

Executive Summary

Where are our international students and scholars during Spring 2020? Most international students and scholars reside in the Pacific Time Zone; however, undergraduates and non-degree students left the U.S. at the highest rates. Top time zones for undergraduate degree students include: China Standard Time, Indian Standard Time, Korea Standard Time, Singapore Time, and Gulf Standard Time. Due to the vast number of undergraduate degree students who left the U.S. it would be beneficial to offer virtual programming and events during a time that is accessible to those residing outside the U.S.

Which virtual events and programs draw the most interest? International students and scholars do not report overwhelming interest in virtual events and programs. However, constituents of every type show interest in a virtual visa Q&A. Career-related virtual workshops and one-on-one advising with career counselors also drew interest.

What concerns international students and scholars the most during this time? On average, the top three concerns for all constituents include: ability to get back to the U.S. when they want to, their family's well-being, and ability to get to their home country when they want to. Additionally:

- Undergraduate degree students also expressed concern about learning in an online, remote environment,
- Non-degree students expressed concern about their mental health,
- Undergraduate and graduate degree students who have jobs but who cannot work remotely reported the most financial concern when compared to their peers, and
- Constituents from Asia reported the most concern over discrimination directed at them.

Virtual programming and events as well as communications focusing on these top concerns would likely help to reduce anxiety among international students and scholars.

Are those with jobs or internships afforded the opportunity to work remotely? Nearly all graduate degree students, scholars, and employment-based international constituents are afforded the opportunity to work remotely. Undergraduate degree students and non-degree students are afforded this opportunity less often, which may leave them financially vulnerable.

How many international constituents plan to participate in CPT, OPT, or AT in the next 6 months? About a quarter to one third of international students and scholars hope to participate in CPT in the next 6 months. A third or more of international students and scholars hope to participate in OPT or AT with the exception of non-degree students who do not report plans for OPT or AT at such high rates. Demand for career development remains relatively stable; therefore, the demand for remote work does as well so long as the Safer at Home orders remain in place.

Therefore, efforts to support international constituents' ability to find appropriate opportunities for CPT, OPT, and AT that also offer remote work will be instrumental to supporting the goals of students and scholars.

Method

The Dashew Center administered a survey to international students, scholars, and employees beginning April 3, 2020 and ending April 14, 2020. The purpose of the survey was to understand:

1. international constituents' upcoming needs and programming interests, and
2. the impact of COVID-19 on their UCLA experience

Descriptive data were disaggregated by constituent type to reveal responses by type.

Dataset Demographics

TOTAL:	UG	GP	ND	S	EB
1123	481	435	60	100	47
GENDER	UG	GP	ND	S	EB
Female	231	176	30	31	10
Male	128	180	14	48	22
Trans female/Trans woman	0	0	0	0	0
Trans male/Trans man	1	0	0	0	0
Genderqueer/Gender non-conforming	2	1	0	1	0
Choose not to respond	5	12	0	3	1
REGION	UG	GP	ND	S	EB
Africa	4	6	0	1	1
Americas	32	54	2	12	0
Asia	289	254	25	43	24
Europe	38	55	15	25	8
Oceania	4	0	2	2	0
FIELD	UG	GP	ND	S	EB
Arts and Humanities	34	56	8	4	
Engineering	24	70	11	14	
Interdepartmental program	8	0	0	1	
Professional	3	100	3	15	
Sciences	211	89	12	42	
Social Sciences	84	46	10	7	
Unknown	1	8	0	0	
ABILITY/DISABILITY STATUS	UG	GP	ND	S	EB
Yes	10	13	0	1	1
No	352	340	43	81	31
Choose not to respond	5	16	1	1	1

UG: undergraduate degree students | **GP:** graduate and professional degree students |
ND: non-degree students | **S:** scholars | **EB:** employment-based visa holders

Where will they be for most of Spring 2020?

Place	UG	GP	ND	S	EB
Within 5 miles of campus	192	256	35	58	18
Los Angeles, but further than 5 miles from campus	31	87	2	26	20
California, but outside of LA	35	10	2	5	3
United States, but outside of CA	10	14	0	2	0
My home country	193	60	19	6	0
Some other country	10	4	0	2	0
Unsure at this time	10	4	2	1	0
% Inside the U.S.	56%	84%	65%	91%	100%

COVID-19 Impact & Planning Survey for International Constituents: Analysis by Status

Dashew Center for International Students & Scholars (DCISS)

% Outside the U.S.	42%	15%	32%	8%	0%
Time Zone	UG	GP	ND	S	EB
Pacific Time	259	350	34	83	41
% residing in Pacific Time	54%	80%	57%	83%	100%
Unsure	16	12	5	2	0
Top Five Time Zones	UG	GP	ND	S	EB
CST China Standard Time UTC+08	36	13	1	0	0
IST Indian Standard Time UTC+05:30	30	3	0	0	0
KST Korea Standard Time UTC+09	13	2	1	1	0
SGT Singapore Time UTC+08	13	1	1	0	0
GST Gulf Standard Time UTC+04	11	0	0	0	0

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Helpfulness of Official Channels in Home Country or Territory

How helpful have official channels (e.g. your embassy/consulate, home institution, ...) in your home country been in providing guidance on whether or not to stay in the U.S. during this time?

