

**UTA College of Engineering  
Graduate Student Listening Session Transcript  
5 August 2020**

Good morning! I'm Peter Crouch, Dean of Engineering at the University of Texas at Arlington and it's my pleasure to welcome you wherever you are. I know that we're reaching out across the world, so I'm really happy to see all of you.

The purpose of this session is to try to answer as many questions as we can. I just wanted to give a brief introduction to UTA so first slide, please. Next slide, that's me. So here are some fun facts about Dallas/Fort Worth. This is where The University of Texas at Arlington is situated.

A note that we are the 4<sup>th</sup>-largest metropolitan district in the U.S. which means that we are a really great place to be. Lots of amenities, lots of jobs, lots of shopping but maybe most interesting of all is that we have a huge diversity of places for you to eat up all sorts of ethnicities' cuisines. We also happen at the moment, we in Arlington are in the focus of big professional sports in the US. So any if you want a taste of American sports, then right here in Arlington next to the university. Next slide.

We're a big university. we have around about 58,000 students both on campus and online, and I think some of you might be joining us online. But we do have at least around about 42,000 students who are normally on campus. Of course, COVID-19 makes that slightly different. We're a research university and have around about 200,000 alumni.

For you international students out there, we are really close to DFW, the bit international airport in Dallas, which makes it really convenient to access the university from wherever you are coming from. Next slide.

This is a little bit about the college that you can read we're the 4th largest college of engineering in Texas. We have around about 200 faculty about 170 tenure-track faculty. We have many full-time teaching faculty. We have many partners, industry partners, and do a lot of hosting of career fairs, and in fact now many of these are online. Next slide.

So while we will try to answer your questions this morning, we encourage you to search out the many links on the web we have with many facts about the university, but also about helping you as students get the information you need to start your semester here.

So there are six links here. The first link is mostly to do with the coronavirus and how to manage around that. We have a travel guide and office of international education for those of you who are signing in International.

We have an FAQ page where we've answered questions from students in the past in events like this, and of course, the almost, the most important one is advisor information. So many of you might have specific questions

about courses or in your specific different disciplines, and I encourage you to go and access these links where you will be able to get to advisors. And then, if all else fails, there's a general email so that if you need to ask a question, you can't find the answer, this email provides you a way of getting to somebody, and we will then direct that email to the right person. I encourage you again to go and consult those links. They should be in the chat section for you to see that.

With that, I think we're going to start answering questions and where we can help you and those specific questions so gonna go to the chat section.

I'm going to start reading questions:

Please advise if the students application applying for deferral to spring '21 will be subject to re-evaluation. And the answer to that is no. If in fact you've already been admitted. That will be fine.

So Jay, is there any specifics on that I've missed?

**Jay Horn (Office of International Education):** No Sir, that is correct, and our admissions area will be producing a new I-20 for those students with a spring 21 start date so they should be looking for it in their email.

**Crouch:** Terrific, terrific.

I am an international student, can I take online courses first and then shift to on-campus courses for the same topic after arriving?

So I'm assuming that means that you are going to arrive mid-semester, so that sounds like a really good question. So is that an international question Jay, or is it...?

**Horn:** I think so. Let me introduce myself. My name is Jay Horn and I'm executive director of the office of International education. And so in order to enroll in the online courses from overseas, if that's what we're talking about. If you're talking about someone who's outside the United States, in order to access those nine section courses, which are what is the limitation for those that are overseas, You have to sign an agreement that says you will not be entering during the fall 2020 semester. This could be very complicated and have some consequences for you if you try to enter in the middle of this semester and especially because all of your courses will be online, and then if you are in the United States you have to have a complimentary on-campus course and we have no understanding if that's even possible physically because of the requirement for physical distancing or social distancing so the answer to that is no, you should plan to stay in your country for the fall '20 semester, if that's your plan, and then plan to enter the United States for the spring '21 semester. You could enter up to 30 days in advance of the start of the spring semester.

**Crouch:** Whoever asked that question, that's a really good question, and certainly one that we want to underline that if you are an international

student and you do begin taking courses online, please don't try to get here mid-semester. The best thing is to wait until the spring.

**Horn:** Sorry if I could just add one more thing because you are accepting that online agreement we will be creating a new I-20 for you with the spring '21 start date. If you were to enter with the previous I-20, that would be a violation and could subject you to some difficulties if you were to enter more than 30 days in advance of your spring '21 I-20 that also you would probably be turned away at the border. So please just follow those regulations and everything should be fine.

