

Dear International Bruins,

We recognize how difficult the past few academic years have been for our international community on campus. We empathize with our international students and scholars for the challenges and nuances you have navigated during the COVID-19 pandemic. While we are seeing an expected spike in cases as some restrictions ease, the overall forecast continues to be positive.

As the 2022 summer sessions and the fall quarter approach, we look forward to continuing with the process of safely returning to traditional in-person instruction and pre-pandemic life on campus. With an optimistic headway towards normalcy as COVID-19 restrictions begin to ease, we would like to remind you of some important information from UCLA campus leadership regarding health & safety protocols, as well as the most up to date federal guidance from the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) for F-1/J-1 visa students.

### **Updated COVID-19 Protocols for Spring Quarter**

The UCLA COVID-19 Response and Recovery Task Force provides updates in health and safety measures that have been put in place. Please find the most updated [messages from UCLA here](#) for more details on face coverings/masks, testing, vaccination requirements, daily symptom monitoring, and events at UCLA.

### **F-1/J-1 Visa Guidance**

On April 18, 2022, the [Student and Exchange Visitor Program \(SEVP\)](#) and the Department of State (DOS) announced yet another extension of their F-1/J-1 visa guidance from [March 2020](#) for the 2022–23 academic year. [Read the full announcement by SEVP](#). This extension will continue to maintain the requirement that students with an I-20/DS-2019 in 'Initial Attendance' status must 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/J-1 students (who established their F-1/J-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 J-1 visa guidance, please see the "Current Programs" and "Future Programs" sections in their [Frequently Asked Questions](#).

### **On-site Courses for Summer and Fall of 2022**

Please plan your class schedule in advance as majority of courses in the summer and fall of 2022 are likely to be offered in-person and online courses availability might be limited. UCLA has not yet finalized course offerings for fall 2022 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 2022 [UCLA Schedule of Classes](#) with a meeting location displayed as a building and room.

### **Fall 2022 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 2022, 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. Please note that the requirement to enroll in at least one on-site or hybrid course to meet the full-time enrollment requirement will remain in effect for future quarters as long as the SEVP's exception guidance continues. 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 2023, please [contact the Dashew Center](#) for further instructions after enrolling in fall 2022 courses.

### **Continuing Students who have not yet entered the U.S. in F-1/J-1 status**

If you did not establish valid F-1/J-1 visa status by entering the U.S. in fall 2021, winter 2022, or spring 2022 and are planning to enter the U.S. in F-1/J-1 status for fall 2022, you must contact the F-1 Visa Unit ([UCLAi20@saonet.ucla](mailto:UCLAi20@saonet.ucla)) or J-1 Visa Unit ([dcissj1unit@saonet.ucla.edu](mailto: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. If you are planning to continue online remote learning outside of the U.S. for fall 2022 due to visa application challenges at U.S. Embassies/Consulates, and plan to enter the U.S. for a future term like winter 2023, please [contact the Dashew Center](#) for further instructions after enrolling in fall 2022 courses.

### **Continuing Students who established F-1/J-1 status in the U.S. with UCLA before March 2020**

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.

The entire Dashew Center team is looking forward to supporting your in-person or remote summer/fall 2022 UCLA experience. Please visit our website to find out more about [Travel Updates](#), [F-1 Student FAQ](#), [J-1 Student FAQ](#), and [Non-Visa-related FAQ](#). Please [contact us](#) if you have any questions regarding fall enrollment or your planned arrival in the U.S.

Sincerely,

Sam Nahidi  
Director