

WACD NDO application/admission information

Non-Degree Objectives (NDO) – graduate student status – information and review process –

When the department receives inquiries regarding opportunity to study or do research by someone who **does not** have an advanced degree already (PhD), or who has a master's degree but wish some additional study without a degree objective, the person is directed to apply as a “non-degree objective” (NDO) student into the appropriate graduate degree program. This person should have full funding by an organization or government agency for the purpose of a short-term residency of study or research.

More information on NDO can be found here (on the right column):

<http://grad.ucla.edu/gss/postdoc/vgrndotable.htm>

The inquirer is directed to the following steps:

1. Apply online in the Graduate Division link for the graduate program that's appropriate (MA/PhD or MFA); BUT indicate that it is for “Non-degree objectives”.
2. The applicant should submit the required materials as would the degree-applicant would – transcripts, statement of proposed work in the program; research materials or DVD of choreography as applicable; TOEFL and/or GRE scores as applicable, etc.
3. As part of Graduate Division review; the applicant should complete the financial status form showing financial support by identified agency(ies) (fees, living expenses, transportation, etc.).

The faculty receives the application and supplemental materials to review (similar to the regular graduate admissions process) but timing of submission may be flexible (at least three months before proposed start-time). Should the faculty decide the applicant is acceptable, admission is granted as an NDO student and the Graduate Division is informed of this admission decision. The Graduate Division Dean makes final approval of the admission.

The NDO student is treated similarly as the regular degree student—assigned a faculty advisor; takes classes for credit; takes part in the department's programs as appropriate for the duration of the limited term s/he is a NDO student. The NDO student is responsible for his/her living needs (housing, transportation, etc). The NDO student should be issued a student visa (not visitor visa) if the student is an international student.

Visa Requirements

The Dashew Center for International Students and Scholars (DCISS) has information on

[J-1 non-degree student visa requirements](#)

(<http://www.internationalcenter.ucla.edu/home/J1Visa/74/76/Students>).

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