International Student Orientation
Pre-Arrival Webinar #2

Fall 2021 – July 29th, 2021
Meet the International Student Support Team

We are on campus to help make your experience at UCR as rewarding as possible.

There are several ways you can reach the international student advising team. Our office is staffed on Monday - Friday, from 8:00am - 5:00pm (currently closed).

Our contact information is listed below:

**General Email:** internationalstudents@ucr.edu
**General Phone:** (951) 827 - 4113
**Emergency Phone** (After Business Hours): (951) 206 – 8810
**Website:** international.ucr.edu

Our operations are being conducted remotely at this time, so we are available to schedule Zoom appointments with you.
Today’s Agenda

• About the ISS Office
• I-20 & Visa Process
• Entering the U.S.
• Current Travel Guidance & Restrictions
• Transportation Options
• New Student Check-in
• Orientation Information
• Important Campus Information
• Reminders
  • Academic Advising
  • Admissions
  • Housing
• Health & Immunizations
• Q&A

Please ask your questions in the Q&A box— you may find your answer during the presentation!
ISS Services & Programs

Advising: What can I see an advisor for?
• Any visa-related questions or concerns
• Personal advising and support
• Work authorization and employment
• Travel requirements

Support Programs
• Peer Mentorship Programs
• Language Circles
• Cultural Celebrations
• International Education Week
• Support group for International Women (R’ Time)
• Town Hall meetings
• Orientation and Workshops
I-20 & Visa Process
Immigration Information

How To Get My Visa?

01 Review your I-20/DS-2019
Make sure all the information on your I-20 (F-1 Visa) OR DS-2019 (J-1 visa) is correct and sign it. If you do not yet have an I-20 or DS-2019, please apply for one as soon as possible.

02 Pay your SEVIS fee
• Pay your SEVIS fee online on https://www.ice.gov/sevis/i901
• Print your receipt, and keep it with your immigration documents

03 Schedule your Visa Interview
• Schedule your visa appointment, keep checking for cancellations
• Apply for an expedited appointment if permitted
• All embassies/consulates have individual re-opening plans and appointment availability
Immigration Information

How To Get My Visa?

For the visa interview

• Gather the following documents
  • UCR Admissions Letter
  • I-20 (F visa) OR DS-2019 (J visa)
  • Proof of financial support
  • Receipt for the SEVIS fee
  • Photo
  • Other items may also be requested, depending on your embassy and situation. Please contact your embassy for further instructions.
• For more information, visit https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/study/student-visa.html

Current COVID guidance: If you are a new student, you will need to be enrolled in at least one hybrid course to be eligible for a visa/admission to the U.S. You cannot enter the U.S. to take all of your courses remotely.
"Can I stay in my home country and study?"

- During Fall 2021, UCR instruction will be largely in-person courses, with some remote and dual-mode options available.

- Please contact your academic advisor to see if your courses are offered remotely.

- Students who are in certain countries cannot take online courses abroad (ex. Iran).

- If you do not enter the U.S. to begin your program, we cannot activate your SEVIS record. You will need to defer your I-20 to the term you will enter.

- As a new student, you must enter at the beginning of the quarter or defer your I-20 to the next quarter.
If you cannot/will not enter the U.S. for Fall quarter:

- **Admission Deferral**: Please contact your graduate department or the undergraduate admissions office to find out if you have the option to defer your admission to winter term.
  - *Once the admissions office processes your deferral, they will notify Jessi to issue a new I-20 with updated program dates (within 5-7 business days)*

- **Remote Study/ I-20 Deferral**: If you will study remotely from abroad for Fall quarter, you will need a new I-20 with an updated program start date for Winter quarter entry
  - *Complete the Google Form and Jessi will update your I-20 to the winter quarter program start date*

Refer to the email "New International Student Updates for Fall 2021" for more information.
Entering the U.S.
Entering the U.S.

Travel Documents Checklist (when entering the U.S.)

