

FAQ For UCR International Students

Spring 2020

In the light of fluid situation of COVID-19 and campus closure, you have many important decisions to make. Please make sure you have the answers you need to make the decision that is best for you.

Q: I want to go back to my home country; can I take my Spring quarter classes remotely?

Yes. Spring 2020 courses at UCR will be offered online giving you the ability to remain in the U.S. or return home. Graduate students should contact their department and supervisor directly to discuss any remote or in-person work.

Q: Can I be outside of the U.S. for more than 5 months?

A recent exception to immigration regulations will allow students to maintain their visa status while living abroad if they are enrolled full-time in Spring quarter.

Q :My home country is in a different time zone. Will I need to attend my classes live?

Please email your instructors directly to determine the requirements of your specific classes. If you are not able to manage online classes from your home country, consider remaining in the United States for Spring quarter.

Q: I want to leave the U.S. for a short break, and come back to study here for Spring quarter. Is it possible?

Travel in and out of the U.S. is not recommended at this time. Please speak with an international student advisor before making any travel plans. Contact us at 951-827-4113 or internationalstudents@ucr.edu.

Q: I want to go home, but I do not want to enroll for Spring. Will that affect my visa?

If you are not enrolled in Spring quarter, your I-20 and SEVIS record will be terminated and you will need to request a new I-20 or a reactivation before you return. Please consult with an international student advisor in our office before finalizing your decision. Also, please consult with your academic advisor about canceling your registration or taking a leave of absence.

Q: I want to go home, but I will be back for the Summer or Fall quarter. Will that affect my visa?

Yes, if you are not enrolled full-time in Spring. Please consult with an international student advisor in our office before finalizing your plans.

Q: I have a travel signature on my I-20 with a date after 10/1/19. Can I use this travel signature to come back to the U.S. for Fall quarter?

Yes, a travel signature is valid for one year.

Q: If I need a new travel signature, how do I get one?

You do not need a travel signature to leave the U.S. It is only required upon return to the U.S. Please email us at internationalstudents@ucr.edu to request a new travel signature. We will reprint a new I-20 with a new travel signature and email you the mailing instructions for Eship.

Q I don't want to go back home, can I stay here to take classes remotely?

Of course. In fact, we encourage students to stay here. It may be a lot easier to participate in online classes in real time and communicate with UCR instructors and campus support services.

Q I am living on-campus, am I allowed to stay there for the rest of the Spring quarter?

Campus housing will remain open and dining services available for students with meal plans. Any questions, please contact the [Help Desk](#).

Q I am a graduate student doing research and/or teaching, should I come to campus?

Please ask your supervisor and department about how to conduct work remotely or in-person.

Q I need to request for a Travel Signature, Extension, OPT, CPT, or other documents. Who do I contact?

Please email us at internationalstudents@ucr.edu and we would be happy to assist you.

Q How can I pick up my I-20 or other documents?

Our office is only open for urgent document pick-ups only. Please contact us via internationalstudents@ucr.edu or call (951) 206 - 8810 before you come to campus. Office Hours are Monday - Friday: 8:00am - 5:00pm.

Q I want to withdraw from Spring quarter. Will I receive a refund?

If you have already paid for Spring quarter tuition and fees, you have until March 30th to withdraw and receive a full refund. For more information visit <https://registrar.ucr.edu/tuition-fees/refunds> or contact Student Business Services at sbsofc@ucr.edu.

Please check your emails on a daily basis to see any updates about this matter. Below is a quick guide with links to information and resources at UCR.

[COVID Resources](#)

[UCR News](#)

[International Students & Scholars Office](#)

[Contact us](#) if you have any questions or concerns. Your safety and wellbeing is our first priority.

International Students & Scholars Team