UCLA | **Dashew Center**
for International Students & Scholars

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Dear International Bruins,

We appreciate your patience as campus leaders and the UCLA COVID-19 Response and Recovery Task Force continue to monitor the changing shape of the pandemic and, in line with public health guidance, update plans to ensure a safe return to campus for all Bruins. With the expansion of COVID-19 vaccination eligibility and lower numbers of COVID-19 infections in the State of California and Los Angeles County, we anticipate that more of our campus community will be able to engage in increased in-person instruction and activities in the summer and fall.

Please review the following information about summer and fall course instruction, F-1/J-1 visa requirements, and international travel updates to support your plans for fall 2021. The Dashew Center will continue to provide updated information via communications and our update/FAQ pages with Travel Updates, F-1 Student FAQ, J-1 Student FAQ and Non-Visa Related FAQ. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions regarding fall enrollment or your planned arrival to the U.S.

F-1/J-1 Visa Guidance
On April 26, 2021, the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) (PDF) and Department of State (DOS) announced the welcome news that they will extend their F-1/J-1 visa guidance from March 2020 for the 2021–22 academic year. This extension maintains the requirement that students with an I-20/DS-2019 in 'Initial Attendance' status be enrolled in at least one on-site or hybrid course (rather than full-time enrollment in all in-person courses) to be eligible to enter the U.S. in F-1/J-1 status and maintain valid visa status in the U.S. This extension also allows continuing F-1 students (who established their F-1 status in the U.S. with UCLA before March 2020) to continue to maintain valid F-1/J-1 visa status with full-time enrollment in online courses from within the U.S. or overseas.

For more information about SEVP's visa guidance, please see their updated Frequently Asked Questions (PDF). For more information about DOS's visa guidance, please see the "Current Programs" and "Future Programs" sections in their Frequently Asked Questions.

On-site Courses for Summer and Fall
A limited number of on-site courses will be offered this summer. Please refer to the approved, on-site course list for summer 2021 and the UCLA Summer Sessions FAQ for more information.

UCLA has not yet finalized course offerings for fall 2021, but expects to offer in-person instruction for most fall courses, as well as most labs. In-person courses will be listed in the fall 2021 UCLA Schedule of Classes with a meeting location displayed as a building and room. The fall 2021 class schedule will be available starting on June 1.

Students who are required to be enrolled in an on-site or hybrid course for their initial F-1/J-1 visa status will be responsible to retain documentary evidence that demonstrates participation in on-site or hybrid summer and fall courses, in case they request further U.S. visa benefits. Such documents include, but are not limited to course syllabi, independent research contracts, or letters from departments. International students are not required to submit these documents to the Dashew Center at this time.

Fall 2021 Newly Admitted Students
Congratulations on your admission and welcome to UCLA! Newly admitted students who have submitted their Statement of Intent to Register (SIR) at UCLA will receive an email with instructions on how to request a UCLA I-20/DS-2019. If you are planning to enter the U.S. in F-1/J-1 status for the fall term, please submit a I-20/DS-2019 request through our Online Portal system as indicated in the email. You will be provided with instructions on how to apply for an F-1/J-1 visa from a U.S. Embassy/Consulate when your I-20/DS-2019 has been issued.

You must be enrolled full-time for fall 2021, including enrollment in at least one on-site or hybrid course to meet F-1/J-1 visa enrollment requirements to validate your initial F-1/J-1 visa student status in the U.S. with UCLA.

For students planning to be in the U.S. for fall 2021, please review the Pre-Arrival Instructions, Arrival in the U.S., and Important Reminders sections below.

If you are planning to engage in fully online remote learning outside of the U.S. for fall quarter due to visa application challenges at U.S. Embassies/Consulates, and plan to enter the U.S. for a future term like winter 2022, please [contact the Dashew Center](#) for further instructions after enrolling in fall 2021 courses.

Continuing Students who have not yet entered the U.S. in F-1/J-1 status
We look forward to welcoming you in-person for the new academic year! If you did not establish valid F-1/J-1 visa status by entering the U.S. in fall 2020, winter 2021, or spring 2021 and are planning to enter the U.S. in F-1/J-1 status for fall 2021, you must contact the F-1 Visa Unit ([UCLAi20@saonet.ucla](#)) or J-1 Visa Unit ([dcissj1unit@saonet.ucla.edu](#)) to request an updated I-20/DS-2019 Form from the Dashew Center. Please include your 9-digit UCLA Bruin ID number in your email.

