

From: Graduate Council Chair Andrea Kasko and Graduate Division Dean Susan L. Ettner
Sent: Friday, August 27, 2021 3:41 PM
Subject: Graduate Student Policy Updates



Graduate Council

Graduate Division

To: Deans, Directors, Department Chairs, Vice Chairs and Student Affairs Officers

Dear Colleagues:

In June, the Graduate Council passed several policy changes in order to provide departments and applicants some flexibility in the following areas: Deferred Matriculation, Graduate Application Word Limits and the use of TOEFL IBT Home Edition and IELTS Indicator test scores toward minimum admission requirements. The details of these policy changes can be found below.

Deferred Matriculation

The Graduate Council has voted to enable departments and graduate programs to allow applicants who have accepted offers of admission for Fall 2021 to defer their matriculation for one quarter (Winter 2022) up to a maximum of one year (Fall 2022). For applicants who were admitted to Fall 2020: programs may offer to defer one more term, to Winter 2022, as an exception and for specific reasons. These reasons must represent “true hardship (e.g., visa delays, medical, family, or financial emergency).” Departments may choose to offer deferred matriculation to all applicants who have accepted offers of admission (SIRd), to admitted applicants who have not yet SIRd but have expressed interest in delaying matriculation, or to subsets of such applicants on a case-by-case basis, depending on the circumstances. If the latter, the department should set clear criteria that are consistent with Prop. 209 and federal regulations. For example, discrimination based on national origin is prohibited. If an admitted student defers, the department/program is expected to provide the same or a higher level of financial support as in the original offer package. The department/program will need to state this commitment when communicating with the student about a potential deferral.

Graduate Application Word Limits

The Graduate Council has voted to approve providing departments and programs the ability to select from three options for the Statement of Purpose in the Application for Graduate Admission: a 500, 1000, or 1500-word limit. These same options were not extended to the Personal Statement because it is used, in part, for university-wide fellowship considerations. Therefore, the Graduate Council decided that the universal 500-word limit should remain for the Personal Statement.

TOEFL IBT Home Edition and IELTS Indicator Test Scores for Minimum Admission Requirements

For the 2022-23 admission cycle only:

The Graduate Council voted to approve the use of the TOEFL IBT® Home Edition and IELTS Indicator test scores for use as an alternative to

the English language prerequisite towards the fulfillment of the minimum admission requirements for UCLA graduate programs in the 2022-23 application cycle only. TOEFL IBT® Home Edition and IELTS Indicator test scores may be counted toward minimum admission requirements as long as the test scores remain valid.

Please see the recent TouchPoints newsletters sent out by the Graduate Division's Diversity, Inclusion & Admissions team for more details on the implementation of these policy changes. Please forward this information to the staff and/or faculty in your department.

Best wishes,

Andrea M. Kasko

Chair, Graduate Council

Susan L. Ettner

Dean of Graduate Education

The UCLA logo is centered within a solid blue horizontal bar. The letters "UCLA" are rendered in a white, bold, sans-serif font.

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