

Dear International Students,

You may have already read [the communication from senior leadership](#) from earlier this evening about the decision to continue to offer instruction remotely through the end of the Spring 2020 quarter. I encourage you to read this message carefully as we try to answer areas of concern that you, as an international student, may be facing during these unprecedented times. The impact of moving most course instruction online has great impact on you. Please know that we are thinking of you and want to provide as much guidance as we can to support you. We acknowledge that there will be additional questions from our international student community, and the Dashew Center will continue to communicate with you so you can make the best informed decision for your situation this Spring 2020.

- **Do I have to return to my home country?** No. While the campus is taking precautionary measures to reduce the population density on campus, F-1 and J-1 students may remain in the U.S. if they choose to do so.
- **Will my F-1 status (I-20) or J-1 status (DS-2019) be terminated if I leave the U.S. to continue my full-time enrollment online and from my home country?** No. As long as you maintain full-time enrollment in Spring 2020, the Dashew Center will maintain an active F-1 or J-1 status.
- **What happens to my F-1 or J-1 visa if I am outside the U.S. for more than 5 months?** If you enroll full-time for the Spring 2020 quarter and complete all classes, have a valid visa, and an I-20/DS-2019, we do not anticipate F&J visa cancellations if you intend to return to the U.S. for the Fall 2020 quarter/semester or Summer Session 2020.
- **Will my F-1 or J-1 status be terminated if I drop my classes or declare non-attendance?** Yes, in most cases. Please see:
 - F-1 Students: <https://www.internationalcenter.ucla.edu/f-1-students/currently-enrolled#692072028-maintaining-f-1-status> (see 'Maintaining F-1 Status' tab)
 - J-1 Students: <https://www.internationalcenter.ucla.edu/j-1-students/currently-enrolled#692641861-maintaining-j-1-status> (see 'Maintaining J-1 Status' tab)
- **Do I have to be in the U.S. to sign documents such as the I-20 for my OPT application?** Please [contact](#) the Dashew Center for possible arrangements.
- **What if I am a continuing student from a country that has heavily been affected by the COVID-19 outbreak and it is safer for me to stay in the U.S. Can I stay?** Yes, as long as you maintain full-time enrollment and conform to all regulatory compliance requirements. If you are unable to maintain full-time enrollment, please [contact](#) the Dashew Center.
- **When will the COVID-19 related travel restrictions be lifted?** We do not have an estimated timeline from the federal government. We will provide updates as they become available.
- **Is it possible that the travel restrictions due the COVID-19 outbreak will be expanded?** This is a fluid situation and other countries could be added to the list of travel restrictions countries as

more COVID-19 cases are being detected.

- **Can I submit my travel authorization request through email?** Yes. Please submit your request via the Dashew Center [contact](#) page.
- **I am planning to graduate in Spring 2020. After I complete my classes remotely, can I apply for OPT while I am overseas?** We are seeking clarification on this topic from the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) and will include a response in our next communication or on the Dashew Center [COVID-19 Updates page](#).
- **Can I apply for CPT / AT and work remotely from my home country?** Yes, as long as your employer will agree to that arrangement.

Please contact the Dashew Center if you have any questions regarding travel, employment, study, or stay in the U.S., <https://www.internationalcenter.ucla.edu/contact-us>.

The Dashew Center is closely monitoring the situation with the COVID-19 outbreak and will continue with email communications to the international student community as more information become available. Please visit our [COVID-19 Updates page](#).

I encourage you to make informed decisions during these difficult times for the best outcome. Please take care of yourself, reach out with questions and stay in touch.

Sincerely,

Sam Nahidi
Director