**Crouch:** So that was a really important question.

I'm on hold list. It shows academic department and international visual classes. How can we finish what we do on this list?

I'm not even sure what that is. Lynn Peterson, do you know what that is?

**Horn:** I do this is Jay. I can answer that question. So for our students who are studying overseas, on campus you are required to register for orientation and complete the pre-orientation modules that will be sent to you once you register for orientation. Obviously a student overseas you want to make sure you have accepted the activity guide in MyMav that is our overseas online enrollment agreement, but what takes off the international holds and health center holds are completing those pre-orientation modules and once that happens those will come off automatically and then you'll be ready to go. There may still be an academic hold because you do need to be advised by your academic department before you enroll, but other than that, the other holds should be removed.

**Crouch:** I am an international graduate student planning to start fall session online. How many credits can I take online in fall semester?

I think that probably has both academic and international components. Is there any limit for that from your point of view Jay before I go to Lynn?

**Horn:** We don't have a limitation from an immigration perspective as long as you're enrolled full time. Now. If you're a new student, it's hard to tell from the question if you're a new student, if you are, there is not a requirement for full-time enrollment, but we would encourage you to do that so that you continue your academic progress if you're receiving any kind of scholarship or GTA or GRA full-time enrollment is required for those, so there's some considerations there. Not clearly stated in the question, but hopefully that helps.

So I mean another another point of that is that what you really should do is talk to an academic advisor to try to make sure that you are on the same page as the advisor who will have some opinions about that. Lynn Peterson, is there anything more we should add to that?

**Lynn Peterson (Sr. Assoc. Dean for Academic Affairs):** No, possibly that three courses, 9 hours, is considered full time, but occasionally people take more than but normally it would be three courses for full time. And

especially if this is your first semester, I mean, I would encourage you not to overburden yourself. Try to get used to taking courses online as a first step and then maybe go on from there.

**Crouch:** So next question...for hybrid courses which have online instruction and tests to be taken in person, how will the test taking process take place? Is it the usual way of all students coming at once to take a test like previous semesters or is there a different plan? So Lynn...

**Peterson:** I would say that probably each instructor is going to have an individual way of dealing with that. We are compiling right now some input from the instructors as to whether they need classrooms to have a physical presence, on-campus tests or online tests, and it is all over the map. So I think an individual student should consult the syllabus. that is already available but working through the advisor, which was their original recommendation I think is really the best one to get information about an individual class as opposed to thinking that UTA as a whole is going to handle it in the same way.

**Crouch:** Just to underline that, I mean in particular the university is offering four different modalities of hybrid classes. To try to cater for different disciplines and areas within disciplines and so there's quite a lot of freedom for instructors to try to choose the best way of testing for their particular course. So I think as soon as you can get information about the syllabus where that information should be displayed, I think that the best advice is to get with an advisor for the particular department in which you're enrolled.

Again, a very good question. So next.

I'm a new international student. I am planning to take fall 2020 online. What happens if I fail to get a visa for the U.S. in spring '21? Can I do spring '21 online as well?

So... first, from the international POV Jay, can they continue doing it online?

**Horn:** Obviously we're hopeful that you'll be able to receive a visa. We have heard from our partners at consulates and embassies that those are beginning to open up gradually and as long as you have all of your documents in place then we are hopeful that you would get a visa. At this time we have not created a spring '21 online option. It doesn't mean that it will not occur. Obviously everything around the COVID-19 pandemic requires us to be flexible and to be able to pivot at a moment's notice. This was our first semester to provide online courses overseas, so that's something now that we have become familiar with and we know how to make that happen if that's necessary so I wouldn't go out and say we're going to be able to do that for sure, but we have the skills and knowledge to make that happen again. Our hope is that you will make every effort to apply and come to UT Arlington as soon as possible. We don't to my knowledge, Dr. Crouch You may want to speak on this, we don't have fully online degrees at this point, so in order to complete your degree, you would need to come to the campus to graduate. Is that correct?

**Crouch:** I believe so technically, but of course who knows? Lynn, have you heard? I mean, I presume we haven't heard differently yet.

