

September 4, 2026



FALL 2026 BEGINS!!

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 2026 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. 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.

Sincerely,

The ISS Team.

IMMIGRATION UPDATES AND REMINDERS

New Regulations for F and J Students

Final Rule on the Elimination of D/S starts on September 15, 2026

[The Final Rule](#) replaces duration of status (D/S) with a specified end date on the I-94 for students and Exchange Visitors in F and J status. The rule will also modify certain regulations pertaining to F-1 and J-1 students and scholars, such as extension of stay and academic mobility. The ISS office is reviewing the Final Rule, we will continue to provide updates as they become available.

DHS “Study in the States” Resources: information about the new rule and what changes we can expect.

[D/S Rule Quick Facts](#)

[D/S Rule FAQs](#)

Full Time Course Load

If you have not yet registered for the Fall quarter, please remember that you need to be enrolled in full time units (12 units) per your F-1/J-1 status.

Online Classes

F-1 students: only one online course can count towards your full time enrollment requirement of 12 units.

J-1 students: you can only take one online course.

If you are an undergraduate student, this is your last quarter, and you require less than 12 units to complete your academic program, you must submit a [Reduced Course Load Form](#) to our office. **You will also need to initiate a reduced tuition fee request with the Registrar’s office** by the [deadline listed on the Registrar’s website](#). Your form must reach the Registrar’s office by this date, so please plan ahead.

F-2 students cannot be enrolled in a full course load per regulations and therefore need to be enrolled in under 12 units.

Program Extension

Don't forget to check your I-20/DS-2019 end date. If you need more time to complete your degree, you need to [apply for a program extension](#) before your current I-20 or DS-2019 form expires. Please apply well before September 15, 2026 if you need an extension. Applying for an extension after September 15, 2026 will likely require you to file an extension of stay with USCIS due to the new regulations.

Do you need an Social Security Number for On-Campus Work?

If you will be working on campus in the Fall and need an [SSN](#), take the time now to complete the required [SSN letter](#). As an F or J student, please remember that you cannot work off campus without authorization.

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to reach out to internationalstudents@ucr.edu to ask your questions or set up an appointment with an international advisor.

IMPORTANT DATES

FALL QUARTER STARTS ON - SEPTEMBER 21, 2026 

The first day of the fall quarter begins on Monday, September 21st. 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 24, 2026

The first day of instruction begins on Thursday, September 24th. Please check your email for any updates about your first day of instruction from professors.

UPDATE RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

U.S. Address | Have You Moved?

The U.S. government requires that F-1 & J-1 students report any residential address change within 10 days of moving. If you've changed your residence address, it is time to update your [ISS Portal](#) with your U.S. Local Address. Please take a moment to log in

- Click on 'Personal Information'
- Click on 'U.S. Address (Update within 10 Days of Any Changes)'
 - Make any updates to your Local Address

Click "Save" at the bottom of the page.

EVENTS

Downtown Riverside Farmers Market:

The farmers market provides a unique opportunity to shop for fresh fruits, vegetables, flowers, hummus, aged gouda cheese by Winchester Cheese Co., fresh baked bread from Old Town Baking Co. and other specialty food items.

Date: Every Saturday

Time: 8:00 am to 1:00 pm

Venue: On Main Street between 5th and 6th Streets



Join us for the first event of the year!



Find your people: Meet & Greet

Kick off Week 0 by connecting with fellow international students! This casual Meet & Greet is a welcoming space for students to meet new people, make friends, and build connections before classes begin. Come socialize, have snacks and refreshments, learn more about the international student community at UCR, and start the quarter with some new faces and good conversations!

Time: 3pm to 5pm

Date: September 23rd, Wednesday

Venue: 1st floor, [Student success centre](#), Multi purpose room.

Please fill out this [form](#) to register for the event.



Moon Festival

Join us for an evening of storytelling by Barbara Wong, performances by Gió Nam Múa Lân (Southern Wind Lion Dance, 南風醒獅團), and Chinese calligraphy demonstrations by Riverside's Hua Xia Chinese School. The festival will also feature moon viewing with the UC Riverside astronomy department and Astronomy Club outreach members, demonstrations, and a fun craft for all ages.

When: September 25, 6:00pm-8:00pm

Where: Riverside Heritage House, 8193 Magnolia Ave, Riverside

UPDATE to Transportation Services Travel Trainings:

The travel training on September 26 to the Riverside Art and Music Festival has been cancelled due to a conflict with the Block Party. The updated schedule of travel trainings is included here, as well as instructions to take the bus to the Art and Music Festival if you would still like to attend. For more information or any questions, please reach out to Faith McClure, faith.mcclure1@ucr.edu.



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

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

General Phone: (951) 827-4113

Michael Schmelzle, Director: michael.schmelzle@ucr.edu

Kelly Eldridge Hinosawa, Associate Director: kelly.hinosawa@ucr.edu

Jen Gerardi, Senior International Student Advisor: jennifer.gerardi@ucr.edu

Brandon Chao, International Student Specialist: brandon.chao@ucr.edu

Flora Chen, International Student Advisor: florac@ucr.edu

Ainos Ting, International Student Advisor: ainost@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 monthly. 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.