outside of California**, but still be required to have active health insurance, please note that failure to meet the following requirement **will not disqualify** a student from having an approved waiver:

- Medical coverage must provide coverage in the Los Angeles, CA area. Regional HMOs and state-funded insurance plans outside of CA may not meet the requirement.