

Dear International Students,

As a follow-up to today's message from Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost (EVC/P) Emily Carter [about fall quarter plans](#), the UCLA Dashew Center for International Students and Scholars has prepared some guidance we hope is helpful as fall 2020 approaches. We know that this has been a challenging time for many of you, particularly given recent federal restrictions on visa issuance that have made it more difficult to maintain non-immigrant status. Despite these challenges, UCLA is unwavering in its support of you and the Dashew Center is here to help you in any way that we can.

Information about classes and housing has been provided in the [today's message from EVC/P Carter](#), which we hope you find helpful.

The Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) and U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) have released updated answers to [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#) and [clarifying questions](#) for incoming and continuing F-1 students for the fall. I encourage you to read these documents carefully.

While our FAQ list on the [COVID-19 Updates page](#) provides more detailed information, the latest federal guidance says:

- **Newly admitted international students on the F-1 visa who wish to enter the U.S. for the fall 2020 term will be required to enroll in a minimum of one in-person class.** Based on EVC/P Carter's message, in the fall 2020 quarter schedule of classes, which will be updated by the end of this week, only 8% of offered classes will be available in person due to COVID-19 conditions. This makes the opportunity for students to enroll in an in-person class very limited. We encourage our newly admitted graduate and undergraduate students to consult with their academic counselors and department advisors for specific questions on availability of in-person classes in the fall quarter.
- **Student and Exchange Visitor Information System transfer-in students** from other universities and colleges who have not departed from the U.S. since the issuance of the [March 9 SEVP guidance](#) will be exempt from the in-person class enrollment requirement.
- **Continuing UCLA students will be allowed to enroll in 100% remote classes** while maintaining their non-immigrant student status inside or outside the U.S.

We also want to assure you that as a newly admitted or continuing student you will be able to enroll in online classes in your home country and make normal progress to degree by successfully completing your fall 2020 classes remotely. Certain restrictions on remote learning apply to students who are currently subject to [Office of Foreign Assets Control \(OFAC\) license requirements](#), and we encourage students who are subject to this restriction to contact their academic departments to discuss options.

UCLA students should not presume that obtaining a student visa and entry to the U.S. is in any way guaranteed. It is also important to recognize that the majority of [presidential proclamations](#) on travel bans into the U.S. due to the COVID-19 pandemic are still in effect.

As a newly admitted student, if you choose to come to the United States to attend UCLA, it is important that you are aware of the following risks:

- You may be denied a visa.
- You may be denied entry at the border by Customs and Border Protection and be required to leave the U.S. or face other consequences.
- You may be determined at a future time to not be legally present in the U.S and face removal and other immigration consequences.

These are exceptional, unprecedented times, and the future is unpredictable. We know this is difficult for you, but please be assured that all of us at UCLA are here for you and working to support your educational goals in spite of the challenges that COVID-19 or government policy may present. As part of our ongoing commitment to support you, the Dashew Center and campus partners will hold a [town hall](#) for our F-1 visa international students on **Wednesday, August 5, from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m. PST**. We strongly encourage all international students to participate in this virtual event. We will cover important topics related to visa compliance in the current climate, housing possibilities, student life, classes, enrollment, etc. We will also have panel of campus experts who will answer your questions during the Q&A section. To sign up for the event, please visit www.tinyurl.com/intltownhall. **This town hall will not be recorded.**

Please take good care of yourselves, stay informed and [let us know](#) if you need our assistance. We will continue to update the FAQ on our [COVID-19 Updates page](#) for new and continuing students, and we encourage you to review that information frequently as you plan for the fall quarter.

Sincerely,

Sam Nahidi
Director