

From: UCI International Center <internationalcenter@uci.edu>
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Subject: UCI International Center COVID-19 Updates

Dear International Student,

During the campus transition to online instruction, the UCI International Center continues to operate during regular business hours. Below are questions received by students that may be helpful for you. These are exceptional times and we will like to remind you that the International Center is here if you have any questions or need assistance finding the right resource.

Sincerely,

International Center Staff

COMMON QUESTIONS:

Is the International Center open?

As of now, the campus has decided that administrative offices will remain open, including the International Center. Our hours are from 8 am – 5 pm, Monday through Friday. This information may change, be sure to visit the International Center website for updates.

If I want to stay in the U.S. I am allowed to stay in the U.S.?

Yes, you may remain in the U.S. You must enroll in the minimum 12 units. You will be completing these courses remotely. We encourage to take care of yourself and follow advice on how to stay healthy.

Will the IC still hold the OPT Information Sessions?

The International Center will start offering OPT information sessions through Zoom in the Spring Quarter. The OPT tutorial and all information that you need to apply for OPT is already available online and we encourage to you review and follow the instructions.

Can I still make an appointment to meet with an advisor?

At this time, yes you can. However, we do encourage you to schedule phone appointments if appropriate.

If I am enrolled online, I am still maintaining visa status?

International students in F and J visa status are required to be enrolled in a minimum of 12 units. The Department of Homeland Security/SEVP is allowing students to be enrolled remotely in the 12 units because the university has decided this is the mode of instruction for Spring quarter. This is an exception to the normal rules that require that only 1 class (4 units) can be counted towards the 12 total units. You do not have to file

any special paperwork with the International Center to get this exception. Please do remember to enroll full-time (12 units)

If I return to my home country for Spring Quarter and continue my enrollment, will I be maintaining status?

If you decide to return to your home country during Spring Quarter and continue to be enrolled remotely, your SEVIS record will be kept active. However, please be aware that this may change if SEVP provides different guidance regarding this issue.

If I go back to my home country will I be able to return?

If you decide to return to your home country and plan to return later in summer or fall, you will need to be sure your documents are valid. Your re-entry will depend on any travel restrictions or travel bans that may be in place at the time that you plan to return; as well to all immigration and visa requirements.

How do I explain to the CBP officer why I was out of the U.S for Spring Quarter?

You will need to let the officer know that your school, UCI, offered classes remotely for Spring Quarter because of the COVID-19. You will need to have proof of your Spring Quarter enrollment. You must be sure that you have a valid visa, valid I-20 or DS-2019 with travel signature, proof of Spring enrollment and we also recommend that you have a printed copy of the Chancellor's message you received on March 10, 2020. Entry into the U.S. is always the decision of the CBP officer.

References:

[Coronavirus Updates for UCI Community](#)

[Immigration Updates](#)

[UCI Student Health](#)