

# International Student Orientation Pre-Arrival Webinar

Winter 2021 – November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020

# Today's Agenda

- About the ISS Office
- Campus Information
- Academic Advising & Placement Tests
- UCR Departments You Should Know
- Immunization/Insurance Requirements
- Housing Options
- Immigration (Visa and Travel Documents)
- Transportation Options
- Orientation
- Q&A



*Please hold your questions until the end – you may find your answer during the presentation!*

# 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](mailto:internationalstudents@ucr.edu)

General phone: (951) 827 - 4113

**Emergency phone** (after business hours): (951) 206 – 8810

Website: [international.ucr.edu](http://international.ucr.edu)

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

# ISS Services



## Support Programs

- Peer Mentorship Programs (IPA & CONNECT)
- Language Circles
- Presentation and Public Speaking classes
- Cultural Celebrations
- International Education Week
- Support group for International Women (R' Time)
- Town Hall meetings
- Orientation and Workshops





# Important Campus Information



# Remote Operations, COVID-19 and the Winter Holiday.

## Remote Operations

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

## COVID-19 Updates

View information and updates about campus operations and COVID-19 [here](#).

## UCR Winter Holiday

The International Student and Scholars office and the University of California, Riverside campus will be closed to in-person and remote operations from December 21, 2020–January 3, 2021.



# Academic Advising and Placement Tests



# Academic Advising

## Graduate Students

- Contact your graduate program assistant for assistance with course registration.

## Undergraduate Students

- Freshman: Your academic advisor should contact you to enroll in coursework
- Transfer students: You will enroll in coursework during the Highlander Orientation for Transfer students on December 4. You can register for that Orientation and academic advising session [here](#).

## 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](#).



# Analytical Writing Placement Exam (AWPE) - (undergraduates)

Date: Friday, November 13, 2020 @ 1:00 p.m. Pacific Time

Learn more about the exam [here](#).

Who has to take the exam?

- Most freshman.
- Transfer students should consult with their academic advisor.

How do I pay and register for the exam?

- **Pay for the exam by visiting [AWPE website](#)**
- **Register for the exam [here](#).**

**Questions? Email Sheena Thrush ([sheena.thrush@ucr.edu](mailto:sheena.thrush@ucr.edu)).**



## Math Advisory Exam- (undergraduates)

On-line Exam

Learn more about the exam [here](#) and follow the instructions.

Who has to take the exam?

- Most freshmen in majors that require Math. Please consult with your academic advisor to see if you need to take this test.

Questions? Email [math.testing@ucr.edu](mailto:math.testing@ucr.edu).



# Health and Immunizations

# UCR Departments You Should Know

## UCR Student Health Center



General email: [health@ucr.edu](mailto:health@ucr.edu)

For questions about **immunizations**: [immunization@ucr.edu](mailto:immunization@ucr.edu)

For questions about **health insurance**: [leticia.toral@ucr.edu](mailto:leticia.toral@ucr.edu)

Phone: (951) 827-3031

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



# Immunization Requirements

## Requirements:

- <https://studenthealth.ucr.edu/immunization-requirements>

## Instructions:

- No paper or emailed documents; all information must be uploaded in the patient portal.
- <https://studenthealth.ucr.edu/uc-immunization-requirements-process>

## For further questions:

- [immunization@ucr.edu](mailto:immunization@ucr.edu)





# Waive Immunization Requirements

**If you will be outside of the U.S for next quarter, you can request to have your immunization holds pushed back**

In order to request that the immunization hold be released students should follow the steps below:

Send an email to [immunizations@ucr.edu](mailto:immunizations@ucr.edu)

Subject Line: INTERNATIONAL STUDENT and STUDENT ID NUMBER

*Dear Immunization Team,*

*I am out of the country/remote and would like to have the immunization registration hold removed from my account for the Fall quarter so that I can register for classes.*

*My full name: Last name, First name*

*My student ID:*

*My email address:*



# Health Insurance

**Health Insurance is required for all students at UCR. If you have equal or 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](mailto:health@ucr.edu)



# Housing Options



# Housing Options

- On-Campus Residence Halls (Freshmen)
- On-Campus Apartments
- Off-Campus Apartments

*[housing@ucr.edu](mailto:housing@ucr.edu)*



# Housing Options

## Residence Halls





# Housing Options

## On-Campus Apartments

- Bannockburn Village
- Falkirk
- Glen Mor
- International Village
- The Plaza
- Stonehaven





# Housing Options

## Off-Campus Housing

Visit

[offcampushousing.ucr.edu](https://offcampushousing.ucr.edu)

for off-campus  
apartment/house rental listings



# Housing Options

## How to Decide?

- Type of housing
- Distance to campus
- Roommates
- Rent, Security Deposits, Utilities
- Facilities and services provided
- Furnished vs. Not Furnished
- Application deadline
- Lease or contract (ensure to read this before signing)
- Lease/contract start and end date





# UCR Departments You Should Know

## UCR Admissions Offices

### Undergraduate Admissions

<https://admissions.ucr.edu/>

Tel: (951) 827-3411

Email: [admissions@ucr.edu](mailto:admissions@ucr.edu)

Alternative Email: [internationalinfo@ucr.edu](mailto:internationalinfo@ucr.edu)