**Peterson:** No I don't think we've heard differently.

**Crouch:** Yeah, so I mean, that's a good sort of issue. If indeed you have to take courses online in the spring at the moment I'm believing that you should still continue to believe that you'll at least spend one semester at the university here physically. So I would hope that you continue to think about doing that. Of course, by next spring, next summer, we are all hoping that of course, the COVID-19 virus will be much more under control and so that international visas will be much more, something that everybody can contemplate. But for now, I think that that's the best answer we can give.

Next. I gave Duolingo English test instead of IELTS. Does that interfere with chances of getting a student visa? Jay, I think there might be a question for Sebastian or Lin.

**Sebastian Fuentes (UTA Admissions Officer)**

Hi, my name is Sebastian Fuentes. This time with the Office of Admissions we started accepting Duolingo for this fall semester and we actually are accepting it for fall, spring, summer and fall of next year. And now we will accept the Duolingo score and process your application accordingly so that should not have an impact on your status.

**Crouch:** Terrific. So that was good news, good question. Next, Sir, in the mail, the grad recruiting team informed me that I have to submit the update readmission form and that will be re-evaluated. After that I have to pay the re-admission fee of \$60. Can you please help in clarifying this?

So this is admitted for an M.S. in computer science in the fall. I'm not quite sure the circumstances in which this person was asked to update readmit. Can we hypothesize something Jay?

**Horn:** Dean Crouch, I think that is another Sebastian question. He actually has made an answer, there on the list. But Sebastian,

**Fuentes:** Yes, so right now what we're providing students because we know the situation around COVID-19 is ever evolving in your ability to commit for this fall may not be possible but that you have an interest in staying with The University of Texas at Arlington for future semesters. Therefore, we are providing students an opportunity to update their fall 2020 application from fall to spring with no application fee and no re-admission, so your admission decision will still stand. I've provided in the chats here the link for the graduate update form and the link for the undergraduate update form so that you may update your application.

**Crouch:** So Sebastian? He was presumably asked to resubmit before this decision was made?

**Fuentes:** Yes, it appears from the way that I'm understanding the question is depending on when he sent the email in to our team that the decision

had not been made about update, providing the free update from fall to spring, and so at this time students can update from fall to spring with no fee and no re-evaluation. If you have any concerns about having already submitted an update, our admissions processing office, knowing that this decision was forthcoming, is processing application updates from fall to spring and will be waiving the fee for those update reactivation applications. Right now what we're asking students because we are closing out the fall semester is that if you've already submitted an update reactivation form from fall to spring, please do not submit another update reactivation form. We will process your document in a timely manner as we go through finalizing the fall semester.

**Crouch:** So that was a very good question. Will a degree given to the initial fall '20 students, be different from that of a regular student? I'm not quite sure the context of that, but I'm pretty sure the answer to that is no, that our degree is simply our degree.

So Lynn, any nuances there?

**Peterson:** Not that I know of.

**Crouch:** What we're doing in general is we're offering exactly our same courses with the same degree whether they're online, hybrid or face-to-face, so you shouldn't worry about any differences in the degree you would obtain. I don't quite know the circumstances of this person asking this question, but we're we're not creating different degrees of any sort.

So the next question... is the \$60 payment for deferral still in place or is it free?

Sebastian's already answered that saying clearly from the previous question that now we are waiving that fee and those links should be the same links as we had last question.

Next question, I am deferring my admit to spring 2021. Do I need to attend the international orientation in August or can I attend it before the start of spring semester? Is that a Sebastian question, I think

**Fuentes:** That's a Jay question.

**Horn:** No, if you're not planning to enroll online for fall '20 then you wouldn't need to attend the orientation in August. There will be another orientation available to you for those spring '21 students. So even though you're deferring your admission now if you choose to enroll online, which we encourage you to do, then you would want to go in, accept the activity guide in MyMav, and then you would register for orientation and complete the modules so that you can attend online for the fall.

**Crouch:** Do we know, I mean presumably that orientation will be in early January?

**Horn:** There is, yeah, there are opportunities, I think, actually in December and early January preview. It depends on if we're doing things on line or if we're doing them on campus so that the dates have not been firmly placed at this point. But it will be December or January, yes, sir. We usually try to make those coincide with the 30 days that they're allowed to enter the United States, because those are on-campus. If not, there may be some other options.

**Crouch:** This is complicated. I am a new international student planning to attend for '20 online. When can I expect the new I-20 with spring '21 start date to arrive? Will the service ID be the same on the already issued I-20? For the one that's going to be issued for spring '21?

