



Dear Student,

We miss you! There are currently more than 300 international undergraduate students engaged in remote instruction from different parts of the world. USF is continuing to plan with your health, safety, and academic success in mind.

We know the challenges our students abroad are facing – from internet connectivity to time zone differences to visa difficulties and entry bans. Since the spring 2021 semester will be primarily remote, we are redoubling our efforts to support you.

- **Scheduling:** We are scheduling classes for the spring term to account for time zone differences to the greatest degree possible. We're looking at historical data to see which courses are popular with students in different parts of the world and adjusting those courses to more convenient times wherever possible.
- **International Shipping of Books:** We know it's important for you to have the right materials to thrive academically. We have partnered with Gleeson Library to offer free home delivery of physical books as well as electronic/digital delivery. **Learn more here »**
- **On-Campus Housing:** USF will be offering on-campus housing to students who have an essential housing need. If living on-campus is the best place for you to be academically successful and safe, you can apply for essential housing. Applications will be open on Nov. 1 through the **USFRooms Housing Portal**. Students facing visa, immigration, and travel challenges or with limited internet connectivity in their home location will be considered. Stay tuned for more information from **SHaRE**.
- **Off-Campus Housing:** Off-campus housing can be a great alternative for students looking for more space and flexibility. The rental market in San Francisco has become more affordable for student rentals over the past few months. If you are interested in off-campus housing, please visit the **USF Off-Campus Living (OCL)** website and review the information about renting in the City of San Francisco and **looking for housing as an international student**. Look for rental listings and roommates on the **USF rental site** or these **additional rental websites**. We've also prepared some **helpful tips for living off-campus during COVID-19**. For any additional questions, you can email OCL or schedule a live Zoom appointment at **usfcaoffcampus@usfca.edu**.
- **Online Courses for First-Year Students:** Online courses for first year international students will be offered again for the spring 2021 term within the time frame of 5–8 p.m. PT. You can elect to take up to 16 units. These classes will also be open to domestic students, so you'll meet classmates from around the world.
- **USF Study in Shanghai:** We have created a unique semester-long program as an alternative for our Dons living in China. If you are a USF student currently in China, you will be receiving an email in the coming days with more information about the USF in Shanghai program and an invitation to apply.
- **Entering the US for the Spring Semester:** Existing SEVP guidance allows continuing F-1 students to stay in active status as long as you are a full-time student. New F-1 students who want to enter the U.S. will need to register for at least one course with an in-person component. The spring 2021 schedule will be primarily remote and will be released in the coming week. Once the schedule is released, we will have more updates about how we can support our new students who wish to enter the U.S. in accordance with local and state health guidelines. We understand how urgent this matter is for those of you who want to arrive this spring and we will send more information as soon as we have it.

These are some of the plans underway to help support you in the upcoming term. We know that this year has posed significant challenges for our international students, so please reach out to us at **iss@usfca.edu** if there is anything else we can do to support you as you continue your education. Your academic success and student experience are our top priority.

Sincerely,

Anastasia Vrachnos

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Director, International Student and Scholar Services

Join the conversation **#USFCA**



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