

August 2026

International Student News

Important Updates from

UCR

International Students
and Scholars

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 the [Riverside Art Museum](#)!

IMMIGRATION UPDATES

The [Final Rule on the Elimination of D/S](#) was published on July 17, 2026.

- The Final Rule will replace 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 currently reviewing the Final Rule, which will go into effect on September 15, 2026, and 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](#)

Do you have **general questions** about the [Final Rule on the Elimination of D/S?](#) We will be hosting a weekly Drop-in hour on Mondays from 3:30 to 4:30 PM PST.

Log into your UCR Zoom account to join [The End of D/S Monday Drop-In Hour](#). Pre-registration is not required at this time.

Drop-in Mondays

Monday, August 10

Monday, August 17

Monday, August 24

Monday, August 31

Did you miss the Town Hall on the new rule? If so, please email internationalstudents@ucr.edu to get a copy of the slides. Please note that slide content may change as we learn more about the rule.

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](#). 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.

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.

TRANSPORTATION



Take advantage of these transportation services and enjoy some time off campus! Transportation Services is offering two Travel Training events: **Ride to the Beach** and **Ride to Music and Arts Festival**. These are travel training events put on by Transportation Services. Travel training at UCR demonstrates how to use public transit

and build confidence for new riders in a group setting. Please contact Faith McClure faithm@ucr.edu with any questions.

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 are currently outside of the United States, you may want to consider re-entering before the new rule takes effect on September 15, 2026. If you enter before September 15, 2026, you will receive an I-94 with D/S as opposed to an I-94 with a specific admit date. This will allow you to take advantage of some of the transition provisions included in the rule.

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 re-entry (in addition to the I-20 or DS-2019), please visit [Traveling for International Students](#).

Travel Ban

- A travel ban remains in place for individuals from certain countries. Additional countries can be added to the ban at any time.

[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 and 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



Language Circles

Join our language circles by filling out this [interest form](#).

This is a great way to meet new students and get to learn new skills as well!



International Peer Mentor Program

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)****

FREE SERVICES



FREE Virtual Therapy for UCR International Students

SCAN QR CODE TO SIGN UP

UCR RIVERSIDE
Counseling and Psychological Services

Mantra Health

AVAILABLE NOW THROUGH FALL 2026

UCR CAPS has partnered with Mantra Health to provide free telemental health support for eligible UCR international students!

Mental health support designed for you:

- Virtual, confidential sessions
- Weekdays & weekends available
- Morning, afternoon, and evening appointments
- No referral required
- Free for up to 8 sessions (your provider will help determine an appropriate treatment plan)

Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) has partnered with Mantra Health to offer free virtual therapy for International Students (up to 8 sessions). Mantra is an additional mental health care option available alongside the services offered by CAPS. You must be a registered UCR student taking classes in Fall quarter. Evening and weekend appointments are available. Please note that you must be in the U.S. to use Mantra Health. Scan the QR code for more information.

EVENTS IN RIVERSIDE



Enjoy a special screening of *Off the Block* shot on 16mm film!

Date: August 8, 2026

Time: 2:00 PM

Venue: 3834 Main St, Riverside, CA 92501

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](#)

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

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

Thank you from all of us in International Affairs!

As a reminder, 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.