**Horn:** We are in the process of reissuing the I-20s. Our plan is to wait until after Census Day because we realize students change their mind. So census date is, I forget the exact date but middle of September, I think it's September 11th actually, and so we will be issuing I-20s fairly quickly. After that you would receive one in your email that still allowed and it will be the same CVS ID number. This is just a difference of your already issued I-20, so those will remain the same.

**Crouch:** So then let's see, they will receive it sort of late September/October I think. So yeah, good question.

As an international student I have completed the pre-orientation module and my next step is to choose an advisor. How do I do that? Lynn?

**Peterson:** It may be a little bit program-dependent. In many of the coursework-only options there is not a need to choose an advisor, but in others, the Master of Science programs in many of the departments, there is, but it's certainly not a requirement for the first semester, so we would absolutely want somebody to be here to get to know people before having to choose an advisor.

**Crouch:** So the nuance here is that you can certainly get advising in your academic department and one of the links I showed you right at the beginning contains links to advisors in particular departments and whatever you do, you should consult with one of those advisors. We have different types of degrees and for some degrees there will not be a particular advisor. There will be a department advisor who you can ask questions of. If you're on a different type of degree where you are actually assigned an advisor that will happen, but typically it happens during this first semester or maybe early in your second semester. So the advice here is to just contact the link to the particular department advisor that we showed you and they will let any further information on advisor choices etc.

Next question, what is the minimum credit requirement for a new international student taking fall 2020 online?

So I assume it's the minimum is taking something like 3 credits. Is that right Jay?

**Horn:** I think so. I think I'd like to clarify further because if you are in the United States and you are a continuing -- but you said you're new -- so if you're in the United States and you're taking courses while you're here, then you would need to be maintaining your F1 immigration status. In that case, you would have to meet the full-time enrollment requirements. None of the changes that have recently occurred have changed. So that is 9 credit hours for graduates and 12 credit hours for undergraduates. If you're a new student overseas and you've never been to the United States for the purpose of gaining F1 status, then you would not have a specific requirement because you're not in your F1 status yet. So you take as many courses that will help you progress academically but your status is not an issue at that point. Once you arrive in the U.S., that would come into play.

**Crouch:** I guess I'd interpreted the question as the student was still overseas. So basically two different answers. If you're still overseas and you're starting to take online courses, then the minimum is basically one course to be registered, but if you are here then you are in fact a regular student and you need to take as many courses as you would if you were here taking face-to-face courses.

So next question: will updating an application from fall '20 to fall '21 also be free with no re-evaluation just like fall '20 to spring?

**Fuentes:** At this time the update the fee waiver is only from fall '20 to spring '21 so this question was asking to postpone basically from fall '20 all the way to fall '21, and so at the moment there is no waiver on the fee.

**Crouch:** What about the tuition process? Is that in question? Sounds like a Lynn question.

**Peterson:** Hopefully it will be a Jay question.

**Horn:** Could you repeat the question?

**Crouch:** Yeah, so this person is asking a good question. They're thinking about postponing fall '20 to fall '21 which we actually hope they wouldn't do. They've understood that if they postponed from fall '20 to spring '21, then the fee is waived and the re-evaluation won't have to take place. We've already told the student that we have not yet waived the fee if they simply postponed for a complete academic year. I guess the question is if in fact they do postpone for an academic year. Will we have to re-evaluate the whole file again? I guess that's the question.

**Horn:** So Sebastian has answered as far as the fee waiver. So the fee waiver is in place for Spring 21, but there's been no decision about fee waivers for anything after fall 20. Sebastian, I don't know the answer about the re-evaluation.

**Fuentes:** If you're updating your application for a future semester, then the re-evaluation, if it's a graduate application, it will be handled by the department so your academic advisor or your department will receive the update request for spring or even summer 2021 and it's up to the



academic department at that time if they wish to re-evaluate your materials or keep your admission decision as it stands.

**Crouch:** So the answer is it could be re-evaluated or not, but my feeling as dean is it probably won't be re-evaluated, but at the moment the answer is it still could be re-evaluated and we are of course hoping that students won't simply postpone all the way to fall '21.

I'm a new international graduate student. Once we complete the university orientation will there be a department-specific orientation as well?

And the answer to that is probably. Lynn, do you have any comments?

