

July 8, 2020

Dear USC Viterbi International Students:

By now, you have seen the recent news regarding international students in the U.S. who are F-1 and M-1 visa holders. I am sure that you have questions on how this will affect you, whether you are a returning Viterbi student or planning to start at USC Viterbi this Fall.

Let me first state that I relate very closely to all of you, as several years ago, I was myself an international student. I share many of your frustrations at the disruption that COVID-19 has brought to your education, your growth and development, and your plans, and the concerns it has caused you and your families. I understand them fully. As well, I understand your aspirations, your tenacity, and your dreams. My colleagues at USC Viterbi and I will work as hard as we can to help you reach your goals. We consider it our moral responsibility to you.

In an earlier statement today, issued by USC's leadership and signed by all the deans, the university affirmed in the strongest terms its steadfast commitment to, and its unwavering support of, the education of our international students. With this in mind, we will continue pursuing all possible avenues and options to ensure that your education and degree progress will be affected as minimally as possible by the unprecedented pandemic and the ensuing actions.

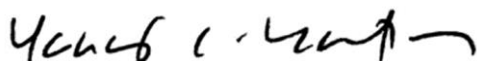
On more specific action, the Fall Schedule of Classes, published earlier today, shows that about 40% of the Viterbi classes this Fall will be offered in *a hybrid fashion or in-person*. This provides a large degree of latitude to our students who must take a class in-person, for a number of reasons, including being compliant with visa requirements. We are also considering the design of new courses to help further expand such options.

As we navigate these uncertain times together, please do not forget that your future as engineering graduates is brighter than ever before. Indeed, an important lesson we learned during this unprecedented crisis is the vital role that science and technology play. Science and technology is vital not only on how to combat this pandemic, but also on how to help us all work, innovate and create a better world as we exit the COVID-19 crisis. The world will impatiently need you, your skills and your mindsets the soonest possible, particularly because they come with the Viterbi approach of Engineering +. I know that this anticipation is mutual: you can't wait either. We are here with the same eagerness to help you reach your educational goals and graduate as proud Viterbi engineers and scholars.

In the next few days, we will send details on specific programs that will help make your Fall experience as an international student stimulating, inspiring, full of connection and engagement and as exciting as it can be. Please look for such updates in the very near future.

We look forward to seeing you in the Fall.

Thank you, and Fight On!



Yannis C. Yortsos
Dean, USC Viterbi School of Engineering