

September 5, 2023



# International Student News

Important Updates from



International Students and Scholars



## IMMIGRATION UPDATES AND REMINDERS

Updates and Reminders

**Dear Students,**

Happy end of summer! We hope that you are all doing well and have enjoyed your summer months. We are getting ready to start the Fall 2023 school year and will be welcoming new students to UCR. It will be a busy time and we encourage you to submit any processing requests well in advance of the school year, so that we can take care of them now, before the Fall busy season.

Take the time now to [update your address](#) with our office, [enroll in full-time units](#), and apply for a [program extension](#) if needed. If you plan on traveling outside of the United States before the Fall quarter begins, remember to review our [travel information](#), and get an updated [travel signature](#) on your I-20/DS-2019 if needed.

If you will be [taking time off or withdrawing from UCR](#), notify an international student advisor in advance as this can impact your ability to maintain status and remain in the United States.

If you will be working on campus in the Fall and need an [SSN number](#), take the time now to complete the required [SSN letter](#). Thinking about an internship this Fall quarter? Please review our [employment information](#) for [F-1](#) and [J-1 students](#). As an F or J student, please remember that you cannot work off campus without authorization.

If you are [completing your program](#) this summer or Fall, and plan to apply for Post Completion Optional Practical Training (OPT), a period of immigration authorized employment in your major

field of study, [now is the time to apply](#). Please [notify](#) us if you are ending your program earlier than the current end date on your current I-20/DS-2019. If you plan to transfer to another university in the U.S. or to the UCR Extension Center for the Fall quarter, please request a [transfer out](#).

For those of you who have graduated or are completing your studies this summer, congratulations and keep in touch. It has been an honor to share your UCR journey. For those of you continuing with us in the Fall, we look forward to seeing you soon.

## Immigration Reminders

### F and J students

- Did your address recently change? If so, please update your address with our office by completing our [document request form](#). You should also update your address in your RWeb account. All F and J students are required to report any change in their physical address within 10 days.
- F and J students can only take one online course to count towards their full-time enrollment of 12 units. All other courses counting towards the 12 units need to be in-person.
- All F and J students must enroll in full-time units (12 units) each quarter per federal regulations. Please ensure that you are registered full-time for the Fall quarter. Students can drop below 12 units in very limited circumstances with **advanced approval from an international student advisor in the ISS office**.
- Please remember that your **academic advisor** or **graduate student services advisor** in your department is not your international student advisor. Academic Advisors cannot provide permission to drop below 12 units for immigration purposes.
- Plan ahead and speak with an ISS international student advisor before dropping below 12 units or before [taking a break from school](#) during the Fall, Winter, or Spring quarters.
- Enrolling in less than 12 units or taking a break from courses during the academic year without advanced permission may impact your ability to maintain status and remain in the United States.
- F-1 and J-1 students in their last quarter can drop below 12 units if they have less than 12 units left to complete their degree.
- F-2 students cannot be enrolled full-time per federal regulations. F-2 students must be enrolled in less than 12 units.
- Graduate and Undergraduate students in their final quarter, must submit a [Reduced Courseload Form](#) to our office.

### Undergraduate Students Only (F and J).

If this is your last quarter and you will be below 12 units or if you are an F-2 student and will be taking 10 units or less, **you must submit a [Reduced Courseload Form](#) to our office by 11:00 a.m. on Monday, October 09.** This will give us time to initiate a reduced tuition fee request on your behalf in My Forms. This request will then be routed to the Registrars' office. The request for reduced tuition must be routed to the registrar's office by [noon on October 13](#).

## IA OFFICE CLOSURE

### INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS OFFICE CLOSURE

Due to an all-staff retreat, the IA office will be **closed** on **September 7th**.

The IA front desk will be operating remotely; however, they will be limited to emails only.

In case of any emergency, please contact the UC Campus Police for assistance at **(951)-827-5222**.