**Peterson:** I think each of the graduate departments does that kind of orientation. I don't know about undergraduate.

**Crouch:** That's a good nuance. This question was from an international graduate student. So the answer is almost surely there will be a department-oriented specific orientation and the department will let you admitted students know about that. Since they didn't ask about undergraduate students, I don't particularly know the answer to that. I know that for all students we are holding a welcome session, something like the 18th of August I think, and then my assumption would have been that is available for all students. Or am I wrong there? I think it's focused on undergraduates but I don't think there's any reason that others would not be welcome, but my colleague here is saying that the invitation is probably only going to go out to the undergraduate students.

**Moderator:** Dean Crouch? The event is for new freshman and new transfer students to UTA but we certainly could, if you have an interest, we could post a link to on our social media or broadcast it out for others to join us.

**Crouch:** I'm thinking real time that may not be a bad idea. I can't imagine it's gonna hurt given that we're all distance now, so that was a good question. Thank you very much.

We're thinking in real time here so in summary, for the graduate students the specific department will hold an orientation as they've always held and for undergraduate students you will be getting an invitation and maybe we'll open that up to graduate students as well.

Next: Sir, I will be taking fall '20 semester online. How will this affect the H1B process?

This was already answered through the chat. There is no impact on the H1B process for taking courses online. I think the H1B process is much further down the line in terms of that. I think the answer is that we're not going to hold that against you just because you took a course online. There might be an underlying question about time outside the United States or time in, and that will not have any impact either, so the normal gateway to the H1B is F1 status completed. Agree, then you do your OPT and work with an employer that then applies for your H1B at that time

so yeah, this is way down the line and these decisions and this action right now would not impact that in any way.

So this is the next question: Hi. I enrolled for the fall semester online from outside the U.S. Is there a last date to book the courses on MyMav and pay the tuition fee? Sebastian.

**Fuentes:** Sure, you are able to register for courses up until census day and I will post the link in the chat here regarding when you may make payment in MyMav. We do offer a number of different payment options. Where you can pay your tuition bill in full or you can do installment payments. I will provide that link in the chat that gives you more information about paying your tuition.

**Crouch:** So is there and I don't know the answer to that question, is there a last day?

**Fuentes:** It would be Census Day. I believe that would be the last day that they could apply, but we would encourage them to apply. Sorry, not apply, to enroll in classes by the first day of classes which would be August 24th.

**Horn:** And if I could just add to that even though there is a last day in these times when we're creating special courses and sections for people that are overseas, you want to make sure you understand your options and waiting until the last minute is absolutely not the way to make that happen, so I would encourage you to make a decision as soon as possible and enroll so that you can get the courses that you really want to be in as opposed to having to take what's available at the time.

**Crouch:** And as dean of the college, I can certainly add my comments to this which it I think in a more general sense, that the issue is enrolling later than sooner you have to realize that our instructors and faculty are reacting to the numbers of students who enroll for each course, so as Jay was mentioning, the later folks enroll the harder it is for us to react relative to the courses that we are offering and maybe not necessarily a particular course. But sections of course, if in fact that need be. So I think the moral of this is, yeah, there are last days like census date, but it would really be helpful to us, especially this semester when we're dealing with both hybrid and even face-to-face courses, it would be really helpful if students chose their courses as soon as they can.

Next. Do I have to upload the financial document if I deferred to spring '20? What about the loan sanction letter?

I don't really understand, but Sebastian has offered a response:

When we review fiscal financial documents it will depend on how old your financials are. Your documents should not be older than six months when UTA reviews them. If the documents are over a year old, you will need to resubmit new fiscal documents.

Do you want to add to the complexity of that?

**Fuentes:** I'll go ahead and just say, as of right now as long as your documents are relatively current and you've already submitted all your financial documents, we can continue to process your file to completion for when, if you choose to update, with the information we have on hand, but if you submit a document that is older than six months or for sure older than a year from the time that we would review, say in October or in September, or whenever, then we may ask that you furnish us with a more recent documents from that financial institution or whatever documentation you provided. Jay, was there anything you wish to add on this?

**Horn:** I don't think so. I think that's all correct. What you want to remember is when you present an I-20 at the consulate or embassy it should match what you've turned in to our institution so you want those to be as current as possible. So yeah, I think if you've turned in something that's very recent and will still be valid at the six-month point, then you wouldn't have to resubmit, but if not then you might want to consider that, and it's not a difficult process to resubmit those financial documents and the loan sanction.