Helpfulness of Official Channels	UG	GP	ND	S	EB
% "Very helpful" or "Helpful"	42%	52%	66%	54%	38%

Top 10 Helpful Countries (n ≥ 10)	TOTAL	% HELPFUL
Japan	20	80%
Singapore	23	78%
Taiwan	31	68%
China	317	67%
France	20	65%
India	102	46%
Korea, Republic of	42	43%
Spain	23	39%
Germany	11	36%
Mexico	15	33%

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Which virtual events and programs draw the most interest?

International Interest in Virtual Events & Programs	UG	GP	ND	S	EB
Virtual visa Q&A	65%	67%	57%	57%	66%
Virtual career Q&As	63%	53%	38%	35%	51%
Virtual academic planning workshops	52%	41%	46%	48%	41%
Virtual workshop: resume and job search correspondences	63%	46%	47%	28%	39%
Virtual workshop: securing a job or internship	68%	49%	43%	25%	37%
Virtual workshop: virtual networking and branding	55%	43%	37%	35%	41%
Virtual advising: one-on-one chat with a career counselor	64%	40%	30%	21%	32%
Virtual movie night	23%	35%	50%	38%	26%
Other virtual wellness workshops	25%	35%	38%	37%	32%
Virtual meditation	20%	31%	25%	29%	38%
Virtual workshop: graduate school applications and preparation	60%	18%	27%	14%	17%
Virtual coffee hour	17%	18%	27%	29%	21%
Virtual game night	17%	20%	23%	21%	13%
Top three interests for each column are highlight in green					
Data: % of those who say they are "Very interested" or "Interested"					

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What concerns international constituents the most during this time?

International Concerns During COVID-19	UG	GP	ND	S	EB
ability to get back to the U.S. when you want to	95%	95%	73%	80%	91%
your family's well-being	88%	89%	70%	85%	91%
ability to get to your home country when you want to	68%	87%	75%	84%	91%
your financial situation	69%	79%	61%	76%	85%
your physical health	71%	79%	70%	69%	64%
your mental health	69%	76%	75%	61%	52%
ability to get groceries and essentials from the store	60%	74%	56%	75%	64%
the impact of social distancing on your relationships	66%	64%	64%	55%	53%
learning in an online, remote environment	77%	64%	64%	44%	21%
discrimination directed at you	51%	57%	42%	42%	42%
teaching in an online, remote environment	42%	54%	45%	37%	27%
ability to participate in OPT/AT	54%	59%	43%	30%	3%
moving out of the dorms or other living arrangement	55%	48%	45%	29%	9%
ability to participate in CPT	45%	47%	45%	29%	6%
ability to communicate your needs with roommates or housemates	44%	39%	39%	28%	18%
Top three concerns for each column are highlight in green					
Data: % of those who say they are "Very concerned", "Concerned", or "Slightly concerned"					
Discrimination Concern by Region	UG	GP	ND	S	EB
Africa	*	*	*	*	*
Americas	31%	25%	*	25%	*
Asia	58%	71%	64%	65%	52%
Europe	16%	19%	14%	12%	*
Oceania	*	*	*	*	*
* N < 10					
Financial Concern by Remote Working Status	UG	GP	ND	S	EB
Yes	74%	73%	*	69%	78%
No	83%	100%	*	*	*
I do not have a job or internship	59%	76%	49%	100%	*
* N < 10					

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Job/Internship Status

Job Status	UG	GP	ND	S	EB
I have a paid job or internship at UCLA.	59	157	5	44	34
I have a paid job or internship at an off-campus organization.	29	41	4	16	0
I have an unpaid internship	17	5	2	7	0
I do not have a job or internship	264	171	33	18	0
% Who Have a Paid Job/Internship	24%	53%	20%	71%	100%
% Who Have Any Job/Internship (Paid/Unpaid)	28%	54%	25%	79%	100%
For Those with Jobs: Remote Work Allowed?	UG	GP	ND	S	EB
Yes	67	191	8	72	34
No	41	13	5	2	0
% Yes	62%	94%	62%	97%	100%

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Future Job/Internship Plans

CPT Plans	UG	GP	ND	S	EB
I'm already participating	6	5	0	0	
Yes, and I've already applied	10	24	1	1	
Yes, but I haven't applied yet	69	81	4	9	
No	205	211	18	31	
% Yes	29%	34%	22%	24%	
OPT/AT Plans	UG	GP	ND	S	EB
I'm already participating	10	9	0	4	
Yes, and I've already applied	25	53	0	2	
Yes, but I haven't applied yet	82	67	4	9	
No	194	211	23	30	
% Yes	38%	38%	15%	33%	

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Definitions

CPT: Curricular Practical Training is work authorization for international students holding an F-1 visa when they participate in paid or unpaid work *before* they graduate UCLA.

OPT: Optional Practical Training is work authorization for international students holding an F-1 visa when they participate in work *after* they graduate UCLA.

AT: Academic Training is work authorization for international students or scholars holding a J-1 visa when they participate in paid or unpaid work *during* or *after* their program at UCLA.