

August 12, 2025



AUGUST IS HERE

Dear Students,

Can you believe it is already August? The Fall quarter will be here soon. We are excited to welcome all of you back to a new academic year. We are also happy to welcome a new group of international students to our UCR international community. We hope you enjoy the rest of the summer. If you are looking for something fun to do this summer, you might want to check out the [Orange County Fair](#) or join the [Guided Nature Walk](#) offered by the Museum of Riverside. Enjoy your adventures!

IMMIGRATION REMINDERS

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. Keep in mind that only one online course is allowed. All other coursework must be in-person.

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

Students who are on a tourist visa cannot legally attend school in the United States.

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](#).

Maintaining F and J status

It is very important to follow the regulations. Take the time to review information on maintaining your [F and J status](#).

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.

QUICK NOTE

If you emailed our front desk, internationalstudents@ucr.edu, between Thursday, July 31 at 7:00pm and Friday, August 1 at 10:00am, you may want to re-send your email, as a glitch prevented our front desk from receiving emails during that time. Whenever you email our front desk team, they will follow up by the next business day confirming that your message is in receipt.

IMPORTANT TRAVEL UPDATES

All F-1 and J-1 students should carefully evaluate travel risks before deciding to travel. Changes to U.S government policies and regulations are unpredictable and could impact return travel to the United States.

If you do decide to travel, please ensure that you have all your travel documents in order; including a recent travel signature on your DS-2019/I-20 Form.

An updated travel signature can be requested by submitting a [Document Request Form](#). For more information on traveling internationally and a list of documents required for reentry (in addition to the I-20 or DS-2019), please visit [Traveling for International Students](#).

If you have any questions, please email internationalstudents@ucr.edu to speak with an advisor.

Visa Appointments

- The visa appointment pause for F and J students has been lifted at U.S. embassies and consulates.
- Increased vetting of social media accounts has been [announced](#). More information can be found at:
<https://www.nafsa.org/regulatory-information/student-and-exchange-visitor-visa-appointment-capacity-and-dos-guidance>

Travel Ban

- The travel ban remains in place for individuals from certain countries. Additional countries can be added to the ban at any time. More information can be found at the following links:

- [U.S. Presidential Proclamation on Travel Bans to the U.S.](#)
- [U.S. Presidential Fact Sheet on Reentry to the U.S.](#)
- [NAFSA Overview on Presidential Issued Travel Bans to the U.S.](#)

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.

APPLY FOR VOLUNTEER POSITIONS

International Orientation Volunteers

ISS is looking for volunteers for 2025-2026 International Student Orientation! If you are interested please reach out to [Jennifer Gerardi](#) by August 25th, 2025.



*** This is a non-paid volunteer position.***

Fall International Student Orientation is scheduled to be held on September 16th, 17th & 19th. Availability for these dates are required.

ISPMP Mentor:

Through the combined efforts of the International Students and Scholars Office and continuing UCR international students, the International Peer Mentor Program (ISPMP) provides transitional support to incoming international students.

- ISPMP supports new international students at UCR through peer mentoring and guided resources.



- Run by ISS and student mentors, it includes one-on-one meetings, group sessions, and workshops.
- Mentors assist with outreach, communication, and connecting mentees to campus resources to ease their transition and promote success.

***This is a non-paid volunteer position**

**** Please complete [this application](#) by August 30th at 11:59PM (PT)****

EVENTS IN RIVERSIDE

Dissertation Deep Dive:

The Dissertation Deep Dive is aimed at students who have a significant portion of their dissertations completed and expect to file between September 2025 and June 2026. During this on-campus retreat, writers can work on drafting a new chapter or revising what they have already written. Attendees will receive breakfast, lunch, snacks, and beverages; in-person writing support; and copious amounts of quiet writing time.

Date: August 19th, 21st, 26th, 28th, 2025

Time: 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM

Venue: 900 University Ave, College Building South, Riverside, CA 92521

For more information click [here!](#)



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

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](#)
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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

Lauren Bracamontes, Program Coordinator: lbracamo@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.

