Welcome to UCLA! Please refer to the steps below for important information on how to establish F-1 status in the U.S. and requirements you must complete as an F-1 student before and upon arrival to UCLA.

**REVIEW YOUR UCLA I-20**

The first section of your UCLA I-20 contains your SEVIS ID number and your biographical information. Look at the Program of Study section to see your degree program and start date. Majors that appear on an I-20 are selected from the national Classification of Instructional Programs list. As a result, the major on your I-20 may be worded differently than your actual UCLA major. Please contact the Dashew Center for International Students and Scholars (DCISS) immediately if there are any errors on your UCLA I-20 (e.g. biographical, program of study, or financial information).

**PAY THE I-901 SEVIS FEE**

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security requires all prospective F-1 students to pay the I-901 SEVIS Fee. The SEVIS fee can be paid online at [www.FMfee.com](http://www.FMfee.com). Print a copy of your I-901 SEVIS Fee payment receipt and have it with you when entering the U.S. You are required to show your payment receipt to the Customs and Border Protection (CBP) upon entry to the U.S.

**F-1 STATUS AND ENTRY STAMP**

Canadian citizens are not required to apply for an F-1 Visa. Instead, Canadian citizens will establish F-1 status by presenting their F-1 documents at the Port of Entry upon arrival to the U.S. Although, you will not have an F-1 Visa, you are still required to obtain F-1 status to study full-time in the U.S. and must follow all F-1 federal regulations while studying at UCLA. Please follow the steps below to establish your F-1 status:

1. Take your UCLA I-20, I-901 SEVIS Fee payment receipt, valid Canadian passport, and letter of admission and have all documents on hand when entering the U.S.
2. Present documents listed above to CBP at the Port of Entry. Indicate that you are entering the U.S. to study full-time at UCLA as an F-1 student.
3. CBP will stamp your Canadian passport with an entry stamp. Check and make sure your entry is stamped as ‘F-1 | D/S’.

For more information on entry to the U.S., visit [travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov)

**ENTRY TO THE U.S.: 30-DAY RESTRICTION**

You must enter the U.S. no later than the start date indicated on your UCLA I-20. The date in the Earliest Admission Date (30 days prior to your start date) in the Program of Study section on your I-20 is the earliest date you may enter the U.S. in F-1 status. Keep this in mind when planning your travel and housing arrangements.

**iSTART@UCLA**

All newly admitted UCLA F-1 students must complete iSTART@UCLA. iSTART is an orientation program designed to assist international students with their visa reporting requirements and transition to life at UCLA. iSTART includes: online learning, on-site engagement and visa check-in, and off-site excursions and exchange. There is a $59 fee for iSTART@UCLA. For more information about iSTART@UCLA, please see the back side of this page or visit the DCISS website: [www.internationalcenter.ucla.edu](http://www.internationalcenter.ucla.edu)

**MANDATORY F-1 VISA WORKSHOP**

All newly admitted UCLA F-1 transfer students are **required** to complete the mandatory F-1 Visa Workshop. This workshop will cover important information on how to maintain your F-1 status at UCLA, apply for F-1 benefits, and request for services provided at DCISS. This workshop is only offered online through the iSTART Pre-Arrival Orientation. The iSTART Pre-Arrival Orientation will be available beginning July 2, 2018. It is recommended that you complete the F-1 Visa Workshop prior to the start of classes. Access iSTART here: [www.internationalcenter.ucla.edu](http://www.internationalcenter.ucla.edu)

**MANDATORY F-1 CHECK-IN @ DCISS**

Upon arrival to UCLA, all newly admitted F-1 students must check-in with DCISS to validate their F-1 status. The mandatory check-in requirement can only be completed in person during **ONE** of the following iSTART Visa Check-In Sessions:

- September 14, 2018 | 12PM – 4PM PST
- September 21, 2018 | 12PM – 4PM PST
- September 26, 2018 | 12PM – 4PM PST

**Location:** Bradley International Hall Courtyard

Check-In Sessions above are drop-in and are **first-come, first-served**.

Please make copies of the following documents **AFTER** your arrival to the U.S. and bring the copies along with a completed F-1 Check-In Form to **ONE** of the above Visa Check-In Sessions:

- UCLA I-20 (Page 1)
- I-94 Admission Record
- Most recent U.S. entry stamp inside passport (entry stamp must indicate ‘F-1 | D/S’ notation)
- Passport Photo Page

*To access and print your I-94, please go to [i94.cbp.dhs.gov](http://i94.cbp.dhs.gov). This website is only accessible after your arrival to the U.S. If you have been given a paper I-94 Card instead of an electronic I-94, please make a copy of both the front and back sides of the card. The I-94 Card is given to travelers who enter the U.S. by land or sea only.*

For more information, please see the Check-In Instructions Form (included) or visit the DCISS website: [www.internationalcenter.ucla.edu](http://www.internationalcenter.ucla.edu)

**Please Note:** Failure to check-in with DCISS will violate your F-1 status and will affect your legal immigration status in the U.S. DCISS will make efforts to contact you during this period, but it is your responsibility to complete all mandatory components of iSTART@UCLA. If you fail to complete your check-in requirements, a **HOLD** will be placed on your UCLA student record which will affect your ability to enroll in classes and restrict your access to University student services.