Welcome and congratulations on your admission to UCLA! Please refer to the steps below for information on how to apply for your F-1 Student Visa and requirements you must complete upon arrival to UCLA.

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### REVIEW YOUR UCLA I-20

Look at your Major and Start Date (item 5) on your UCLA I-20. You have been accepted to UCLA in the field of study stated in your admission letter. 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, academic, 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 before a U.S. Embassy or Consulate can issue you a visa. The SEVIS fee can be paid online at [www.FM1fee.com](http://www.FM1fee.com). Print a copy of your payment receipt and have it with you when applying for your F-1 Visa at a U.S. Embassy/Consulate and when entering the U.S.

### APPLY FOR AN F-1 Visa

If you are outside the U.S. and do not have a valid F-1 Visa, please follow the steps below:

1. Pay the SEVIS fee at [www.FM1fee.com](http://www.FM1fee.com)
2. Schedule an appointment with a U.S. Embassy/Consulate at [www.usembassy.gov](http://www.usembassy.gov)
3. Take your UCLA I-20, letter of admission, valid passport, SEVIS fee receipt, MRV (visa application) fee receipt, passport style photos (if applicable), and financial documents to your visa interview appointment.

For more information about the visa application process, please visit [www.travel.state.gov](http://www.travel.state.gov)

**Please Note:** Canadian citizens are exempt from the visa application requirement, but must pay the SEVIS fee, present their SEVIS fee payment receipt at the port of entry to the U.S., and will still hold F-1 status in the U.S. during their degree program at UCLA.

### 30-DAY ENTRY RESTRICTION

You must enter the U.S. no later than the start date indicated on your UCLA I-20. Students entering the U.S. in F-1 status using an initial UCLA I-20 may enter the U.S. no earlier than 30 days prior to the start date on their UCLA I-20. 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 was designed to assist international students with their visa reporting requirements and transition to life at UCLA and in Los Angeles. iSTART is an orientation program that consist of the following: online learning, on-site engagement and visa check-in, and off-site excursions and exchange. 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 students are **required** to complete the mandatory F-1 Visa Workshop. This workshop is only offered online through iSTART@UCLA. 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. For complete details, please visit the DCISS website: [www.internationalcenter.ucla.edu](http://www.internationalcenter.ucla.edu)

### MANDATORY VISA 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 visa check-in requirement can only be completed in person during one of the iSTART Visa Check-In Sessions:

- **August 8**
- **August 21**
- **September 5**
- **September 11**
- **September 19**
- **September 24**
- **October 1**

All sessions are drop-in from 10AM to 2PM PST at Bradley International Hall Courtyard.

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 Visa Check-In Sessions:

- UCLA I-20 (Pages I & 3)
- I-94 Admission Record*
- F-1 Visa (Canadian citizens exempt)
- Most recent U.S. entry stamp inside passport
- Passport Photo Page

*To access and print your I-94, please go to [www.cbp.gov/i94](http://www.cbp.gov/i94). 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 you at the port of entry upon arrival to the U.S.

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.

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Visa Related Questions? E-Mail: DCISSF1Unit@saonet.ucla.edu | Website: [www.internationalcenter.ucla.edu](http://www.internationalcenter.ucla.edu)

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