

University of Houston Clear Lake

Office of International Admissions and Programs



The Office of International Admissions and Programs' (OIAP) monthly newsletters contain important immigration updates and reminders on maintaining your lawful immigration status in the United States. We are located in the Bayou Building, Room 2123. Our fall semester office hours are Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. – 6 p.m., and Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. We can be contacted at 281-283-2740 or oiap@uhcl.edu.



Important Dates and Deadlines

- **Health Insurance Waiver Period:** August 1, 2017 – September 13, 2017 at 5 p.m.
- **New International Student Orientation:** August 21 and 22, 2017
- **Concurrent Enrollment Request Step 1 Deadline:** August 21, 2017
- **Payment Deadline:** August 25, 2017 by 5 p.m.
- **First Day of Class:** August 28, 2017
- **Apply to Graduate in fall:** August 28 – September 27, 2017
- **Concurrent Enrollment Request Step 2 Deadline:** September 1, 2017
- **Reduced Course Load Deadline:** September 1, 2017
- **Late Registration Ends:** September 5, 2017

- **UHCL and OIAP Closed for Labor Day:** September 4, 2017
- **Fee Payment for Late Registration:** September 6, 2017 by 6 p.m.
- **Make-Up Orientation:** September 8, 2017

Table of Contents

1. [University and Office Closures](#)
2. [Meet your International Adviser](#)
3. [Extended Express Advising](#)
4. [Fall 2017 Course Enrollment](#)
5. [Health Insurance](#)
6. [Address Updates](#)
7. [Optional Practical Training \(OPT\)](#)
8. [Curricular Practical Training \(CPT\)](#)
9. [Hurricane Evacuation Information](#)
10. [Holidays](#)



University and Office Closures

The Office of International Admissions and Programs will be closed on Monday, Aug. 21 and Tuesday, Aug. 22, 2017 for New International Student Orien-

tation. We will be open from 2-4 p.m. for document pick-up only. We will re-open on Wednesday, Aug. 23, 2017.

University of Houston-Clear Lake and the Office of International Admissions and Programs will be closed in observance of Labor Day on Monday, Sept. 4, 2017. We will reopen on Tuesday, Sept. 5, 2017.

[Back to top](#)



Meet Your International Adviser

International Student Advisers look forward to assisting you. If you would like to meet with your adviser, please stop by the OIAP office during Express Advising, 2-5 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Call 281-283-2740 to set up an appointment in advance, or contact them directly via e-mail. Advisers strive to answer their emails within 1-2 business days. This is the most effective way to obtain accurate information regarding your F-1 status.

Your adviser is assigned by the first letter of your last name:

- A-M: Your adviser is [Stephanie Holleran](#)
- N-Z: Your adviser is [Ann Umbreit](#)

[Back to top](#)

Extended Express Advising

At the beginning of fall 2017, we will expand our Express Advising walk-in times to meet the needs of all of our students. You can visit with an International Student Adviser between 2 p.m. – 5 p.m. on the following dates:

- Wednesday, August 23 – Friday, August 25, 2017
- Monday, August 28 – Friday, September 1, 2017

There will not be regularly scheduled Express Advising on Tuesday, August 22

due to New International Student Orientation.

[Back to top](#)



Fall 2017 Course Enrollment

All F-1 and J-1 students must enroll full-time during the fall 2017 semester (undergraduate students – 12 semester credit hours and graduate students – nine (9) semester credit hours). Only three (3) credits of online coursework (as described in the next section) can count toward the full-time requirement. Falling below the required credit hours is a violation of F-1/J-1 immigration status.

Online Courses

For immigration purposes, UHCL defines an online course as any course with an instructional mode:

- 100% online
- 100% online with face-to-face supplement
- Greater than 50% online (> 50%)
- Equal to 50% online

Courses with an instructional mode greater than 50% face-to-face (> 50%) are considered face-to-face courses.

Graduating Fall 2017? Submit Your Request for Reduced Course Load!

If fall 2017 is your final semester, and you do not need to enroll full-time to graduate, you must submit the online request for a Reduced Course Load form with a recently audited CPS by your academic advising department (within 30 days), and your most recent I-94 by September 1, 2017. You can submit your request through the [ISD Portal](#). Remember that you must enroll in at least one face-to-face course during your graduating semester. Please make sure your enrollment matches what is stated on your CPS. Incomplete

requests will be denied, and you will be required to submit a new request with all documentation.

Concurrent Enrollment Fall 2017

F-1/J-1 students who are interested in concurrent enrollment for fall 2017 can make their requests for permission [here](#). Step 1 requests should be submitted by August 21, 2017. Concurrent Enrollment Request Step 2 (proof of registration and payment) is due by September 1, 2017.

[Back to top](#)

Health Insurance

Please check your UHCL email for information about new health insurance procedures that will take effect in fall 2017.