### Graduate Admissions

<https://graduate.ucr.edu/admissions>

Tel: (951) 827-4302

Email: [grad.div@ucr.edu](mailto:grad.div@ucr.edu)

- *Please contact the Admissions Offices for questions about your transcripts and transfer credits*
- *Transcripts should be mailed directly to the Admissions Office – do NOT send them to ISS!*



# Immigration Information



# New Students and COVID-19: Can I stay in my home country and study?



- Most students can remain in their home country and enroll for the Winter 2021 quarter online. An I-20/visa is not required. Graduate students should contact their department to if this is an option for them.
- Students who are in certain locations cannot take all online courses abroad (ex.Iran)
- Academically permitted for remote study for Winter 2021 quarter at UCR and does not necessarily apply to Spring 2021.
- Please read the email titled “New International Student Updates for Winter 2021” sent on 11/3/20

# 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.

### 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
- Can I get an expedited visa appointment?
- All embassies/consulates have individual re-opening plans



# 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 Fall 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. Make sure you have a new I-20 with remarks.*

*This guidance could change.*

# 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)
- UCR Admission Letter (*recommended*)
- Proof of financial support (*recommended*)
- Department letter or proof of course registration (*recommended*)



# Entering the U.S. (continued)



## Recommendations

- Plan for delays at the airport and schedule time between connecting flights
- Do NOT enter on a tourist visa – you cannot study
- Check travel restrictions/mandatory quarantines for your country before booking flights and flying to the U.S.
- Regulations are changing quickly and CBP is trying to keep up to date
- 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 wants to confirm status with UCR, please give them our emergency phone number (951-206-8810)
- Check your I-94 record before leaving the airport (if possible) – check for errors in spelling of your personal info, check for F1 or J1 status, check for “D/S” (duration of status)



## Other Common Questions

- “If I received a Fall 2020 I-20, can I use it to enter for winter quarter?”
- “As a new student, can I enter in the middle of the quarter?”
- “Can I take a gap year/quarter?”



# 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

- For more info, visit [https://international.ucr.edu/students/get-started-ucr#getting\\_to\\_ucr](https://international.ucr.edu/students/get-started-ucr#getting_to_ucr)





# Transportation Options

## When To Arrive?

- You can enter U.S. up to 30 days before the start date on I-20 or DS-2019, with a valid visa issued
- For on-campus residence hall move-in:
  - Contact [housinginfo@ucr.edu](mailto:housinginfo@ucr.edu) for new move-in dates and procedures
- For on-campus apartment early move-in:
  - Whenever your apartment become available
  - Contact [housinginfo@ucr.edu](mailto:housinginfo@ucr.edu)
- For off-campus move-in:
  - Contact your respective landlord or leasing office



# Orientation Information



# Orientation Registration

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

## Undergraduate Freshmen or EAP Exchange Students

1. Register for **International Student Orientation**

## Undergraduate Transfer Students

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

## Graduate Students

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1. Register for **International Student Orientation**

*Graduate students are also required to attend their graduate department orientations.*

Questions about International Student Orientation? Email: [internationalstudents@ucr.edu](mailto:internationalstudents@ucr.edu)

Questions about Highlander Orientation? Email: [orientation@ucr.edu](mailto:orientation@ucr.edu)

# International Student Orientation – Winter 2021



## Informational Sessions

*(will be available on iLearn)*

- Opening Ceremony
- Visa/U.S. Regulation Session
- Safety Session
- Undergraduate Success
- Graduate Success Session
- And more!

## Interactive Live Welcome Sessions

***More information & registration links will be emailed to you in the next week or two***

## Pre-submitted Questions – Academic/Lifestyle Related

- How can I find my course instructors and the academic advisors? Do I need contact them and make an appointment?
- When is prerequisite clearance request due?
- How do the housing contracts work? Are they per quarter?
- Can I work outside of campus?
- Is it possible to find on-campus employment for this quarter?
- I uploaded my immunization requirements on the portal but it still shows non-compliance status. How can I clear these holds?
- How do I pay my tuition?
- Can I open a U.S. bank account before I arrive?
- How can I get scholarships from UCR?

## Pre-submitted Questions – Immigration/Travel Related

- What are some hidden costs that new students neglect to think of while flying to study?
- Do I need to quarantine for 14 days after arriving? Where can I find these requirements?
- What if I need to arrive late?
- I will go to military service in February or March. Is that ok?
- How many in-person classes do we need to attend?
- Do I need to be located in Riverside for classes?
- Are we required to be enrolled in hybrid courses before arrival or is the I-20 remark sufficient?
- What's the newest COVID-19 policy for entering the U.S.? Any updates to be shared?

## Graduate Admissions

**Elisa Gutierrez**

Manager, Graduate Admissions

[Grad.div@ucr.edu](mailto:Grad.div@ucr.edu)

## Strategic Initiatives and International Recruitment

**Jessica Forrest**

International Student Specialist

[jessica.forrest@ucr.edu](mailto:jessica.forrest@ucr.edu)



## International Students & Scholars

**Kelly Eldridge Hinosawa**

Associate Director, International  
Students and Scholars

[kelly.hinosawa@ucr.edu](mailto:kelly.hinosawa@ucr.edu)

**General ISS Email**

[internationalstudents@ucr.edu](mailto:internationalstudents@ucr.edu)



# Welcome to UCR!

Connect with us:

