

Dear UCLA International Students and Scholars,

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has finalized [the final rule](#) on Duration of Status (D/S) for F and J status holders. This final rule replaces [“duration of status” D/S](#) with a fixed admission period that is linked to the program end date; however, is capped at four years and is subject to approval by Customs and Border Protection and/or U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. See more details on the [D/S proposed rule here](#).

We understand that this represents a significant shift with potential implications for academic timelines, research commitments, clinical training, program transfers, extension of the I-20 and DS-2019 documents, Optional Practical Training (OPT), STEM OPT, and other areas. Many of you may have questions about how this will affect your individual situation.

UCLA's priority is your well-being, your ability to continue your studies and research without disruption, and your sense of belonging in our Bruin community. We are closely reviewing the final rule and are providing preliminary information to assist you in navigating these new requirements.

What is the latest information on the D/S Final Rule?

At this stage, we are reviewing the [final rule published in the Federal Register on July 17, 2026](#), which is set to go into effect on Tuesday, September 15, 2026. We may also receive official implementation guidance from DHS and the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP). Until we fully review the final rule and review official guidance if received, we are not able to confirm timelines, procedures, or required actions.

What can you expect from the Dashew Center?

Once federal guidance becomes available, we will:

- Provide a detailed update outlining how the rule will be implemented and what it means for UCLA international students and scholars.
- Explain how the changes may affect extensions of stay, program changes, OPT/STEM OPT, and J-1 processes.
- Offer information sessions and advising opportunities to help you understand the next steps.
- Continue to make our F-1/J-1 advising team available to support you and discuss any individual concerns you may have.

What should you do now?

No action is required currently. Please continue to maintain your status and follow all standard reporting requirements.

Is there any travel guidance in place?

As always, we encourage you to plan carefully:

- Review country-specific advisories at travel.state.gov.
- Ensure your travel signature and required documents are valid before departure.
- Contact the Dashew Center if you have questions about travel during this period of regulatory transition.

We acknowledge that this new rule creates uncertainty, and we are committed to supporting you through every stage of the implementation process. Your presence contributes to UCLA's academic, research, and excellence, and we are here to help you navigate these changes.

Sincerely,

Sam Nahidi

Director

Legal Resources:

- [Laws to Know](#)
- [Attorney List](#)
- [UCLA Student Legal Services](#)

UCLA Case by Case Support, Wellness, and Psychological Support. Actively enrolled students only:

- [Counseling and Psychological Support \(CAPS\)](#)
- [RISE Center](#)
- [Case Management](#)

A Department of Student Affairs