

Letter to New F-1 visa International Students:

Congratulations on your admission to the Jesuit School of Theology of Santa Clara University. We look forward to welcoming you as you begin your studies this fall.

As recently announced by Interim Dean Alison Benders, JST will offer all courses and cultivate community life virtually this fall, in order to promote the health and safety of all, and to ensure that JST courses and programming are accessible to all students, both residential and distance learners. As part of this process, JST is committed to offering asynchronous courses, in which course content, lectures, and discussions can be accessed and completed at a student's convenience, as opposed to synchronous courses that require student participation at specific times.

F-1 Visa Considerations: U.S. immigration regulations require F-1 visa students residing in the U.S. to attend a majority of classes in person rather than online. Therefore, you will not be able to enter the U.S. for the fall semester. Instead, you may start your program online, at your location outside of the U.S. Your I-20 will be issued with a spring semester start date, enabling you to apply for the F-1 visa this fall. If you have already received an I-20 with a fall start date, you will receive an updated I-20 with the spring start date. For further information from the SCU Global Engagement Office, please see the [JST International Student FAQ page](#) for FAQ's (Frequently Asked Questions).

Academic Advising: You may have already been contacted by your academic advisor. In either case, you will receive an e-mail soon from Mey Saechao (msaechao@scu.edu) informing you of the JST faculty member who will be your academic advisor.

Orientation: JST will conduct Orientation primarily through virtual delivery. The purpose of Orientation will be to guide new students in preparing for study at JST, and welcome and initiate you into the JST community. This month, I will begin sending regular communications on the Orientation process and any steps you need to complete. Starting in mid-July, new students will access Orientation modules and sessions via Moodle, the online course management platform utilized at JST and throughout the Graduate Theological Union (GTU) consortium.

Matriculation, Registration, and Billing: I will communicate later this month regarding your matriculation as a JST student, which will give you access to your student profile in the eCampus portal and your JST-SCU student e-mail account in the scu.edu domain. Later in the summer, you will receive information on the process of course registration as well as billing for tuition and fees.

Moodle: In July, you will receive instructions for accessing Moodle, the online course management platform utilized at JST and throughout the Graduate Theological Union (GTU). Once you have logged in, you will be able to begin the modules comprising virtual Orientation.

Please look for further communications from my office in the coming days and weeks. As I send these, they will also be posted on the [JST Orientation page](#). Please let me know if you have any questions as you enter into the Orientation process.

Peace and blessings as you prepare for study and formation at JST,

Paul Kircher
Assistant Dean of Students