

International University of Life Sciences

Master of Science in Complementary and Integrative Health

Q1:

After completing this health-related IULS Master's degree, what certificate or license will I receive that allows me to practice professionally?"

A:

The IULS Master of Science in Complementary and Integrative Health is an **academic, non-clinical, and non-licensure graduate degree program**.

Upon successful completion, students receive the **Master of Science in Complementary and Integrative Health degree** from IULS. However, the degree itself does **not automatically provide a professional license to practice medicine, acupuncture, nursing, dietetics, psychotherapy, counseling, or another regulated healthcare profession**.

In other words, this is not a program in which graduation by itself authorizes a student to open a clinical practice, diagnose disease, prescribe medication, or perform services legally reserved for licensed healthcare professionals.

What, then, is the value of the degree?

The program is designed to provide a broad and interdisciplinary graduate education in areas such as:

- complementary and integrative health;
- molecular and cellular biology;
- Traditional Chinese and East Asian medicine concepts;
- acupuncture and Asian bodywork theory;
- nutrition and food therapy;
- herbal and natural-health knowledge;
- mind-body approaches;
- psychology and behavioral-health foundations;
- artificial intelligence in health;

- digital health and emerging healthcare technologies.

The program consists of **40 semester units, 10 graduate courses, approximately 1,800 hours of learning, and is delivered 100% online.**

The program can be particularly valuable for several types of students.

1. Students who already hold a professional healthcare license

For licensed or credentialed professionals such as acupuncturists, physicians, nurses, pharmacists, mental-health professionals, nutrition-related professionals, and other healthcare practitioners, the degree can serve as an **academic and professional enhancement.**

It may help you:

- advance your academic qualifications;
- broaden your understanding of integrative health;
- develop knowledge of digital health and artificial intelligence;
- strengthen research and evidence-appraisal skills;
- improve health-education and program-development capabilities;
- and prepare for future leadership, education, research, technology, or aging-services roles.

For these students, the degree complements an existing professional credential rather than replacing it.

2. Students who do not currently hold a clinical license

The degree may also support career development in many **non-licensed professional areas**, depending on the employer and jurisdiction.

Examples may include:

- health and wellness program coordination;
- health education;
- community-health programming;
- healthcare administration;
- aging and eldercare program coordination;

- care-navigation support;
- digital-health programs;
- AI-enabled health technology;
- health-technology training;
- wellness organizations;
- research support;
- education and training;
- and non-clinical health-program development.

Requirements vary by employer, state, and country, so students should always verify the qualifications required for a specific occupation.

3. Students interested in further graduate study, research, or education

The master's degree may also provide graduate-level preparation for students interested in further academic study, research, education, or related professional development.

Admission or transfer into another institution is always determined by the receiving institution according to its own policies.

More than a traditional health degree

IULS is developing the program around an emerging interdisciplinary direction:

Integrative Health + Longevity + Eldercare + Digital Health + Responsible AI

Healthcare is increasingly being shaped not only by disease treatment, but also by population aging, chronic conditions, caregiver shortages, digital health, artificial intelligence, robotics, remote support, health information, and cross-cultural communication.

Our goal is therefore to help students develop the ability to:

- evaluate health information critically;
- understand both traditional health systems and modern scientific evidence;
- apply evidence-informed reasoning;
- use AI and digital-health technologies responsibly;
- design health, wellness, or aging-related programs;

- communicate across disciplines and cultures;
- and participate in future health-related industries while remaining within appropriate professional and legal boundaries.

A final clarification regarding licensure

If your primary goal is to obtain a specific professional license - for example, an acupuncture license, medical license, nursing license, registered dietitian credential, psychology license, or counseling license - you should consult the appropriate licensing authority in the state or country where you intend to practice.

The IULS MSCIH degree does not replace the education, supervised experience, examination, or other requirements established by those licensing authorities.

However, if your goal is to:

- advance an existing healthcare career;
- enter the broader health and wellness sector;
- work in health education or program administration;
- develop expertise in digital health or AI;
- participate in aging and eldercare services;
- pursue research or education;
- or prepare for further academic study,

the MSCIH program may provide a distinctive and forward-looking graduate education.

