

Dear International Student,

I am thrilled to welcome you to USF. My name is Anastasia Vrachnos and I serve as the Associate Vice Provost of International Initiatives. I joined USF one year ago, drawn here by the University's unwavering commitment to international students and international education. That commitment has been immutable even as the world around us has been changing rapidly. International students are at the forefront of our planning and I wanted to reach out to you to share a few important measures we are putting in place to support you in the coming months.

Global Mobility Team:

We know that many of you are concerned about movement restrictions, consulate closures, travel safety, entry bans, and other logistical hurdles in traveling to the U.S. We have established a global mobility team led by Sharon Li, Director of the Center for Global Education, to provide support and information for your travel so that you can make the best decision for you and your family about how and when to travel to campus. Please contact our Global Mobility Team at travel@usfca.edu. The Global Mobility Team can also arrange airport pickups from San Francisco International Airport (SFO).

Arrival Plans:

We know that travel considerations are evolving quickly, and we want to provide you as much flexibility as possible. We are offering an early arrival option for those of you who may need to quarantine upon entering the U.S. We have set aside rooms with self-contained bathrooms for your arrival, and we will be providing meals as well. After the quarantine period, you'll be able to move into your permanent housing location for the semester. Stay tuned for additional emails from the Student Housing and Residential (SHaRE) team.

New International Student Portal (MyISSS):

The International Student and Scholar Services office (ISSS) is here to help you navigate the immigration process and make sure you can use the full benefits of the F1 or J1 student visa status while you are in the U.S. We know that many of you may be interested in pursuing an internship or work opportunity during your time in the U.S. We've launched a new portal which will make submitting important requests such as off-campus internships as easy as possible. At orientation, you'll hear more about the MyISSS Portal, where you can track your immigration status, learn about your benefits, and submit requests.

Get Started on Your USF Degree:

We know that you are keen to join us on campus and we can't wait to have you here. We also recognize that some of you may be unable to come to campus in August. In planning for the fall, we have taken the most popular courses for first-year international students and worked closely with a dedicated cohort of faculty to redesign them for high-quality, online instruction. Students who [take these courses](#) will have

opportunities for synchronous and asynchronous instruction, faculty advising and mentorship, co-curricular engagement, USF orientation, and cohort-building with other USF students, and you will be integrated into campus life as soon as you can arrive at USF. In the coming weeks, you will hear more about this option from the deans and faculty who are designing these courses. They are excited to teach you, and they are planning with you in mind.

On a personal note, I am a first-generation Greek-American who has lived in China, Indonesia, Greece, the Philippines and Singapore. I appreciate the value and experience of living and learning in a new culture and understand the challenge of being away from loved ones and everything familiar. I am grateful to be part of a campus and a city that welcomes people from all over the globe and places so much importance on the contributions that international students make to our community.

Current USF international students have [shared poignant stories of support](#) they've received, and that unshakeable support extends to you. Simply put, you have a place here and USF would not be who we are without you.

Looking forward to meeting each and every one of you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anastasia Vrachnos". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail at the end.

Anastasia Vrachnos

Associate Vice Provost, International Initiatives