The Dashew Center administered a survey to international students, scholars, and employees beginning April 3, 2020 and ending April 14, 2020 to understand 1) international student needs during the university’s move to online learning, services, and programs, and 2) the impact of COVID-19 on their UCLA experience. This data snapshot summarizes responses to the following open-ended question on the survey.

**Question of Interest:** Do you have any other comments about the impact of COVID-19 on your education, career trajectory, visa status, or well-being?

420 international constituents responded to this questions with 494 different types of responses within four major themes. The four themes include:

- Immigration Policies, Practices, and Services (189 respondents or 45% of all respondents)
- Well-being (88 respondents or 21% of all respondents)
- Career Trajectory (78 respondents or 19% of all respondents)
- Education (67 respondents or 16% of all respondents)

**Immigration Policies, Practices, and Services**

Within the immigration policies, practices, and services theme, international constituents mentioned the impact of COVID-19 on an array of areas such as visa status, delays and uncertainties with processes, and travel regulations. Representative quotes include:

- The uncertainty of the processing of OPT and timeline of the pandemic further complicate the visa status for students planning to graduate this year because not only it’s impossible to maintain the status without a job offer at the end of the OPT, but also if the OPT processing takes extra time, employers are unlikely to offer the job if the OPT can’t start within a certain time of the job offer.
- I'm worried about having to get a new F-1 visa for graduate school in the fall: the logistics of when I'll be allowed to leave the country, when I'll be allowed to come back are really stressful to figure out. Especially since I have to navigate my lease ending and finding a new place to live. I wish the federal government gave areas of leniency to people on visas, but there haven't really been any formal statements about that.
- I'm currently on F-1 visa and I need to go back to my home country over the summer to renew my student visa. However, the COVID-19 has largely impacted whether or not I can obtain my new visa by September and come back to the U.S. in fall quarter.
- I wasn't planning to come back to my country before graduation because my visa is expiring soon. But due to the COVID-19 outbreak, I came back to my country. So I need to renew my visa before the fall quarter starts (assuming it'll go back to in-person lecture) and slightly worried if my visa application goes smoothly. Also, I was planning to do an internship during summer in the US but now I need to come up with an alternative plan because I think I'll be in my home country during the summer. Things are hard....
- I think my biggest fear is that maybe fall quarter won't be virtual but there might still exist travel restrictions in which case I will not be able to fly to the US.
**Well-being**

Within the *well-being* theme, international constituents mentioned the impact of COVID-19 on an array of areas such as mental health, financial difficulties, and lack of socializing. Representative quotes include:

- I am hearing insult or getting very aggressive eyesight on the street every time I walk…. I feel very bad when I see stores of Asian [being] bullied by the local white class....
- We have lost our source of income and are, therefore, unable to pay for my tuition. I will be dropped from my classes and this will risk my VISA status.
- The time zone change is really affecting my mental and physical health. I can't perform academically at the same level.
- Nowadays, I can’t concentrate on my studies every day. I’m constantly refreshing [news about] the epidemic situation every day, and the policies are changing every day, which makes me in an unstable emotional state all the time. It is very disturbing [for] the study quality and performance.
- My biggest concern is the well-being of my family in my home country and whether I can go back to see them in case bad situation arises.
- Many students in family housing are facing eviction by the summer because we cannot afford the rent. Ucla needs to cancel rent so that students and their families don’t face homelessness. International students are particularly vulnerable as they have more limited access to work. Give grad students a COLA … cancel rent.
- I feel disturbed by the fact that I need to pay the same price for online classes that I’d normally be paying for in-person classes. I also have to continue paying my rent, even though I'm not currently at my apartment in LA and am unsure when I'll be back....
- As an international student who is living alone, it is getting hard for me to concentrate on the courses. I have to be ready to get essential living supplies from the grocery stores. However, most of the time, I couldn't even find a single pack of rice or noodles left in the stores when I finished studying for the online courses or preparation for exams. This is importantly impacting my health conditions, meanwhile, I have paid $15K for the tuition and I definitely don’t want to get a bad grade due to any influence. As a result, I am struggling with the contradiction between life and study.

**Career Trajectory**

Within the *career trajectory* theme, international constituents mentioned the impact of COVID-19 on job opportunities and market concerns. Representative quotes include:

- There’s a 90-days period for allowed unemployment at the start of OPT period for F1 students. Under this unprecedented situation, I imagine it would much harder for us to land a job offer, as such would it be possible for this 90-days duration to be extended?
- The most concerning is what the job market will look like in 1.5-2 years from now, which is when I am supposed to graduate
- My program requires a summer internship and the options I had lined up have been cancelled due to the current situation. My main concern is that I won’t have an offer on time to apply for CPT and I’d like to know if there will be any flexibility with timelines for applications or flexibility for remote internships.
- It’s just really stressful on top of everything else that I feel like I won’t be able to get a job or internship and then have to return home, if I even can, and not be able to return to the U.S. or be stuck here with no money, income, chance for a job/ paid internship. I don’t even know where to start looking under the circumstances
Data Snapshot

INTERNATIONAL CONSTITUENTS: IMPACT OF COVID

- It impacts everything. Specifically for students like me who are seniors because it was already hard to find jobs as an international student but now it seems to be getting impossible. This makes me question the worth of pursuing an international degree at UCLA....
- Almost none of the firms are willing to interview me for entry-level jobs, which makes me even more difficult to find a job after graduation.

Education
Within the education theme, international constituents mentioned the impact of COVID-19 on array of areas such as program or graduation delays, less effective learning, and issues with the time difference for those who opted to go back to their home countries for Spring quarter, 2020. Representative quotes include:

- Research is difficult without libraries and closer contact with colleagues
- Time difference and exams. I do have one exam in the evening and one at midnight...
- Please let the school ensure the recording of discussions and lectures for students in different time zones. Otherwise, the learning experience is highly affected by this situation.
- It’s hard to keep up with my study given the time zone and internet problem. Sometimes the campus VPN doesn’t work.
- It seems like due to the move to online classes, professors assign more work because we should have ‘more time’, which is difficult to handle due to being at home and wanting to spend some quality family time as well, and due to living in a different time zone and having classes at night (and thus waking up later and feeling like you’ve wasted 1/2 of your day).
- I’m mainly concerned about the disruption in my routine (i.e. no access to coffeehouse or study room) which may lead to less than optimal academic performance....
- As a short term scholar I had hoped to meet new people at UCLA (faculty members) for network purposes, and hope to learn from direct interactions with American students. These goals will not be accomplished. Also my hopes of visiting new libraries, archives and others scientific institutions (such as [the] Getty) will not be fulfilled. Basically I’m just doing a job now that I also could have done from my home country, but now feeling more insecure, and more isolated in a foreign country. I don’t see any positives about teaching at this moment at UCLA as alien exchange scholar.
- Doesn’t feel like I’m in university, learning online is awkward but it does make some things easier to grasp. Main issue is time zone difference and a few teachers at UCLA have been somewhat unaccommodating towards international students e.g. refusing to record lectures, holding office hours at the same time each week.