IULS is not simply offering a “quick certificate to practice.” Our goal is to help students build **broader knowledge, stronger professional judgment, graduate-level credentials, and interdisciplinary capabilities that can remain valuable as healthcare continues to change.**

If you would like, please share your current educational background, professional experience, and career goals with us. We would be happy to help you evaluate whether the MSCIH program is a good fit and which career pathways may be most relevant to your background.

Q2:

What are the advantages of completing the IULS Master's degree fully online if I later want to apply to other U.S. universities or work in the United States?

A:

Many international students have a very practical question:

If I live outside the United States, complete the IULS master's degree fully online, never physically come to the U.S., and do not have a U.S. student visa, what advantages would this degree give me if I later want to apply to another U.S. university or work in the United States? What limitations should I understand?

This is a very important question.

In simple terms:

The IULS fully online model does not directly provide a U.S. visa or work authorization. However, it allows you to begin building graduate-level academic experience, English academic skills, research capabilities, and professional project experience without immediately relocating to the United States or taking on the high cost of living abroad. This can help you prepare more strategically for future U.S. study or career opportunities.

1. The Biggest Advantage: You Can Begin Graduate-Level Study Without Moving to the United States

The IULS master's program is delivered fully online in an asynchronous format.

This means international students can:

- complete their coursework from their home country;
- continue their current employment;
- avoid relocating to the United States just to attend class;
- avoid immediate U.S. housing, transportation, insurance, and living expenses;

- organize weekly study around their own schedule;
- gain experience with English-language graduate materials and academic writing;
- and build research, digital-health, and professional project portfolios.

For many international students who are not yet ready to move to the United States, this can be a much more flexible, affordable, and practical way to begin.

You can first strengthen your academic and professional foundation, and later decide whether studying or working in the United States is truly the right next step.

2. Will This Help if I Later Apply to Another U.S. University?

Yes, it can help, but it is important to understand the nature of that advantage correctly.

After completing graduate coursework at IULS, students may have more academic evidence to present to future universities, such as:

- official transcripts;
- graduate-level coursework;
- English academic writing;
- research papers;
- course projects;
- Capstone Projects;
- digital-health projects;
- AI and health-technology projects;
- and records of graduate-level interaction with faculty.

For a student whose previous education has primarily been completed outside the United States, these materials can help a future university better understand your readiness for graduate-level study.

This is especially valuable if, during your IULS studies, you build a strong record of:

Good Grades + Research Results + English Academic Writing + Project Work

These can become important parts of your academic profile when you later apply to another master's, doctoral, or professional program.

3. Will Other U.S. Universities Automatically Accept the IULS Degree?

This is where we need to be completely transparent:

No university can guarantee that another institution will accept its degree or transfer credits.

Each U.S. university establishes its own:

- admissions policies;
- degree-recognition policies;
- transfer-credit policies;
- international student policies;
- and graduate admission standards.

Therefore, even after completing an IULS degree, another university will independently decide whether it will:

- accept the degree as part of an application;
- recognize specific courses;
- or accept transfer credits.

This is not unique to IULS.

Within the U.S. higher education system, the receiving institution generally makes its own decision about whether and how it will recognize prior academic work.

Therefore, if you already have a particular U.S. university or doctoral program in mind, we strongly recommend that you:

contact that school's Admissions Office or Graduate School in advance.

That allows you to understand its policies as early as possible.

4. IULS Is a U.S. Institution, but Does Fully Online Study Automatically Give Me a Student Visa?

No.

It is important to distinguish between:

studying at a U.S.-based institution

and

receiving U.S. student immigration status.

Because the IULS program can be completed fully online from outside the United States, international students do not need to enter the U.S. simply to participate in the online program.

In other words:

Completing IULS online does not automatically create F-1 student status and does not automatically provide a U.S. student visa.

If a student later decides to physically study in the United States, the student would need to separately apply to an appropriate U.S. institution that is authorized to enroll international students.

After admission, the student would then follow that institution's process and the applicable U.S. immigration rules for student status and visa processing.

So IULS is better understood as:

Build a U.S.-based graduate academic background first, then decide whether you want to study physically in the United States later.

It should not be understood as:

Enroll at IULS and automatically receive a U.S. student visa.

