

International Student & Scholar Office Virtual Town Hall

Admitted Students: COVID-19 Considerations for Fall 2020

August 17th, 2020



We hope you, your
family & friends are
Healthy & Safe



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Presenters

International Student & Scholar Office

- Tarek Elshayeb, Director
- Amy Mabery, Interim Assistant Director

Graduate School

- Kathy Giddings, Director of Graduate Admissions
- Maryanne Maree-Sams, Director of Graduate Recruitment
- Ellie Ivey, Graduate Enrollment Coordinator
- Julie Goodliffe, Director of Funding and Fellowships

Housekeeping Items & Ground Rules

1. Topics to be covered include:
 - a. Students Entering the U.S.
 - b. Students Not entering the U.S.
 - i. Studying online outside the U.S.
 - ii. Not studying at all for Fall 2020 but reapplying for a future term
 - c. Study options and impact on Graduate Assistantships
 - d. Wrap up - [Admitted Student Survey](#) - Let us know your Fall 2020 Plans
2. Wait until end to submit questions via chat and we will answer as time allows.
3. Please keep your microphones **on mute**.
4. Personal or situation-specific questions should be emailed to an advisor at intlssso@uncc.edu .
5. Recording of this webinar will be posted at isso.uncc.edu soon!

Quick Updates / Reminders

- ISSO staff are working remotely during normal business hours (Monday-Friday 8am-5pm).
- Please allow 4-5 days to receive a reply for your email, no need to send multiple emails to several staff members
- Please monitor your UNC Charlotte emails and check the ISSO's website for updates.
 - [COVID-19 page](#)
 - [Fall 2020 Update & FAQ page](#)
- This Town Hall references the [SEVP COVID-19 FAQ's](#) and SEVP Broadcast messages regarding enrollment requirements and visa applications.
- New students need to complete our [Admitted Student Survey](#) (the link was sent via email) to tell us your plans for Fall 2020

Fall 2020 Enrollment Requirements Overview:

1. UNC Charlotte is offering online, in-person, and hybrid courses
2. **Continuing** students are eligible to enroll in an entirely online course load either within the U.S. or from abroad
3. **Newly Admitted Students**
 - a. Are eligible for a visa to enter the U.S. if they are enrolled in at least 1 class with an in-person component
 - b. Are eligible to stay outside the U.S. and enroll in an entirely online course load
4. If the university moves to an entirely remote status at any point, continuing students will be able to remain within the U.S.





Entering
the
U.S



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Timeline & Deadline re: Fall 2020

- July 31st - to complete the Financial Certification Form (FCF)
- August 1st - to request to update your application for a future term for no cost
- September 7th - First day of class at UNC Charlotte
- September 10th - Last day to arrive to Charlotte to start your studies at UNC Charlotte



Obtaining a visa, reviewing travel restrictions:

- If you don't have a valid visa, can't get a flight, etc., you can keep trying, but this is out of the ISSO's control
- Active Travel advisories in effect for China, Iran, Brazil
- Schengen Zone, UK, Ireland: qualify for a National Interest Exception - See [CBP July 24th information Sheet](#)
 - 15 U.S. airports authorized to receive visitors from these areas
- Health & Safety Best practices after you enter the U.S. - [CDC Travel precautions](#)

Recommended Arrival before September 10th

- Arrive as early as possible, up to 30 days before I-20 start date
 - This allows you time to adjust before classes begin
- ISSO will support your arrival up to September 10th
 - So you can attend class and modify your schedule before the end of drop/add
- If you think you will arrive soon after September 10th
 - You must obtain permission in writing from your academic department indicating if they support your arrival after September 10th
- You must pay tuition if you are enrolled in classes on Sept 15th
 - Even if you forget to drop your classes

Full-Time Enrollment Required

- If you are studying inside the U.S
- You must enroll full-time
 - 9 credits for graduate students
 - 12 credits for undergraduate students
- You must enroll in at least 1 hybrid or in-person class*
- *For Fall 2020, due to COVID-19, SEVP is allowing F-1 students to count more than 1 online class towards full-time enrollment

Last minute visa issuance **AFTER** withdrawing Fall 2020 admission

If you obtain an “expedited” F-1 visa **AFTER** you have already applied for a future term, you can request readmission for Fall 2020. See our [email template](#) and list of requirements:

1. A copy of your F-1 visa
2. Written support from your graduate program director supporting your readmission for Fall 2020
3. Proof of additional funding if your original university funding is no longer available
4. Documentation that you can arrive on-campus by Sept 10.

What if you obtain a visa, but can't arrive for Fall?

