

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the connection between UCLA Extension and UCLA?

UCLA Extension is the continuing education division of UCLA. Our courses and instructors are approved by the UCLA Academic Senate as well as the appropriate UCLA academic departments. Our instructors are highly regarded industry professionals. Many are also drawn from the faculty at UCLA. We take pride in linking the community with the educational and research resources of one of the world's greatest universities.

What is the difference between a degree and a certificate?

Certificate programs are structured for adult learners who in most cases already have degrees, and who need to deepen or expand their knowledge in a particular area. Intended for working professionals, these programs offer practical, hands-on training for real-world application.

What are the benefits of earning a certificate?

In many instances, certificate programs offer specialized training and education that is not available at either the graduate or undergraduate level in a format and within a time frame attractive to adults.

People earn certificates to make a career change, seek a promotion, explore new fields, document formal application-based education, and stay current with new technologies. These programs may fulfill licensure or certification requirements of professional associations, industry groups, state agencies, or specific corporations. Certificate programs also may prepare students for advanced degree programs and some institutions accept certificate program courses.

Who will my classmates be?

Participants in UCLA Extension courses include American students and working professionals as well as international students and professionals from many different parts of the world. You will take the same classes as all other enrollees at UCLA Extension. You will not be in separate classes designated for international participants.

If courses are held in the evening, what will I do during the daytime?

Since most courses require hours of preparation, you will be expected to use daytime hours to complete assignments and work on course projects. You also can use daytime and weekend hours for recreation and enjoying the many benefits of life in southern California.

Can I apply for two certificate programs on my application and can I change programs after I begin a program?

Yes. You can take two programs at the same time and enroll in courses from both programs. If your educational goals change, you can change programs after approval from your academic advisor and your international student advisor.

Can I take a full-time program on a B1/B2 tourist visa?

No. To take UCLA Extension courses full-time (12 units or more each quarter), you must have a valid F-1 student visa.

How do I get an F-1 visa (also known as a student visa)?

Contact the U.S. Embassy or Consulate in your home country for the visa application procedure. Applying for a visa does not guarantee that you will receive a visa.

If I transfer to UCLA Extension from another school or program in the U.S. with an expired F-1 visa, do I need to renew it before beginning at Extension?

No. You may legally remain in the U.S. with an expired F-1 visa as long as you are in full-time student status. You only need to renew an expired visa when you leave the United States for any length of time and then want to return.

Can I work as an F-1 student?

Yes. If employment is available, you may work on the UCLA campus for 20 hours a week during the regular school year and 40 hours a week during a vacation quarter as long as you stay in good standing. To work outside of these physical and time limits puts you immediately "out of status."

How can I locate internships and opportunities for OPT?

To have the best opportunities for internships and OPT, you need to demonstrate that you are a dedicated and hardworking certificate program participant and internship/OPT candidate. By establishing an excellent record with your instructors and your advisor, you improve your chances of getting references and recommendations for internships and OPT. Additionally, some of the people in your classes will be working professionals. If you impress them as a good student and serious worker, they may be willing to provide references, recommendations, and referrals for you.

For internships: if your program offers internships and you meet the eligibility criteria, the certificate program department will give you lists of organizations that accept interns. It will be your responsibility to make the contacts. You also may seek an internship from an organization that is not listed, pending approval.

For OPT opportunities: you will need to network with fellow participants in your program, with instructors, and with your program advisor. Please note that internships and applications for OPT are coordinated through UCLA Extension before they can take place.

Can I use health insurance from my own country?

Your policy must meet UCLA minimum requirements. Most home country policies do not meet the requirements which are posted at uclaextension.edu/iso. If you are coming with a spouse or dependent children, they must also have health insurance for the entire time of your F-1 student status. UCLA Extension provides a policy for you and your family.

What else should I include in my budget in addition to tuition, books, materials, and living expenses?

You should include the costs for transportation and computer hardware and/or software. If you plan to buy a car, include the cost of gas and insurance. Insurance can cost more than \$2,000 per year.

For more information email the International Student Office at iso@uclaextension.edu.