**Crouch:** What's that?

**Horn:** Just guessing at that. It would be good if we could get a clarification. I believe that probably has to do with a loan letter coming from a bank from your home country. And in that case, if the loan letter specifically mentions a start date, then you may want to issue a new loan letter to us with a start date for spring if you're deferring 'til spring.

**Crouch:** My sense is that, bottom line, six months is OK but if it's more than six months, you really should try to renew those documents. Nevertheless, an important an important question to worry about. Thanks for that.

A very good morning to the panel. I'm an international student, had been admitted to fall '20 for M.S. in computer science. Will the courses offered in fall '20 also be available in spring '21? Due to Covid and poor infrastructure I will not be able to enroll for online courses. Some courses I wish to enroll in are in the fall. I'm hoping to know what courses would be available when I arrive in spring '21.

So clearly that's a Lynn issue to some extent, and I also have input on that.

**Peterson:** In relatively large programs, and I believe this was computer science, in general, those courses are offered each semester so I think in general you can count on that. It probably would be wise to consult with an advisor to just be absolutely sure that the specific courses you're looking for would again be offered in the spring.

**Crouch:** And the issue there of course is that if you're a new international student, then the first set of courses that you take are probably pretty generic and therefore would be available in the spring.

The only issue, of course, is that we don't know exactly what the modality of those courses will be quite yet, in the spring, and you actually say that I will not be able to enroll for online courses. So I'm assuming that you are going to come in the spring physically from your question. My sense is that probably the courses that you are looking at that are now available in the fall will be available at least as hybrid in the spring, in which case you may be able to take some part of them face-to-face. But it's a really complex question because we really don't yet know how modality of courses will be offered in the spring, so it's very difficult to give a sort of a complete answer. Your best bet, as Lynn mentioned, is to get to a computer science advisor and tell them the types of courses that you're interested in and ask their opinion about how those courses will be available in the spring. But quite frankly, it's just going to be an opinion because I think, as we already said this morning, exactly what's going to happen in the spring is not yet known. Although we do know that we're going to offer as many courses as we typically offer. We just don't know which modality.

So that's a complex question and I'm not sure I did total justice to it.

So next question is, I'm a new international student planning to attend fall '20 online. What will be my various tuition fees and payment options?

I think Sebastian already gave a partial answer to that. The best thing is to go to the link that Sebastian has provided in the chat. Should we at this point just briefly outline the different modes or is that too complex, Sebastian?

**Fuentes:** Sure, so when you go online I provided the link. We do provide students the option that they may pay their bill in full or if they wish to do it in installments, and a student can make an installment payment over the course of the semester there's three installment payments that you would make one in September, October and November, and then that would close out your tuition payment for the fall semester. In the information it gives right in the link, it gives you information about how to make your payment options and how, if you wish to participate in the installment tuition plan, how much money you should put down for your first installment in order to be eligible.

**Crouch:** Thank you Sebastian. So next, if I have to apply for an M.S. in Computer Science and you have applicants for spring 21, will the students who have deferred impact the number of admissions in spring '21.

Question basically here is, if I actually defer will that impact the number of admissions in spring '21?

In a broad sense, I think the answer is no, it won't affect that. However, if indeed the application is made later I'm not totally clear that the decision process later in the year is different or not. So Lynn, is there anything I missed there?

**Peterson:** No, I think that's right.

**Crouch:** I think the basic answer is you shouldn't worry if you want to defer and we would like it if you actually didn't defer. But if you want to defer, I don't think it's going to make any difference to being admitted or not.

So next, how do I remove academic holds and is completing the pre-orientation modules enough for attending orientation?

Jay offered a response. Students are required to attend the online orientation, but you will be able to enroll in classes after completing the pre-orientation modules. You want to add something Jay?

**Horn:** I was just gonna add that yeah, my answer is not quite complete. Completing the pre-orientation modules does remove the international holds and health center holds but it would not remove your academic holds. So if there is an academic hold then you would need to meet with an academic advisor prior to enrolling. But I guess the online orientation is required of all international students and it's really important to jumpstart your time at the institution by meeting with other students that are going to be here listening to experts about how to be successful on campus and online and we hope that you'll make that a priority.

**Crouch:** The pre-orientation modules will enable you to complete and enroll in classes but it really has nothing to do with academic holds and so again make sure that you go to advising in your academic department to resolve any academic holds.

Next is, I am taking fall '20 online. In the worst case scenario if spring '21 goes online will I be allowed to take a leave from the degree and continue in fall '21?

**Sebastian:** If this is a graduate student and they've begun their processes and they are taking their classes completed this semester, but need to sit out a future semester, then it would be talking to their academic advisor about taking a leave of absence so that they do not necessarily have to go through the update reactivation process, that they just need to work with their advisor on the leave of absence and then they can resume classes the following semester. When the student is ready to join us again.

**Crouch:** I mean that there is so few details offered in this question that it's a total guess. One underlying thing is that if you start a program and you think that you are going to discontinue taking classes then you absolutely need to meet with your advisor and make sure that you put in place the right information so that you don't use your files cold and that we know exactly what situation you're in, because picking up the pieces a semester or nine months later, if you don't tell us exactly what you're doing and we don't make arrangements for you is typically very bad. So the answer is you should be allowed to, but make sure that you work with your advisor to put in place whatever you need to do.

What you don't say here is whether or not you're coming back physically or online, etc., etc., and all those different scenarios will of course

depend on exactly what's happening and in terms of visas and the state of the virus, etc. So that's to some extent a very open-ended question, but I think I've at least told the basic thing that you need to do, so next...

If I defer to spring '21 do I have to upload the financial document again? I have submitted it once to get the fall '20 I-20 and again this question about the loan sanction letter.

So to some extent we already answered some of that. Sebastian has offered a response. When we review financial documents, it will depend on how old your financials are, your documents should be no older than six months when UTA reviews them. If your documents are over a year old, you will need to submit a new financial document so I think we've probably fully answered that once again.

The question about the loan sanction letter. Can you repeat that Jay? What do you think that is?

**Horn:** I think the loan sanction letter is a bank letter for loans that have been obtained in their home country. A number of our students do take loans out in order to attend university in the United States. And it depends on the bank letter itself so you'll want to look on there and if there is a start date that is provided that the loan starts, you would want to make sure that gets updated with your bank because if it mentions fall there may be some issues with it or not. I'm not really sure that's the other part of this, because if you're taking courses online then it probably wouldn't change. But if you are not taking courses online or deferring your admission to spring, then I would guess that the bank letter would require an update.

Sebastian, do you see that any differently?

**Fuentes:** I would concur.

**Crouch:** OK. Thank you folks.

Next question, good morning. If we defer the admit to spring '21 and as there is no re-evaluation and no fees in how many days should we get an update on our admits?

So I Sebastian, I think it's just a question about just simply timing of our response. I guess?

**Fuentes:** Yes. Right now we're still in peak processing for fall 2020, but typically we try to strive for being current and application processing within 5 to 7 business days. But again that time frame does change as we enter or go through peak processing times throughout the year. What we encourage you to do if you are updating your application from fall 2020 to spring 2021 to continue just to monitor your UTA student email account and your MyMav student account. As we process your documents, we will update your student account in MyMav and you will receive any notifications that are set up to go out as we process your application. So in the meantime, if you've already done the needful of submitting an

update reactivation application, just continue to monitor your MyMav status.

**Crouch:** Thank you Sebastian. So the next question: I have accepted the online agreement, presumably for this fall, is it still possible to defer my admission?

I guess. I mean, I assume it is but complicated.

**Fuentes:** It is possible, I guess the quick answer is yes, but what we want to make sure is that this is a firm decision on your part. Changing the online agreement is a pretty manual process, and so if you would make sure in your communication to admissions that you indicate that you are removing your online agreement and deferring to spring '21 so that we can get those processes started. It involves a lot of data points within our student database system, so we want to make sure that is all correct and that you don't have any issues. But yes, it is possible.

**Crouch:** So again, I mean, if you really need to do this, you can, but please make sure that you get to an advisor as soon as possible if you're going to do this.

We are nearing the end of our time here. I haven't got any more questions we will accept questions for a few more minutes, so if you have more questions please send them to us soon. As I say, will sit here for a few more minutes. Katie, can you put up the links again?

**Horn:** And Dean Crouch, can I put in a shameless plug?

**Crouch:** Yeah, of course.

**Horn:** For those of you students who are going to be enrolling online from overseas, there are a number of programs that are going to be available virtually both from the Office of International Education and Global Engagement but also from the university in general. So there are going to be ways that you can connect to the university and meet people that are here. The Office of International Education is planning a meet-and-greet for continuing students who are on campus and our overseas students to get you connected in advance and to come hear from them directly about what life is here UTA, in Arlington, so we encourage you to take advantage of those opportunities. Most of those will be listed on our website, but also if you go to the university's events calendar, there's a complete list of virtual events that you can connect with and I'm hoping that you will take advantage of those.

