

Information for International Student Academic Advisors and Professors

New international students have a lot of information coming to them as they prepare to come to JCU. Their lack of response to emails may indicate that they are placing higher priority on other tasks over course registration. Their lack of response may also be due to lack of access to Gmail; certain countries block this email interface. It is often useful to send the same email to all the email addresses provided for a student.

Freshmen international students are in their English classes. They are also registered for a cultural adjustment class, AR136, their first semester. Students who have spent more than five years in the US or are Canadian citizens do not need to take AR136.

New international students may still be waiting to receive credit equivalence for exams they took in their home countries.

All international students must remain enrolled full-time at JCU to maintain their student visa (12 credit hours.) This is a rule of their visa. Exceptions for this rule can be sought if there are extenuating academic or medical circumstances. International students must NOT drop below 12 credits until they have received permission from the Center for Global Education. Students must visit the Center for Global Education to discuss this as soon as possible if they want to seek this exemption.

International student visas rules dictate that students take no more than one online course per semester.

Many freshmen international students, particularly those from Asia, will want to sign up for heavy class loads their first semester. It is in their best interest to not over extend themselves as they are adjusting to the new cultural and to immersion in a second language.

In many other countries, students don't have a relaxed relationship with professors. They may be used to systems where the students defer to the expertise of the professor and are hesitant to give their own opinions or to disagree with what the professor says. Students usually adapt during their first year, but it might be difficult to get them to directly state their opinions during their first semester.

New international students may come from academic systems with different grading scales or ways of calculating grades. They may not fully understand how a GPA is calculated. They may also be unfamiliar with terms like "elective".

New international students will have differing understanding of academic honesty. Some will not be familiar with citations and the serious implications of plagiarism.

International students admitted to JCU tend to be very high-achieving academically. They may feel overwhelmed by the new challenges and become frustrated if they don't achieve the same grades that they had in their home country.

If an international student changes his or her major, he or she should check in with David Kleinberg or The Center for Global Education. to update their paperwork. This is particularly important if the student switches to a STEM major because students in STEM majors can apply for additional internship time.

Degree-seeking international student visas allow for internships over the summer and for up to a year after completion of their degree. If they express interest, they should visit the Center for Global Education and Career Counseling Center for more information on the process.