



Dear Graduate & Professional Students,

On July 6th, the United States Immigration & Customs Enforcement released new rules requiring that any international colleagues on an F1 or M1 visa whose institution is fully online for the fall quarter must leave the country or transfer to another institution and enroll in in-person courses.

Half of the graduate and professional students at UCSD are international students. Half of us are directly affected by this gratuitous, cruel rule. This excuse for federal policy is an attack on us, our community, our ability to perform research, and our responsibility to instruct our undergraduate colleagues. The emotional toll of this rule notwithstanding, we are concerned that this may force the university to reopen fully or in part before it is safe, which may lead to a surge in preventable COVID infections.

We, the GSA Executive Board, vehemently oppose this decision and stand in solidarity with our international peers in the face of blatant racism and xenophobia. We are actively working with our campus and system-wide partners to create well thought out solutions to the rule changes and provide accurate information to students in a timely manner. Specifically:

1. GSA VP of Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion (EDI), Burgundy Fletcher, is hosting a Town Hall on **Monday, July 13th from 10:30 am - 12 pm** for students to share their thoughts and ideas with us.
 - Please see [this form](#) for Zoom information and submit your comments, questions, and concerns. For more information, please contact vpequity@gsa.ucsd.edu.
2. The GSA President, Quynh Nguyen, is part of the Fall International Education Collaboration, a campus-wide group created by UCSD Executive Vice Chancellor Simmons to address the in-person course options for undergraduate and graduate students. The group will propose plans in the next two weeks for approval by the Chancellor.
 - If you have questions about this process, please contact president@gsa.ucsd.edu.
3. GSA VP Academic Affairs, Victor Wang, is the graduate representative to the Academic Senate Educational Policy Committee and Graduate Council, where policies surrounding courses and registration are made. In addition, he will be appointing a graduate representative to the Academic Senate International Education Committee. Any interested graduate or professional student is encouraged to apply for the position.
 - For additional updates on courses and registration, please contact vpacademic@gsa.ucsd.edu for more information.



4. GSA VP Campus Affairs, Laura Chipman, has reached out to CAPS to request an increase in remote counseling services to international students, asking that they prioritize this population in their services. Additionally, she will be working with VP EDI to plan a CAPS processing session for students.
 - If you are having trouble accessing mental health services, please contact vpcampus@gsa.ucsd.edu for assistance.
5. GSA VP External Affairs, Julia Adrian, is engaged with our elected officials, including US House Representatives Peters, Levin, and Davis, to ask for their support in revoking these new regulations. She is also working with the UC Federal Government Relations team as they move forward in their lawsuit against this rule.
 - If you want to be involved with our advocacy efforts, please contact vpexternal@gsa.ucsd.edu.
6. The International Students & Programs Office is holding two webinars next week specifically for graduate & professional students. We encourage you to attend.
 - Current international students: July 14 at 4:30 PM PCT ([Registration](#))
 - Newly admitted international students: July 17 at 4:30PM PCT ([Registration](#))

This is a terrifying and frustrating time for all of us, especially our international and undocumented members of the UCSD community. At the moment, we do not know how the rules will impact our TA-ships and other graduate student funding mechanisms. The University administration and all graduate & professional departments must be transparent while forming a response to these rules and share new information with the student body in a timely manner. As the GSA learns more about these issues, we will update you via email, [our website](#), [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), and [Instagram](#).

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions or concerns.

In solidarity,
GSA Executive Committee

Quynh Nguyen, President
Victor Wang, VP of Academic Affairs
Laura Chipman, VP of Campus Affairs
Andy Ryan, VP of Financial Affairs
Mia Rosenfeld, VP of Social Affairs
Julia Adrian, VP of External Affairs
Burgundy Fletcher, VP of Equity, Diversity, & Inclusion
Jack Olmstead, Chief of Staff