

FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS

UNIVERSITY of CALIFORNIA • IRVINE

102 Aldrich Hall
Irvine, CA 92697-2825

(949) 824-8262
<https://www.ofas.uci.edu>

UPDATED: August 5, 2020

The UCI Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships, with guidance from the Department of Education, is working to address concerns from those directly or indirectly affected by COVID-19. We have prepared this FAQ to answer some of the most frequently asked questions, and will continue to update this document as new information is received.

I signed a contract for university housing but now plan to live at home. Will my financial aid award be adjusted?

If you were awarded financial aid based on a 'living on campus' budget, our office will verify your housing status with the UCI or ACC Housing Offices. If they do not have record of a 2020-21 housing contract for you, we will be revising your aid to a 'living at home' budget. This could result in a change to your financial aid award offer. If your housing plans have changed from what you reported on the 2020-21 FAFSA, please notify our office by completing a status change form.

As we will begin fall 2020 with online coursework, it's also recommended that you update your local mailing address with the [Office of the Registrar](#).

I have questions for Financial Aid and Scholarships. Can I make an appointment or call with questions?

Starting Wednesday, March 18, the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships staff will be working remotely. The office will be closed to in-person visitors and staff will not be available to answer the phone. The office remains operational and you can reach a financial aid advisor by email at finaid@uci.edu, or [register with Qless](#) to request a phone appointment with a financial aid representative.

How can I submit a required document to the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships?

On Tuesday, March 17, the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships closed to in-person visitors to support UCI's social distancing efforts. Documents required to complete your 2020-21 financial aid application may be uploaded during our office closure. Log into MyAid to find out which documents you must submit for the 2020-21 year. Please click [here](#) for instructions on how to upload your documents. Only documents that show "Needed" on the "My Aid Application Status" of the MyAid portal for the 2020-21 year should be uploaded. As a reminder, documents cannot be submitted as email attachments.

If some or all instruction for all or part of Academic Year 2020-21 is delivered remotely, will there be a reduction to tuition or mandatory fees?

Some or all instruction for all or part of Academic Year 20-21 may be delivered remotely. Tuition and mandatory fees have been set regardless of the method of instruction and will not be refunded in the event instruction occurs remotely for any part of the Academic Year.

I am anticipating a financial aid refund for the fall quarter. How will I receive my money?

We highly recommend that all students sign up to have disbursements deposited directly to their checking or savings account. You can do this by logging into your [ZotAccount](#) and selecting "Electronic Refunds" from the navigation bar. You will be asked to enter your banking information (routing and bank numbers) so that your funds can be deposited directly. If you are unable to sign up for an electronic refund, you may pick up a

printed check from the Accounting and Fiscal Services Office located at 120 Theory, Suite 200 in the UCI Research Park. See the official announcement from UCI Accounting and Fiscal Services [here](#).

Will I be required to work if I am a student worker with a work-study award?

Due to special permission from the Department of Education, student workers who are currently employed and the hiring campus department is currently using the Federal or Presidents work-study award in UCPATH, the student worker may continue to be paid for their normally scheduled shifts whether or not they report to work. Work-study (Federal or Presidents) student employees can report their scheduled hours in the Time Reporting System (TRS) even if they cannot report to work if the absence is related to the Coronavirus outbreak and the remote learning measures put in place by the campus. Submitted TRS hours will then need to be approved in TRS by the student workers' supervisor. Contact your supervisor for specific information regarding your position and scheduled shifts.

What if I have extra expenses caused by COVID-19?

Our counselors can evaluate your circumstances and may increase your budget to cover illness-related expenses with remaining loan eligibility. To initiate an appeal, send an email to finaid@uci.edu with the subject "Appeal."

I need to purchase a computer, software or related technology to comply with university requirements. Can I get more financial aid to help with my purchase?

Students who live on campus or in an off-campus apartment can appeal for a budget increase of up to \$2,000 to assist with the purchase of a computer or related technology. This may allow eligible students to borrow federal student loans or Dream loans. You will be required to provide receipts to our office before the additional loan amounts can be refunded to you in Fall 2020. Visit this [site](#) to submit an appeal. If you were awarded financial aid based on living at home, your budget already includes a technology cost and cannot be increased.

What if my family's income has been affected by COVID-19?

Our counselors can reassess your family's ability to help with your educational expenses if you or your family's income this year will be significantly less than the 2018 tax year income reported on your 2020/21 FAFSA. If your Expected Family Contribution (EFC) is already 0, you should not appeal because you have already been awarded the maximum amount of financial aid possible. Additional information about the appeal process will be available on our website in June. If you will be a new student in fall 2020, you will need to make the decision to submit your SIR by May 1 based on your current financial aid award as an appeal does not guarantee that a change to your financial aid award will occur. To initiate an appeal, send an email to finaid@uci.edu with the subject "Special Circumstance Appeal 2020/21."

What happens if I need to drop a class?

The Department of Education has not relaxed compliance requirements related to unit enrollment. Financial aid eligibility is verified based on the units you are enrolled in at the end of the 6th week of each quarter. You must be enrolled at least half time (6 units for undergraduate and graduate students) to remain eligible for financial aid. Most undergraduate grant programs require full time enrollment and your eligibility will be reduced if you are enrolled in less than 12 units at census. **Fall quarter census date will be November 13, 2020.**

What happens if I withdraw?

If you withdraw (officially or unofficially), the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships is required to perform a calculation to determine if financial aid you received for the term must be returned based on the number of days of the quarter you attended. The later in the quarter that you withdraw, the more of your financial aid will be considered “earned.” A financial aid representative will contact you to determine if your withdrawal is related to the COVID-19 pandemic as it may qualify you for a federal relief waiver. You can find additional information on our website under [Student Withdrawal Policy](#).

I am studying abroad. What happens if my program gets suspended?

UCEAP, UCI International Programs and the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships are in constant communication regarding program suspensions. If your program is cancelled pre-departure, EAP financial aid will be cancelled but you will be offered other financial aid to enroll at UCI. If your program is suspended while you are abroad, we are required to revise your financial aid offer in accordance with Department of Education and/or State regulations. We will supplement your financial aid package with university resources when possible so that you do not incur charges for an Education Abroad Program that has been suspended. The UCEAP system-wide office will also continue to communicate directly with impacted students. If you have EAP related questions, please reach out to UCEAP - <http://eap.ucop.edu/contactus/pages/default.aspx>.

Will the government waive the interest on my federal student loans?

Several bills have been introduced regarding federal student loan interest relief. Questions about your federal student loan interest rate should be directed to your loan servicer. To find out who your loan servicer is, call the Federal Student Aid Information Center (FSAIC) at 1-800-433-3243.

Contact Us

For additional information, please contact our office:

Website: <https://www.ofas.uci.edu/>

Email: finaid@uci.edu

Phone appointments: [Qless](#)

Sincerely,



Rebecca Sanchez, Director

UCI Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships