



INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS & GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

July 24, 2020

To our new and wonderful, Fall 2020 international students:

It was a pleasure to meet many of you this past Tuesday at our New Student “Meet and Greet” virtual event. Thank you for taking time to meet with us and to share your questions and concerns. Our International Office staff gained a clearer picture of your situations and understand how challenging this time must be for you.

As you may recall from our virtual meeting, Cal State LA is currently an “online” campus for fall 2020 due to the serious COVID-19 conditions currently impacting Los Angeles. Despite this situation, we were waiting for new guidance from the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency pertaining to Fall 2020 enrollment, especially for newly admitted students like you.

Today, we finally received the guidance from ICE and, unfortunately, it was not encouraging. According to the updated guidance, F-1 international students in new or initial status will not be able to enter the United States to enroll in a U.S. school as a nonimmigrant student for the fall term to pursue a full course of study that is 100 percent online. However, newly admitted students may enroll in 100% online courses from their home country without any issues.

You can read more about the guidance by clicking on this link: <https://www.ice.gov/doclib/sevis/pdf/bcmFall2020guidance.pdf>.

As a result of this new guidance, our International Office needs to determine who is currently in the U.S. and who is currently abroad so that we can better address your academic and immigration needs for this fall semester. We also need to know the college and major you were admitted to for this fall semester and other important details.

To gather these details, **please take a minute to complete the following survey as soon as possible, but no later than next Thursday, July 30.** We would greatly appreciate it:

https://nam01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcalstatela.co1.qualtrics.com%2Fjfe%2Fform%2FSV_0OL2PP6XNvcPvmt&data=02%7C01%7CJSolis%40cslanet.calstatela.edu%7C41279584f6834f99875c08d8302a7847%7Cce8a2002448f4f5882b1d86f73e3afdd%7C0%7C0%7C637312306251797721&sdata=kKLCKytmCTYezo31L3W3Maw8qgNK1JBax0GZyf2bvQ0%3D&reserved=0

As we receive survey responses, we will contact students who are currently outside the U.S. to discuss each student’s situation. We also recently discovered that several I-20’s were inadvertently issued to some of you during this chaotic time of pandemic, transition to online student services, and everchanging federal policy. We truly apologize for that and any problems this action may have caused you. We will contact each of you individually to discuss the next steps.

For those of you currently in the U.S., you are safe to remain here in our country. However, we strongly advise that you do not leave the U.S. to avoid any potential issues at the U.S. borders, not to mention protecting your own health and safety during this pandemic.

For all new students, you can still enroll in our online courses this fall. If you wish to discuss other enrollment options, please let us know via email at international@calstatela.edu. In your email, please include your CIN and contact information. Lastly, we are happy to connect you to the academic departments you are admitted to for this fall to answer any questions you might have as a result of this new guidance. Please make sure to indicate in the survey the college and major that you applied to for this fall 2020.

Again, we truly regret the negative impact today's ICE guidance may have caused some of you. It is not Cal State LA's desire or goal to prevent any international student from experiencing the wonderful aspects of our university. We offered our admission to you because we know how much you will contribute to our campus and how much you will benefit from your experience with us. But unfortunately, our university cannot control what happens at our U.S. borders, nor can we fully stop the spread of the COVOD-19 outbreak in our city, despite our valiant and on-going efforts. Please understand your health and safety are our priorities, along with supporting your academic goals and dreams.

We will continue to provide you with more updates as we approach the fall semester. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions. We would be happy to speak with you via Zoom, email, or phone. Thank you for your understanding.

Kind regards,



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