



May 28, 2020

Dear Admitted LL.M. Students,

I hope that this message finds you and your families healthy and well. I want to congratulate you, again, on your admission to UCI Law. We are so excited to welcome you to the law school!

You are a part of a profession that is more important than ever, as people face rapidly growing legal needs related to the COVID-19 pandemic and the rebuilding of our global economy. We hope this inspires you to continue to thrive as law professionals and students. And, given UCI Law's internationally recognized commitment to excellence and access to justice, we know you will thrive *especially* as UCI Law students.

Today I write with what I hope will be welcome updates regarding the fall semester; an announcement of a new spring-start option for pursuing your LL.M. at UCI Law; and, an assortment of other matters. Details are outlined below.

We will review our plans on an ongoing basis, considering Centers for Disease Control, university, and local government guidelines, and most importantly, your safety and the safety of your loved ones. We will keep you updated of any changes, but for the time being, you should make your plans based on the information in this letter.

### **1. Information Regarding the Fall 2020 Semester:**

- **Fall classes remain on schedule.** All current and new UCI Law students will be able to enroll in the fall courses they need to complete their legal education on time.
- **LL.M. Orientation and all fall LL.M.-only classes will be offered on an online basis.** This includes the program's one required course, Introduction to American Law, as well as elective courses Contract Law and Constitutional Law and Reading, Analysis and Writing in American Law (RAWAL). LL.M. orientation will take place August 10 -13.
- It is likely that the upper-level fall curriculum will be online (remember, a key attribute of UCI Law is that our LL.M.s have the opportunity to enroll in upper-level J.D. classes). Our faculty is still considering both hybrid and online models for fall instruction in upper-level courses. We are aware that some of you may not be able to enter the United States by August or may not feel ready or able to take classes in-person in August. We understand. **Any UCI Law student who wants to take their fall classes fully online will be able to do so.**
- All fall LL.M. classes will be recorded and available for your review at any time. We understand that some of you may have trouble with online attendance given time-differences. We will relax attendance requirements as much as possible under our law school's guidelines.
- On June 26 we will begin outlining fall enrollment procedures and the course schedule to all students who have responded positively to our offer of admittance.

**UCI Law's strong commitment to teaching distinguishes it from other top law schools—and this commitment extends to all online aspects of the fall semester.** We assure you that your learning experience in the fall semester will be meaningful, rigorous and interactive. Our faculty will be training and working all summer to improve and refine their already excellent courses for an online environment, in line with research-based best practices. We are dedicated to making sure that online activities at UCI Law meet the same standards of excellence that motivate us when we are in person.

For a successful online experience, you should have equipment meeting the following [minimal requirements](#). If you have any kind of difficulty meeting these requirements, please reach out to us, and we will help you to find a solution.

## 2. Spring Start Option:

We are pleased to announce a spring enrollment option available to all applicants that were accepted to start the program in fall 2020. Thus, you have two options: 1) You can begin your studies in August 2020 (fall semester); or, 2) You may defer your start to January 2021 (spring semester).

We recognize the decision to leave your home country is deeply personal and we want to provide you time to become comfortable with all aspects of your decision before embarking on your LL.M. journey. Also, some applicants are experiencing uncertainty due to U.S. embassies and consulates being closed and/or backlogged; and, due to various global travel restrictions. We hope that providing a spring option will assist those of you that may need additional time to prepare for your year in Orange County. Details for spring enrollment are below:

- Those electing to start in the spring 2021 semester will have the option to complete their degree in two semesters (spring and fall) or three semesters (spring, summer and fall).
  - Note that the three-semester option still requires full-time enrollment (12 credits or more) in the spring and fall semesters. A maximum of 3 credits may be taken during the summer semester.
- **Monday, June 22 is the deadline to inform us if you choose to change your enrollment start date from August 2020 to January 2021.**
- New applications to start the program in January 2021 will be accepted until November 30 (if you require a student visa) and December 31 (if you do not require a student visa). There is no application fee to apply to UCI Law.
- We will consider requests to defer to August 2021 on an individual basis.

## 3. Return to on-campus activity:

Given the public health situation, it is highly unlikely that law schools—including UCI Law—will be “back to normal” in the fall. However, **we also want our students to have the option of attending in-person activities if they are comfortable doing so.**

For this reason, the LL.M. Program is planning for a variety of in-person educational and social experiences in accordance with prevailing public health guidance. We anticipate a gradual, phase-in of on campus activities, with each phase being introduced as the public health situation allows. Early phases may include small-group in-class instructions and networking events. Next phases may include opportunities for certain medium-size in-person class sessions. Future phases may include on-campus conferences and other academic events.

We hope to return to full on campus activity for the spring term. However, nobody can predict exactly what the status of the global pandemic and public health directives will be in the weeks and months ahead. Therefore, UCI Law continues to engage in extensive contingency planning so we can be prepared for whatever scenario may face us.

**We will not require you to attend on-campus activity during the fall semester.** Even if we make the decision to resume on-campus activity, we understand that some of you may feel unsafe to attend events, or instruction, in person. You may be high-risk yourselves or worry about high-risk people who are dear to you. For that reason, at least for the duration of the fall term, we will not require you to attend any event in person. All classes will still be recorded, even if moved to in-class mode.

In closing, note that our planning is guided by two main principles:

- **First and foremost is the health and safety of the UCI Law community.** This includes you, our students, as well as our staff, faculty, and the members of our community whom we serve through our pro bono work and clinics.
- **Another fundamental principle is the quality of your legal education and your law school experience.** We are committed to that principle regardless of the scenario that presents itself.

Everything we are doing is aimed at meeting these principles. We are available to assist you in any way we can. If you have any question or concern, please do not hesitate to reach out. We look forward to giving you additional updates, and we cannot wait to see you in the fall!

Warm Regards,

*Your UCI Law Global LL.M. Team*