

FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS

UNIVERSITY of CALIFORNIA • IRVINE

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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.

What if I currently live on-campus, but will live at home for spring quarter?

You were sent notice this week that your financial aid budget would be adjusted from on-campus to commuter if you moved out of the dorms or cancelled your housing contract. Due to a multitude of changes happening at college campuses across the U.S., the Department of Education has informed us that we do not need to adjust your financial aid budget as a result of your housing contract cancellation. As a result, we will NOT be adjusting your financial aid budget or awards; this includes all federal, state and university grants and scholarships, including UCI Grant. You DO NOT need to contact our office to inform us of your housing cancellation.

It is important that students who plan to return home for the spring quarter also update their 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 to support UCI's social distancing efforts. 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.

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

Starting Tuesday, March 17, the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships will be closed to in-person visitors to support UCI's social distancing efforts. Required documents must be faxed to 949-824-4876. As a reminder, documents cannot be submitted as email attachments.

Due to the Governor Newsom's announcement on March 19, staff will no longer be on campus to update the status of documents or checks that are submitted to our office by fax or received in the mail. We appreciate your patience as we adjust our processes.

I am anticipating a financial aid refund for the spring 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...(continued)

(continued) 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."

What if my parents' income has been affected by illness?

Our counselors can reassess your family's ability to help with your educational expenses if their employment is affected by illness and their income this year will be significantly less than the income reported on your FAFSA (2017 income was reported on the FAFSA for 19/20, 2018 income was reported on the FAFSA for 20/21). To initiate an appeal, send an email to finaid@uci.edu with the subject "Appeal."

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. **Spring Quarter census date will be May 8, 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." 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>.

When can I apply for summer 2020 financial aid?

We are working closely with UCI Summer Session to develop a plan to administer summer financial aid. You will receive an email notification once the Summer Estimator becomes available. We will continue to update this FAQ as new information becomes available and we appreciate your patience as we navigate these uncertain times.

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

Sincerely,



Rebecca Sanchez, Director

UCI Office of Financial Aid & Scholarships