- Re-apply to UNC Charlotte for a future term
 - See slide 19 [“Reapplying for a future term”](#)
- Your Fall 2020 F-1 visa can be used for a future admit term along with an updated I-20
- The F-1 visa can be used to enter the U.S. up to the expiration date listed on the visa

Turning in your final transcript

November 1 - An official, final transcript showing proof of the bachelor's degree is required. Details will be emailed to you from the Office of Graduate Admissions.

India	China
1-Degree Statement and/or Provisional Degree Certificate 2-Statement of Marks for every examinations attempt and/or transcript Original or University-Attested Photocopy	1-Degree Certificate 2-Transcript Documents issued in Chinese must be accompanied by an English translation from a certified translation company.

Fall 2020, a “new normal” at UNC Charlotte

Health & Safety

- Physical Distancing On-Campus
- Face Coverings
- Testing, Quarantine & Isolation
- Health & Safety
 - Student Health Center
 - CAPS



Academic Updates

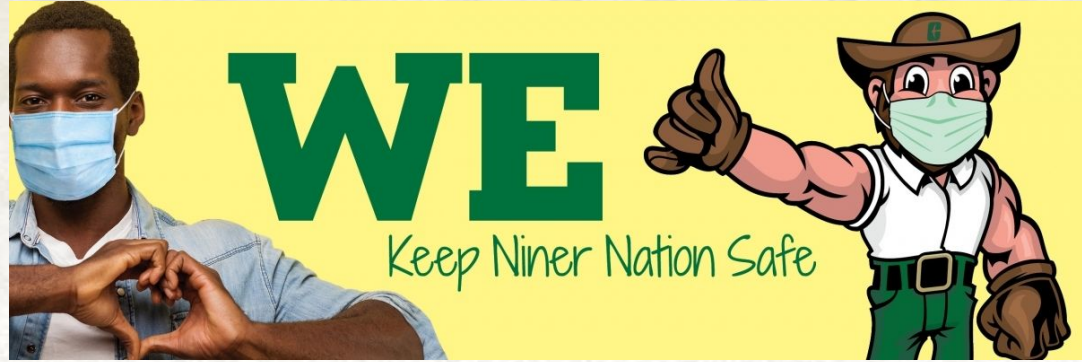
- Class Structures

Fall 2020, a “new normal” at UNC Charlotte

Activities & Events

- Programs and Activities

Students & Family Town Halls



*NOT Entering the
U.S.
For Fall 2020*



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A. Not entering the U.S. - but studying online

- Online course availability varies by academic program
- Number of credits required
 - No minimum requirement
- Status of I-20
 - We will reissue your I-20 with a Spring 2021 start date
- Tell us you will study online outside the U.S.
 - Complete our [Admitted Student Survey](#)
- Enrollment will NOT count towards the two semester requirement to be eligible for CPT and or OPT

B. Not entering the U.S. - and reapplying for a future term

- Action required
 - Reapply to UNC Charlotte
 - New app fee required if you reapply after Aug 1st
 - Drop Fall 2020 classes
 - You must pay tuition if you are enrolled on Sept 15th
- Status of I-20
 - Upload new Financial Certification Form (FCF)
 - Required if you were originally offered a graduate assistantship
 - Not required if you are 100% self/family funded
 - After admission, a new/updated I-20 will be generated

Awards & Assistantships



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How Fall 2020 travel & enrollment impacts financial awards

	IF you were awarded an assistantship	Enrollment Counts towards CPT/OPT
In the U.S. studying full-time	Your award is not impacted	YES
Outside the U.S., studying online	If you were offered GASP: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Your tuition will be paid by GASP• You must pay student fees on your own TA/RA or other assistantship <ul style="list-style-type: none">• You are ineligible while outside the U.S.• You must reapply for a future assistantship	NO
Outside the U.S. and reapplying	You must reapply. A future assistantship is not guaranteed.	No



Wrap Up



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Tell us your Fall 2020 Plans

Complete our [Admitted Student Survey](#)



Wrap-Up/Reminders

- DO practice social distancing to keep yourselves and others healthy!
- DO read your ISSO emails, ISSO website and other sources of reliable information.
- DO reach out for help if you need it - that's what we are here for!

Reliable Resources

- [U.S. Customs and Border Protection](#) - travel information
- [U.S. Department of Homeland Security](#) - general F-1 immigration resources
- [Student and Exchange Visitor \(SEVP\) Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [ISSO COVID-19 website](#) - ISSO resources and communications
- [UNC Charlotte NinerNotices](#) - for currently enrolled students
- [Center for Teaching and Learning](#) - for currently enrolled students

Questions?

Email case specific questions to intlssso@uncc.edu



Thank you!