## IMPORTANT DATES

### FALL QUARTER STARTS ON - SEPTEMBER 25, 2023

The first day of the fall quarter begins on Monday, September 25th. Between the first day of the fall quarter and the first day of instruction, there are a variety of welcome-back events hosted by on-campus clubs and organizations. Please see the [UCR Events Calendar](#) for more Information.



### FIRST DAY OF INSTRUCTION - SEPTEMBER 28, 2023

The first day of instruction begins on Thursday, September 28th. Please check your email for any updates about your first day of instruction from professors.

# UPCOMING ISS EVENTS

## Time: For International Women

A safe space for international women. Join us to engage in interactive discussions and fun activities.

### Meetings for Fall

- Tuesday, October 10th, 11:00AM-12:00PM at HUB 260
- Wednesday, November 8th, 11:00AM-12:00PM at HUB 260
- Thursday, December 7th, 11:00AM-12:00PM at HUB 260



Follow [@ucrrtime](https://www.instagram.com/ucrrtime) on Instagram for event details. Hosted by the International [Students and Scholars](#) office and [The Well](#).

For any questions, please contact [Jacqueline Hernandez](#)

---

## MIDTERM CARE PACKAGES

Save the Date! The International Students and Scholars Office will be distributing "Midterm Care Packages" during **Week 4 (October 23-27)**.



These packages include **snacks and school materials** intended to support you during midterms. WHY? Because we care! Our goal is to help ease some of your stress while studying for exams.

We will be sending out more information on how to pick up these care packages, so please keep an eye out for an email closer to the date!

Snacks and materials are available while supplies last. **\*There is a limit to (1) care package per student.\***

# SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

## HACU, PeopleCert International Limited accepting scholarship applications

The Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities is partnering with PeopleCert International Limited to provide scholarships to eligible international students. A total of five (\$5,000) scholarships will be awarded. For more information on how to apply, please check out this [page](#).

The deadline to apply is **March 31, 2024**.

---



# ISS FORMS AND GUIDES

Did you know that you can find essential forms, guides, and information about maintaining your status, travel, and employment on our website? [international.ucr.edu/students](https://international.ucr.edu/students)

- [Need a Form?](#)
- Learn about [F and J requirements](#)
- [Travel and Dependents](#)

Please note that we do not recommend travel at this time since things are difficult to predict with changing governmental regulations and travel restrictions due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Please consult with an advisor before making travel plans.

- [Employment and Taxes](#)
- 

## Contact Us

There are several ways you can reach our team. Our staff works Monday-Friday, from 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM (closed from 12:00 - 1:00 PM for lunch).

General Email: [internationalstudents@ucr.edu](mailto:internationalstudents@ucr.edu)

General Phone: (951) 827 - 4113



International Students  
and Scholars

**Michael** Schmelzle, Director: [michael.schmelzle@ucr.edu](mailto:michael.schmelzle@ucr.edu)

**Kelly** Eldridge Hinosawa, Associate Director: [kelly.hinosawa@ucr.edu](mailto:kelly.hinosawa@ucr.edu)

**Joseph** Agudo, International Student Advisor: [joseph.agudo@ucr.edu](mailto:joseph.agudo@ucr.edu)

**Jacqueline** Hernandez, Program Coordinator: [jacqueline.hernandez@ucr.edu](mailto:jacqueline.hernandez@ucr.edu)

**Tiffney** Tse, International Student Specialist: [tiffney.tse@email.ucr.edu](mailto:tiffney.tse@email.ucr.edu)

---

## Thank you from all of us in International Affairs!

As a reminder, the International Student News is an email for international students sent twice a month. You will find important information from our office, such as:

- notices from the U.S. government
- reminders to ensure that you stay in status
- UCR campus updates and cultural event information

**Please read the newsletter carefully. If you have any questions, please email our office at [internationalstudents@ucr.edu](mailto:internationalstudents@ucr.edu).**



International Affairs