More Information

[Back to top](#)

Address Updates

F-1 students are legally required to update their address within 10 days of moving. To report your address change to the U.S. Government, please edit your SEVIS address in E-Services. This address should reflect where you are currently living – the address should not be that of a friend or family member. Your SEVIS address can be different from your mailing address, if you choose to receive mail elsewhere. Additionally, if your address in your home country has changed, please edit your International address in E-Services.

Here is an example of how your SEVIS address should look in E-Services:

Line 1: Apartment number (no apartment complex names!)

Line 2: Street address

City: City Name

State: State

Zip Code: zip code

Incorrect Address Example

Apt 123456 Ivy at Clear Creek
300 Cyberonics Blvd, Clear Lake
Houston, TX 77058

Correct Address Example

Apt 123456
300 Cyberonics Blvd
Houston, TX 77058

[Back to top](#)

Optional Practical Training (OPT)

Save the date for the following OPT Info Sessions!*

- Thursday, September 14, 2017 – 3 p.m.
- Tuesday, September 26, 2017 – 11 a.m.
- Wednesday, October 11, 2017 – 2 p.m.
- Tuesday, October 17, 2017 – 3 p.m. at Texas Medical Center
- Thursday, November 2, 2017 – 2 p.m.
- Wednesday, November 15, 2017 – 11 a.m.
- Monday, December 4, 2017 – 10 a.m.

*Dates and times are subject to change based on room availability

Locations will be confirmed after fall classes begin. Sign-ups will be available in the ISD Portal Events tab within two weeks of August 28, 2017. Remember, it is mandatory to attend an OPT Info Session within three semesters of applying for OPT.

If you are graduating in December 2017, and previously attended an OPT session, you can submit your OPT Application in the [ISD Portal](#) as early as September 13, 2017 for processing!

[Back to top](#)

Curricular Practical Training (CPT)

An internship or Co-Op is a great way to gain experience in your field of study, while you are still a student at UHCL! The approval process between your academic department, Career Services and your International Student Adviser can be lengthy, so you should start planning immediately if you are interested. Information about CPT can be found [here](#).

Save the date for the following CPT Info Sessions!*

- Wednesday, September 20, 2017 – 3 p.m.
- Tuesday, October 17, 2017 – 2 p.m. at Texas Medical Center
- Monday, November 6, 2017 – 1 p.m.

*Dates and times are subject to change based on room availability

[Back to top](#)

Hurricane Evacuation Information

Where will you go during a hurricane?

Hurricane season is upon us! In the event of a mandatory hurricane evacuation, UHCL students may travel with the university to a safe location.

UHCL Student Evacuation Bus Registration

Seating is limited! Tell a friend and make reservations.

[Register Now](#)

[Learn more about Hurricane Evacuation on campus.](#)

[Back to top](#)



OIAP Events

- New International Student Orientation: August 21 and 22, 2017
- Make-Up Orientation: September 8, 2017

Events Around Houston

Check out www.365thingsinhouston.com or www.houstononthecheap.com for things to do around town! Houston is a multicultural and sprawling city, rich in events and attractions. There is always something going on in the Bayou City!

Holidays

Ganesh Chaturthi (Hindu), August 25

This ten-day festival remembers Ganesha's birthday and celebrates him as the god of good beginnings, prosperity and obstacle remover.

Labor Day (U.S.), September 4

Labor Day pays tribute to the contributions and achievements of American workers. It was created by the labor movement in the late 19th century and became a federal holiday in 1894. Labor Day also symbolizes the end of summer for many Americans, and is celebrated with parties, parades and athletic events. History.com Staff. (2010). Labor Day. [Retrieved July 19, 2017, from history.com.](#)

Patriot Day (U.S.), September 11

[Patriot Day is an annual observance](#) to remember those who were injured or died during the terrorist attacks in the United States on September 11, 2001.

Independence Day (India) – August 15

August 15 commemorates India's independence from the British Empires in 1947. Independence Day in India is celebrated with kite flying from rooftops, great pride in the flag, bright lights and decorations, and more!

Mexican Independence Day (Mexico), September 16

September 16, 1810 is the day Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla, a priest, issued a proclamation urging his fellow Mexicans to take up arms against the Spanish government. This declaration launched a decade-long struggle that ended 300 years of colonial rule. History.com Staff. (2010). Struggle for Mexican Independence. [Retrieved July 19, 2017, from history.com.](#)

Islamic New Year, September 21

Also known as the Hijri or Arabic New Year, marks the beginning of a new Islamic calendar year.

International Day of Peace (UN), September 21

[Established in 1981 by the United Nations, Peace Day](#) provides a globally shared date for all humanity to commit to Peace above all differences and to contribute to building a Culture of Peace.

[Back to top](#)

