May 8, 2020

Dear International Students,

The current Coronavirus crisis presents a range of complex challenges for International students, scholars and their families and higher education institutions. The ISSO and UNC Charlotte is aware of your worries about financial challenges, immigration status, career advancement, housing, and travel plans and continues its efforts to address the health, safety, and welfare concerns of its student population during this challenging time.

We know that you have heard about the federal stimulus payments and CARES Act emergency student grants and you are wondering why you are not eligible to receive some of this financial support. The ISSO understands your frustration, but wants to inform you that the eligibility rules on the distribution of the federal aid for COVID-19 relief were set by the U.S. Department of Education and other government agents, not the university. Please click here for more information on CARES Act eligibility and click here for IRS alien residency examples.

On a positive note, the University developed an emergency fund of privately-donated money that has been used to help international students who are in financial need. Additionally, the University continues its efforts to raise more money but, as you might imagine, UNC Charlotte has many international students and the university cannot help all those who are in need.

The ISSO wants to ensure that you understand that the university leaders have been advocating on your behalf but must also comply with federal regulations. We hope that you can understand this.

If you are experiencing a financial emergency, please apply for emergency funds here. Also, we hope that you will visit the Niner Nation Cares website which hosts a number of other services for all UNC Charlotte students. Please know both the ISSO and UNC Charlotte values our international community immensely. Our thoughts are with you all, and we look forward to welcoming you back in the slightly delayed fall semester!

And for our graduating international students, we are very proud and we know that you will have bright futures! For now, remain positive, hopeful, and strong.

Warm wishes,

Tarek Elshayeb, Director
Denise Medeiros, Associate Director