

**From:** Dean and Vice Provost of Graduate Education Brian Kite

**Sent:** Wednesday, June 18, 2025 2:36 PM

**Subject:** New Matriculation Deferral Option for International Graduate Students (Fall 2025 Admits)

The policy allows eligible students to begin their graduate studies in winter, spring, summer or fall of 2026.



**To: Administrative Officers, Deans, Department Chairs, Directors, Faculty, Vice Chancellors and Vice Provosts**

**Key takeaways:**

- New option allows international Fall 2025 graduate admits to defer up to one year
- Departments may choose whether to offer deferrals
- Original funding packages must be maintained for deferred students

Dear Colleagues:

The Graduate Council, in collaboration with the Division of Graduate Education, has developed a new policy enabling UCLA departments and graduate programs to offer international students admitted for Fall 2025 the option to defer their matriculation by one

or more quarters, up to a maximum of one year. This allows eligible students to begin their graduate studies in Winter 2026, Spring 2026, Summer 2026, or as late as Fall 2026.

Departments may choose to offer this option to all international 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 a department chooses the latter, it should establish clear criteria for making such determinations. These criteria must be consistent with Proposition 209 and federal regulations; for example, discrimination based on national origin is prohibited.

If your department or program approves a deferral, the financial support package originally offered to the student must be maintained or increased.

Departments must clearly communicate this funding commitment when discussing a potential deferral with the student.

If your department or program intends to approve deferrals, please submit the following information to the Diversity, Inclusion, and Admissions (DIA) team via the [Graduate Portal](#) or by emailing [AskGrad@grad.ucla.edu](mailto:AskGrad@grad.ucla.edu):

- Applicant's full name
- University ID (UID)
- Slate Applicant Number
- Quarter to which admission is to be deferred (Winter, Spring, Summer, or Fall 2026)

Departments are welcome to submit consolidated student lists and follow-up requests as needed.

Thank you for your continued efforts to support UCLA's international graduate students and to ensure equitable and compliant admissions practices.

Sincerely,

**Brian Kite**  
Dean and Vice Provost of Graduate Education