As explained in [my message to students on March 19, 2021 (PDF)](#), students with an I-20/DS-2019 in 'Initial Attendance' status must be enrolled in at least one on-site or hybrid course to be eligible to enter the U.S. in F-1/J-1 status for fall 2021.

For students planning to be in the U.S. for fall 2021, please review the Pre-Arrival Instructions, Arrival in the U.S., and Important Reminders sections below.

If you are planning to continue online remote learning outside of the U.S. for fall 2021 due to visa application challenges at U.S. Embassies/Consulates, and plan to enter the U.S. for a future term like winter 2022, please [contact the Dashew Center](#) for further instructions after enrolling in fall 2021 courses.

Continuing Students who established F-1/J-1 status in the U.S. with UCLA before March 2020
We hope you feel recharged and hopeful for the upcoming academic year! Students who established their F-1/J-1 visa status in the U.S. with UCLA before March 2020 will remain eligible to maintain valid F-1/J-1 visa status with full-time enrollment in online courses, in-person courses, or a combination of online and in-person courses.

If you are planning to return to the U.S., you may require a new travel authorization signature on your I-20/DS-2019. Please remember that travel signatures are valid for one calendar year from the date they were issued.

To request a new travel authorization signature, please submit a completed Travel Authorization Request Form to the Dashew Center:

- F-1 students: Online Travel Authorization Request Form
- J-1 students: J-1 Travel Authorization Request Form

Dashew Center's Document Processing Time
Please allow 15 business days for your I-20/DS-2019 to be issued after you have completed your online request. The Dashew Center is unable to accommodate expedited I-20/DS-2019 requests at this time. Please plan accordingly.

Pre-Arrival Instructions
If you are planning to enter the U.S. for fall 2021, please see our Travel Updates page for information about current travel restrictions, eligibility for a National Interest Exception, and updated international travel guidelines for travelers who are vaccinated or not vaccinated, including self-quarantine recommendations and reporting requirements.

Newly admitted students and continuing students who will be traveling to the U.S. for the first time in F-1/J-1 visa status will be able to access the iSTART Orientation on July 1, 2021. All students who are traveling to the U.S. in F-1/J-1 visa status for fall 2021 will be required to complete the iSTART Orientation by the end of Week 2 of the fall 2021 term.

On April 22, 2021, the University of California shared details of a proposed policy to require students, faculty, academic appointees and staff who are accessing campus facilities at any UC location to be immunized against COVID-19, once a vaccine has full approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). For information about COVID-19 testing and vaccination eligibility and requirements, please contact the UCLA Ashe Center.

Students who are planning to reside in on-campus or university housing for fall 2021 should visit the UCLA Housing website for updated information.

Arrival in the U.S.
To enter the U.S. in F-1/J-1 status, you must have the following required documents:

- Valid passport (must be valid at least 6 months into the future from your date(s) of travel)
- Valid F-1/J-1 Visa (Canadian citizens exempt)
- Valid I-20/DS-2019 Form with valid travel authorization signature
- Proof of enrollment (not required, but highly recommended in case you are questioned about your fall 2021 enrollment. For information on how to obtain a proof of enrollment for fall 2021, see our FAQ)

Important Reminders After Your Arrival in the U.S.

- After arriving in the U.S., students must complete the F-1/J-1 Post-Arrival Visa Check-In requirement and the iSTART Orientation to validate their visa status in the U.S. Students will be emailed instructions on how to complete the F-1/J-1 Check-In requirement.

- Students must remain enrolled full-time and receive a grade for an approved on-site or hybrid course to maintain their valid F-1/J-1 initial visa status for fall 2021, if on-site/hybrid course enrollment is required.

International students who are unable to travel the U.S. due to visa or pandemic-related challenges and are planning to engage in remote learning from their home countries should contact us if assistance is needed to support navigating the campus process for such arrangements.

The entire Dashew Center team is looking forward to supporting your in-person or remote fall 2021 UCLA experience. Please visit our Travel Updates, F-1 Student FAQ, J-1 Student FAQ and Non-Visa Related FAQ pages for more information and updates. Feel free to contact us if you have any questions regarding fall enrollment or your planned arrival to the U.S.

Sincerely,

Sam Nahidi
Director