



Colorado State University

Letter of Request

INTO COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
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SPRUCE HALL, 150 OLD MAIN DRIVE
1037 CAMPUS DELIVERY
FORT COLLINS, CO 80523-1037

To: Lori Lynn, Pandemic Preparedness Team Co-Chair;
Marc Barker, Pandemic Preparedness Team Co-Chair

T +1 970 492 4686
F +1 970 492 4687
E into@colostate.edu
W www.intohigher.com/coloradostate

Cc: Mary Stromberger, Dean of Graduate School; Kelly Long, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Affairs; Kathleen Fairfax, Vice Provost for International Affairs; Fabiola Ehlers-Zavala, INTO CSU Executive Director

From: Maite Correa, Academic Director INTO CSU

Date: November 10, 2020

Subject: Request to Consider Additional Accommodations for Students Overseas

Due to significant travel and visa restrictions, many international students at CSU are taking remote classes from their home countries. Although Provost Miranda, Vice Provost Kelly Long, and TILT made it clear in their communications to the CSU community last Spring and Summer that CSU should be flexible and offer asynchronous lessons for those students who could not attend class for any reason, it has come to our attention that this is not the case for a significant number of students and that it is having a negative impact on their performance.

We are concerned that many students with families, jobs or other diurnal commitments (international *and* domestic) are being put in situations where they are clearly at a disadvantage, especially after we were told that students taking remote classes would be accommodated with flexibility in how classes, assignments and exams would be scheduled. The following are redacted messages from some of the undergraduate and graduate students affected:

- *I have XXX at 12:00 AM (this is bearable) but I have XXX at 3:30 AM (and this is the course which I'm having troubles in) also the tests for this course are at the same time (I have one today).*



- *I have to say this is so common. So I changed my schedule time to sleep in the morning and wake up in the afternoon because all the classes are not in a normal time it should be. XXX is from 12:00 am-12:50 am. XXX is from 1:00 am- 1:15 am. XXX is from 4:00 am- 4:50 am. I feel okay after adapting to this schedule, though it's a little bit weird when my friends ask me to hang out together.*
- *XXX requires attendance, though we have recorded video after class because participation score will be calculated in live class.*
- *I have a course named XXX I have to take at 3:00 once a week. And there are some office hours of XXX and XXX at 3:00 so that I hardly ever participate that. Almost classes are at 12:00 AM (morning). Some lectures have been recorded, but office hours general at 3:00 AM have no record. So I did not see those yet.*

Even though many instructors are successfully offering both synchronous and asynchronous options to accommodate all their students, we have noted that some require them to take live exams and/or participate in live discussions as part of their grade. More and more we are hearing from students who tell us that they have to stay awake because they are expected to participate in a class at 2am and then take an exam for another class at 4am, which is quite objectionable from a pedagogical point of view.

We understand that F2F instruction and synchronous teaching are advantageous for a great majority of students. However, we believe that CSU should make their recommendation clearer and louder so we do not encounter cases where international students feel discriminated for being in their countries after we told them we would take care of them. **The Academic Team at INTO CSU would like the Task Force to consider highly recommending that: a) instructors offer office hours by appointment, b) students are given the chance to take asynchronous proctored exams at a convenient time for students, c) instructors use additional ways of assessing asynchronous participation, and d) all lectures that are offered synchronously are made available asynchronously.**

We strongly believe that, if CSU and the Task Force take these concerns into account and reinforce the need to serve *all students*, we will be sending the right message to all, including those with families/commitments and students overseas: that Rams take care of Rams.

Thank you in advance,

Maite Correa on behalf of the INTO CSU Academic Team