



USC University of Southern California

July 8, 2020

Dear Members of the Trojan Community,

USC's vibrant international community is vital to our University and has been since our founding in 1880. We are deeply troubled by the updated guidance that US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) released Monday requiring international students to take at least one in-person class to maintain their visa status. Issued without warning or broad consultation, the policy could negatively impact countless international students, and restrict research and competitiveness not only here but at research universities across the nation. We are very proud of our international students and their families across the world, many of whom have sacrificed so much to enable them to come to America. This policy is especially concerning as it comes in the midst of a global health pandemic when universities need the autonomy and flexibility to adopt nuanced, multi-faceted models of instruction and research while preserving the health, safety and well-being of all our students, faculty, and staff.

To our international student community – please know that we are strongly advocating against this policy and are working closely and collaboratively with higher education colleagues across the nation. USC's deans and senior leadership are working tirelessly with the faculty to support your academic progress. **Given the broad range of courses being offered, both in person and online, we are optimistic we will be able to support our international students to study in person safely if they wish, but it may take a few days.** We understand that you have many time-sensitive decisions. We will write soon with more details and options, and appreciate your patience.

Please send any questions and concerns to covid19@usc.edu. Individual schools also will be offering additional support. Rest assured that we will do everything possible to ensure you can continue your path to graduation from anywhere around the world. Fight On.

Sincerely,

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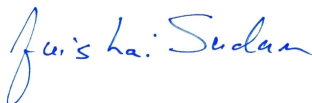
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Interim Dean, School of
Dramatic Arts



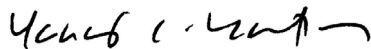
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Communication and Journalism



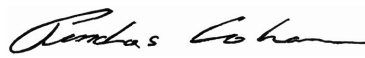
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