**UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI**

SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION

**University of Miami Semester in Los Angeles (“UMLA”)**

**NOTE: SEMESTER IN LOS ANGELES SPRING 2021 WILL BE HELD EXCLUSIVELY ONLINE**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

1. General:
   1. Who is eligible to apply for UMLA?

All majors and minors from the School of Communication are welcome to apply. In order to be eligible, students must be Juniors or Seniors in good academic standing, with a minimum GPA of 3.0.

* 1. Is UMLA open to graduate students?

Yes. Priority will be given to undergraduate students but graduate students in good academic standing (minimum GPA of 3.0) are encouraged to apply.

* 1. Where will classes be held while in Los Angeles?

Most classes will take place on site at AVA Toluca Lake Apartments, the residence complex where all students live, or in space nearby. It is not unusual for one course per semester to be taught off-site by an industry professional at a major studio, offering an educational complement to the traditional learning experience.

* 1. When can I apply to UMLA?

The early round of admissions occurs in March and the regular application deadline occurs in September. The next deadline to submit your application for spring 2021 is November 23, 2020. An initial deposit of $500 is due at that time. Application materials are posted on the SoC website.

1. ~~Housing:~~

Because UMLA 2021 is a remote program, students may live where they choose. Living in Los Angeles is not a requirement.

1. Financial:

a. What is the price of the program fee for UMLA?

The program fee for 2021 is $2,250 for the semester, which students pay in two installments. An initial deposit of $500 is due with your application (due by 11/15/20) and the remainder of the fee ($1,750) will need to be paid by December 4, 2020. Payment can be made online at <http://com.miami.edu/payment>.

b. Why is there a program fee associated with UMLA?

We do what we can to keep UMLA costs as low as possible. The program fee goes toward supporting administrative costs.

c. Will I be able to apply my financial aid to UMLA?

Mostly yes, but you should consult with your financial aid advisors to review the specific requirements of your awards.

d. Are there special scholarships available for applicants in the UMLA Program?

Yes, there are scholarship funds available to UMLA students on a limited basis. They may help offset portions of the program fee. Scholarships are based on financial need and academic standing. Applications are available [here](https://com.miami.edu/special-programs/semester-in-la/).

1. Academics:
   1. Is the entire program remote?

Yes. The courses are taught online. The internships are conducted remotely. While this is a departure from our typical format, students have a wider range of internship locations and possibilities from which to choose.

b. Who teaches the classes?

The academic program is overseen by a University of Miami faculty member who is based in Los Angeles full time. The classes are taught by this faculty supervisor as well as Los Angeles-based instructors, all of whom are seasoned film and television industry professionals.

c. How many classes are part of the program?

There will be three classes and an internship component offered online Los Angeles by faculty in Los Angeles. Inside the Studio Walls consists of a series of master classes led by industry professionals. The Professional Development course, overseen by the UMLA faculty advisor, provides an educational framework for your internship experience.

Classes for 2021 have yet to be announced. In the past, we have offered such courses as:

* + 1. International Media
    2. Inside the Studio Walls
    3. Hollywood Primer: Business and Regulatory Aspects of the Industry
    4. Professional Development within Communication Industries

d. Do I have to take all classes?

Yes, students have to take all course offerings plus enroll in the internship in order to maintain full-time status.

e. When do the classes take place?

Classes typically take place in the evenings after 7:00pm Pacific Coast time. This gives you the ease of scheduling internship hours for during the daytime, Monday through Friday. However, it does require you to be available between 7pm to 9:30 /10pm Pacific time Mondays through Thursdays.

Remember, this means that classes begin at 10pm Eastern time and potentially run after midnight. (The reason: instructors teach these classes at the end of their workday, Pacific time.)

1. Internships
   1. Will UM provide me with an internship?

Securing an internship is the student’s responsibility. UM faculty and staff provide support and suggestions along the way. The School of Communication offers resources for polishing your resume and preparing for interviews. We are here to support your professional development.

b. When do I begin searching for internships?

As soon as you have been accepted into the UMLA. Positions begin to be posted by companies in early fall, and continue in stages, with the most activity occurring between early October and early December.

b. What if I don’t have an internship before the beginning of the spring semester?

Many students will begin the UMLA Program without having finalized their internship. This is not unusual given that late-stage interviews may still be taking place. It may take until mid-to-late January for positions to be secured.

It is important to start applying early, show perseverance, and remain ready to act quickly, especially in competitive arenas.

c How many hours per week will I spend doing my internship?

Internships run 15-20 hours per week. They must be scheduled around class time, which media companies generally understand. UMLA provides a flexible internship structure, avoiding scheduling your classes during weekday hours.

d. Can international students participate in UMLA internship programs?

Yes, and we encourage international students to apply to UMLA. Keep in mind that if you will have additional paperwork to fill out with the International Student and Scholar Services Office in order to remain in compliance with your visa requirements. International students need to be aware of the strict policies that prevent them from working over twenty hours per work and they need to make sure they adhere to these rules.

Keep in close touch with ISSS team so that you are aware of procedures and policies, and make sure you receive all necessary authorizations to work off campus.

7. What kind of students are you looking for?

a. Students who have participated in UMLA say that it is challenging, exhilarating, and life-changing. They keep very busy hours, between the professional requirements of the internship and their many classroom activities. They learn how to improve their organizational skills and self-discipline.

We seek students who are highly motivated, hard-workers and good communicators. If you are reliable, professional, you have a “can-do” attitude, and are interested in learning more about a career in media or entertainment industries, this program is an excellent fit.

8. Why choose the Semester in Los Angeles Program?

a. This program is strategically designed to provide you with knowledge and experiences that take you beyond the college campus. UMLA offers you a bridge to the professional world, giving your education and career a distinct advantage, by affording you hands-on learning, classes with industry experts, and the opportunity to meet and interact with masters in their respective fields.