- Passport (at least 6 months validity)
- F1 or J1 visa
- I-20 (F1) OR DS-2019 (J1)
- Receipt of SEVIS fee payment (I-901)
- Negative viral COVID test within 3 days of boarding your flight to the U.S.
- UCR Admission Letter (recommended)
- Proof of financial support (recommended)
- Proof of course registration (recommended)
Entering the U.S. (continued)

Recommendations

• You can enter U.S. up to 30 days before the start date on I-20 or DS-2019 with a valid visa
• Plan for delays at the airport and schedule time between connecting flights
• Do NOT enter on a tourist visa – you cannot study
• Review any travel restrictions/requirements before booking and boarding your flight to the United States.
• If you are sent to secondary, do not panic and have all documents available
• Remember that CBP can ask to review your social media
• If CBP asks to confirm your status with UCR, please give them the ISS emergency phone number (951-206-8810)
• After arrival, obtain your I-94 record and check for accuracy  https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94
ISS Letter – Late Arrivals

• The latest the ISS office will permit you to enter the U.S. for Fall quarter and be eligible for SEVIS registration is October 15th, if approved by your academic department and, if you are a graduate student, the UCR Graduate Division.

• The ISS office has prepared a general letter that international students may use as needed for requesting an emergency visa interview and as a supporting document during their visa interview and/or arrival at a U.S. Port of Entry. https://international.ucr.edu/document/iss-letter-visas-and-arrivals

• Students entering the U.S. for their first term in F-1 or J-1 status must enter the U.S. within the SEVIS registration window or defer their I-20 to the next quarter start date.
Current Travel Guidance & Restrictions
Current Travel Information

National Interest Exception (NIE): Students travelling to the U.S. from certain countries will not be able to enter the U.S. directly from those locations until after August 1st. [https://www.nafsa.org/regulatory-information/covid-19-restrictions-us-visas-and-entry](https://www.nafsa.org/regulatory-information/covid-19-restrictions-us-visas-and-entry)

UCR Travel Guidance website: [https://ehs.ucr.edu/coronavirus/travel](https://ehs.ucr.edu/coronavirus/travel)

CDC International Travel Guidance: see chart

City of Los Angeles Traveler Form: [https://travel.lacity.org/](https://travel.lacity.org/)
Transportation Options
Transportation Options

From Los Angeles International Airport (LAX)
- Distance: 110 kilometers or 68 miles
- Uber, Lyft or other rideshare services
- Metrolink and LAX Flyaway Bus

From Ontario International Airport (ONT)
- Distance: 34 kilometers or 21 miles
- Lyft or other rideshare services (cannot use Uber)

Using Uber/ Lyft
- Must have Uber/Lyft app downloaded on device
- Must have updated payment method (via card or Apple Pay) – prices vary depending on demand and time
- Must have internet connection
- Locate the rideshare pick up area at the airport
New Student SEVIS Check-in
New Student SEVIS Check-in Process

- Check-in is mandatory for all new international students who have entered the U.S.

- If you are an F-1 or J-1 student and do not complete your check-in, the ISS office will not be able to confirm your arrival in the Student and Exchange Visitor system (SEVIS) as required by federal regulations. You will not be registered in SEVIS and you may fall out of status.

- You must be inside the United States in order to complete the check-in process.

- More information about the check-in process will be sent to your UCR email address.
Orientation Information
Orientation Registration

Please ensure that you are registered for these required orientations. Each new student will be charged an Orientation Fee.

Undergraduate Freshmen

1. Register for International Student Orientation*
2. Register for Highlander Orientation for Freshmen

Undergraduate Transfer Students

1. Register for International Student Orientation*
2. Register for Highlander Transfer Orientation

Graduate Students and EAP Exchange Students

1. Register for International Student Orientation*

Graduate students are also required to attend their graduate division orientation and departmental orientations.

*International Student Orientation: required for student in F and J status.
Questions about International Student Orientation? Email: internationalstudents@ucr.edu
Questions about Highlander Orientation? Email: orientation@ucr.edu
International Student Orientation – Fall 2021 (required)

Informational Sessions September 13-22
- Visa/U.S. Regulation Session
- Safety Session
- Undergraduate Student Success
- Graduate Student Success
- Health and Wellness
- And more!