**Crouch:** Anybody else would like to make a pitch to hopefully students who will come here in the fall or maybe the spring?

**Hageman:** I put the links back in the window.

**Crouch:** As I say, we've done our best to answer your questions and I hope that those who are listening got good information out of those. Many of your questions will be actually answered in these links and we really hope that you will use these. Especially many of the answers involved

issues to do with international issues. We have a page for our international education office and many of the answers involved advising. and so we have many links to the disciplinary advisors and if all else fails, there's a catch all email. Send us your question and we will try to make sure that we get you an answer to this. I know it's getting close to the beginning of semester and I know that means that many of you will have a quick question that you need to ask so getting to an advisor or if you're desperate, our catchall email, I think those are important resources for you to get to.

I assume that this whole event will be recorded and made available in a few days so that if you or your friends have anything you would like to revisit, it will be made available to you.

I'm just going to check again if we have any more questions before we leave.

So another question: I'm a current senior year student. Due to the COVID situation in my country our last semester exams haven't yet been conducted and we still aren't graduated. If, due to unforeseen circumstances, I do not graduate until Spring '21 can I further defer my admit from spring '20 to fall '20 to fall '21?

**Crouch:** So yes, you may use the update forms. This is Sebastian in chat answering. Yes, you may use the update forms below based on your degree plan. So basically those links are provided in admissions to update your here in admissions, so I think that's fine.

Planning for fall '20 online, how do I access recorded lectures using Microsoft Teams?

**Peterson:** I believe that Teams produces something that does not have to be accessed through Teams so if that student would please send that as a question that we can respond to, we'll do some research and get him an answer.

**Crouch:** In general, the university's either using different modes to conduct our lectures for our courses, and so different modes will have different tools that they use and certainly Canvas is another one. But if you have a particular question then you could certainly send us an email through this general email and we will get an answer to your particular situation. Please make sure you sort of describe exactly which situation you're in.

So another question, could you give us an indication from which date will the I-20 be made? i.e., for a period of two or two and one-half years?

**Fuentes:** For Master's level students the I-20s typically are for two years depending upon the program, but then there is also the option to extend that if there's an academic reason to extend. So if you still have courses required of the degree you could apply for an extension of the I-20 once you've started that when you get to the end of your I-20 and we do that in the office of international education. There is no charge for that.



**Crouch:** So it's good to know that in general we can extend those. I think that's probably the last question. I have an input back on the teams recording of lectures, and as I suggested, these are probably available. These recordings are probably available to you through the Canvas class information that I referred to. And in some cases we have yet another mechanism depending on what modality that your course is through, which I think is getting a bit technical.

OK, thank you all for attending and for all our moderators and all our presenters for helping our students connect to us to make the right decisions. Hopefully I will see -- metaphorically -- many of you here in the fall. If in doubt, go to one of those links and I'm sure we'll be able to help you so.

**Moderator:** There's just one last question that just came in.

Just wanted to know how asynchronous lectures would work, and that will be your last question.

**Crouch:** An asynchronous lecture is going to be recorded, of course, and then available to you to view on your own time. What you need then is the information from the instructor as what to do with that asynchronous lecture, when it should be viewed, when there will be some assessment based on the content of that lecture. So it really is the lecture together with the syllabus for the class or the instructions from the instructor that is going to answer your question. And that's going to be really individualized, but generally these asynchronous lectures are going to be available to you as long as you have an Internet connection and Canvas our student management system is going to be the mechanism to be able to get at it, but I think what you want to know now is the way in which your instructor is going to conduct the class and how that class is to access or will require accessing those asynchronous lectures? So unfortunately it's back to finding out information about the specific class that you're talking about.

Just as a final comment, I mean, in general, the asynchronous lectures just make the lectures available to you. What's really important, of course, is all your work around the lectures: homework assignments, assessment, etc. So in general, that should make getting the material easier for you and I hope that if you make sure that you listen carefully to what your instructor says on the first day or two of classes, that it all will be made clear to you.

So with that I'm going to wrap it up. Thank you all. Once again very best.