

UCLA Extension International Programs

Summer and Fall 2021 Frequently Asked Questions

Updated April 16, 2021

Are courses at UCLA Extension going to be online or in-person in Summer and Fall 2021?

Most courses will continue to be taught online. However, new international F-1 students who arrive in the U.S. for Summer and Fall quarters 2021 will be automatically enrolled in a hybrid program, which will include at least one in-person class meeting over the course of the quarter or program session.

Do I need an I-20 to enroll and study online from my home country?

No, an I-20 and F-1 visa is not required if studying from your home country. However, if you are a continuing student with an active SEVIS* record and F-1 status, you may maintain status by studying online from your home country during Summer and/or Fall 2021.

*The Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) is the web-based system that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) uses to maintain information regarding: Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP)-certified schools.

Do I need an I-20 form or F-1 visa to be eligible for Curricular Practical Training (CPT) and Optional Practical Training (OPT)?

Yes, you must have an F-1 visa to be eligible for OPT and CPT. Please visit the [OPT, CPT, and Internships website](#) for more information on eligibility and requirements.

If my classes are fully online, will that affect my F-1 visa status?

It depends. Current U.S. immigration guidelines permit a fully online schedule of classes during the COVID-19 pandemic IF:

- You are already in the U.S. on an F-1 visa and studying in a UCLA Extension program.
- OR*
- You are transferring from another U.S. educational institution with a current F-1 visa

*Please note: Guidance from U.S. immigration authorities is subject to change.

If you are a student newly arriving in the U.S. in Summer or Fall 2021 with a newly issued F-1 visa, you are required to enroll in a hybrid program during your first quarter of study. If, during your course of study at UCLA Extension, COVID-19 conditions require the school to

switch to a fully online format, you can remain in the U.S. and maintain your F-1 status as you continue to study online.

How many academic units am I required to enroll in as an international student?

International students attending a certificate program or study abroad program at UCLA Extension must enroll in at least 12 units to maintain F-1 status. International students attending an Intensive English program must attend their full-time program.

Can I use an electronic form I-20 to apply for a visa and travel to the U.S., or do I need a hard copy?

A digitally signed I-20 is accepted for travel and visa interviews due to the COVID-19 pandemic. When you receive the digitally signed I-20, you are responsible for printing it out and signing it with a blue pen. You cannot sign the I-20 digitally; only your International Student Services advisor can digitally sign. The U.S. Department of State (DoS) and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) are currently allowing digitally signed I-20s.

Are there any travel restrictions when coming to the US?

Please check the following websites for information about any travel restrictions to the U.S.:

- Your airline
- [U.S. State Department](#)
- [U.S. Centers for Disease Control & Prevention \(CDC\)](#)

Do I need to get a COVID-19 test before traveling to the US?

Starting January 26, 2021, all air passengers arriving to the U.S. from a foreign country are required to get tested for COVID-19 no more than 3 days before their flight departs. They are also required to provide proof of the negative test result *or* documentation from a licensed healthcare provider of recovery from COVID-19 to the airline before boarding the flight. Please see the [CDC website](#) for more information.

Do I need to self-quarantine after arriving in the US?

The Los Angeles County Department of Public Health requires that persons who arrive at any region of California self-quarantine for 10 days. Please [visit their website](#) for additional information.

What happens if I get COVID-19 while studying at UCLA Extension?

Students who are covered by UCLA Extension's Anthem health insurance policies have access to COVID-19 testing and treatment.

Can I get testing or the vaccine for COVID-19 in Los Angeles?

Students who are covered by UCLA Extension's Anthem Health Insurance can receive the COVID-19 vaccination and COVID -19 testing at no additional cost during this national public health emergency.

Does UCLA Extension offer COVID-19 tests?

No, but there are specific locations in Los Angeles to get a free COVID-19 test. Please visit [LA County's COVID-19 website](#) for more information.

Which documents will I need with me when I travel to Los Angeles?

If you are a *new student* you will need:

- Valid passport
- Valid F-1 visa
- Valid I-20
- Form I-901 (Receipt for the SEVIS fee)
- Welcome Letter
- Copies of your financial certification

If you are a *continuing student or transfer student* you will need:

- Valid passport
- Valid F-1 visa
- Valid I-20 *with a valid travel signature*

If you are an *OPT student*, you will need:

- Valid passport
- Valid F-1 visa
- I-20 with a *recent valid* travel signature
- EAD Card and employment verification (i.e., work paystub, job acceptance letter, etc.).

What if COVID-19 numbers rise and it becomes unsafe in Los Angeles? Can I travel back to my home country and continue my studies from there?

Yes. International students who are in the U.S. with F-1 status will be permitted to leave the U.S. and maintain their F-1 status by enrolling in a fully online course load.