Interactive Live Welcome Sessions September 13-22
- Opening Ceremony
- Job Talk
- Networking – meet and network with current students
- Making Friends in the United States
- EAP reciprocity Welcome Session
- Survival Skills – tips for living on a student budget
Important Campus Information
Remote Operations & COVID Updates

Remote Operations
• Many UCR campus programs and services are currently operating remotely due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

• Return to Campus Website: https://campusreturn.ucr.edu/

COVID-19 Updates
• View information and updates about campus operations and COVID-19 here

Virtual Campus Tour
• Watch a student-led UCR campus tour: here
New Student Reminders
Academic Advising

Graduate Students
• Contact your graduate program assistant for assistance with course registration or degree plan questions. Graduate departments may have their own orientations.

Undergraduate Students
• You will enroll in coursework during the Highlander Orientation for new students. Register for Highlander Orientation and academic advising: https://vcsaweb.ucr.edu/Orientation/

EAP Reciprocity Exchange Students
• Your academic advisor should contact you to enroll in coursework.
Undergraduate Advising Contacts

**College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHASS)**
Find your advisor and schedule appointments [here](#).

**College of Engineering (COE)**
Find your advisor and schedule appointments [here](#).

**School of Business (SOB)**
Find your advisor and schedule appointments [here](#).

**College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences (CNAS)**
Find your advisor and schedule appointments [here](#).

**School of Public Policy (SPP)**
Find your advisor and more information [here](#).

**School of Education (SOE)**
Find your advisor and more information [here](#).
UCR Admissions Offices

Undergraduate Admissions

https://admissions.ucr.edu/
Tel: (951) 827-3411
Email: admissions@ucr.edu
Alternative Email: internationalinfo@ucr.edu

Graduate Admissions

https://graduate.ucr.edu/admissions
Tel: (951) 827-4302
Email: grad.div@ucr.edu

Please contact the Admissions Offices for questions about your transcripts, transfer credits, test scores, and admission deferrals.
Limited housing options still available on campus.

Contact: Housinginfo@ucr.edu

Website: housing.ucr.edu

Visit offcampushousing.ucr.edu for off-campus apartment/house rental listings.
Things to consider when looking for housing:

- Type of housing
- Distance to campus
- Rent and other financial obligations
- Facilities and services provided
- Furniture included ("Furnished")
- Application deadline
- Lease or contract (read before signing!)
- Lease/contract start and end date
- Be aware of potential scams when searching for off-campus housing

Questions: Housinginfo@ucr.edu
Health and Immunizations
Questions for UCR Health Services

General email: health@ucr.edu

For questions about immunizations: Submit immunization questions and comments through the patient portal. Choose Messages, create New Message and choose the "Immunization Mandate Staff" option.

For questions about health insurance: health@ucr.edu

Phone: (951) 827-3031

Website: https://studenthealth.ucr.edu/

COVID Vaccine: https://studenthealth.ucr.edu/covid-19
Immunization Requirements

Requirements:

- [Link](https://studenthealth.ucr.edu/immunization-requirements)
- COVID Vaccine: [Link](https://studenthealth.ucr.edu/covid-19)
- Some airports offer free COVID vaccines: Los Angeles (LAX) [Link](https://www.flylax.com/TravelSafely)

Instructions:

- No paper or emailed documents; all information must be uploaded in the patient portal.
- [Link](https://studenthealth.ucr.edu/uc-immunization-requirements-process)

For further questions:

- Submit immunization questions and comments through the patient portal. Choose Messages, create New Message and choose the "Immunization Mandate Staff" option.
Health Insurance

Health Insurance is required for all students at UCR. If you have equal for better coverage, you have the option to request a waiver of the health insurance requirements.

General Information: https://studenthealth.ucr.edu/student-health-insurance-plan-ship

Information for Undergraduate Students: https://studenthealth.ucr.edu/undergraduate-students

Information for Graduate Students: https://studenthealth.ucr.edu/graduate-students

Further Questions? health@ucr.edu
Questions and Answers
Welcome to UCR!

Connect with us:

UCR.ISS

UCRInternationalAffairs

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