5. Does the Degree Help if I Later Want to Work in the United States?

It may strengthen your educational background and professional competitiveness, but again, two things must be clearly separated:

Education and U.S. work authorization are not the same thing.

An IULS master's degree can become part of your graduate-level educational background.

This may be particularly relevant for professional areas such as:

- Health Education;

- Wellness;
- Digital Health;
- AI in Healthcare;
- Eldercare;
- Aging Services;
- Healthcare Administration;
- Community Health;
- Program Coordination;
- Research Support;
- Health Technology;
- Professional Education.

If, in the future, a U.S. employer believes that your:

- education;
- professional skills;
- work experience;
- AI capabilities;
- digital-health knowledge;
- language skills;
- and international background

match its needs, these factors may strengthen your competitiveness.

However:

Holding a U.S. master's degree does not by itself give someone the legal right to work in the United States.

If you later want to work physically in the United States, you will still need to meet the immigration and employment-authorization requirements that apply at that time.

6. Why Not Simply Move to the United States and Study There From the Beginning?

For many international students, moving to the United States for graduate school is a major decision.

In addition to tuition, students may need to consider:

- visa requirements;
- housing;
- transportation;
- health insurance;
- daily living expenses;
- leaving a current job;
- family responsibilities;
- international relocation;
- language adjustment;
- and cultural adjustment.

For some students, these costs may be significantly greater than tuition itself.

The IULS online model offers a different pathway:

Complete graduate-level study from your home country first, then decide whether relocation to the United States is necessary.

This gives students an opportunity to first determine:

- whether they are comfortable with graduate-level study;
- whether they can adapt to English-language academic materials;
- whether they are genuinely interested in the field;
- whether they want to pursue a doctorate;
- whether they really want a future U.S. career;
- and whether relocating to the United States is worth the financial and personal cost.

This can be a more flexible and lower-risk approach to long-term academic and career planning.

7. For International Students, the Real Value Is “Degree + Skills + Portfolio”

We also encourage students not to focus only on the question:

“What diploma will I receive at the end?”

Universities and employers increasingly want to know something more important:

What can you actually do?

During your studies at IULS, we therefore encourage students to build a strong professional and academic portfolio.

Examples may include:

- English research papers;
- Literature Reviews;
- Research Proposals;
- Capstone Projects;
- AI projects;
- Digital Health projects;
- health-education plans;
- Eldercare projects;
- health-technology evaluation reports;
- professional presentations;
- and cross-cultural health analyses.

Later, when you apply to another university or to an employer, you are not only saying:

“I earned a master’s degree.”

You can also show:

“This is the problem I studied. This is the research I completed. This is the project I built. This is what I am capable of doing.”

That can be much more persuasive than a diploma alone.

8. What Type of International Student Is IULS Especially Well-Suited For?

The IULS fully online model may be especially suitable for:

Working Professionals

You do not need to completely interrupt your career in order to pursue graduate study.

Students With Family Responsibilities

You can remain where you currently live while completing your studies.

Students Who Are Not Yet Ready to Move to the United States

You can build an academic foundation first and decide later whether relocation makes sense.

Students Who Want to Strengthen Their Academic English

You can gradually develop English reading, writing, research, and presentation skills.

Students Interested in Future Health and Technology Fields

For example:

Integrative Health + Digital Health + AI + Longevity + Eldercare

These fields are highly international and are not limited to one country.

9. We Recommend Thinking in Three Stages

Students can think about their development in three stages.

Stage One: Build Your Capabilities From Your Home Country

Complete the IULS master's degree.

Build:

Graduate Education + English Skills + Professional Knowledge + AI Skills + Project Portfolio

Stage Two: Strengthen Your International Competitiveness

You may then consider opportunities involving:

- international companies;
- multinational health organizations;
- AI and Digital Health;

- international remote work;
- research and education;
- doctoral study;
- or graduate study in another country.

Stage Three: Consider Moving to the United States if It Makes Sense

If, in the future, you receive:

- a strong university admission offer;
- a doctoral opportunity;
- a job opportunity;
- an appropriate immigration or work-authorization pathway;
- or a position with an international company,

you can then decide whether relocating to the United States is the right step.

This approach can reduce both financial and personal risk in the early stages.

Summary

If you are currently living outside the United States but want to create stronger connections to U.S. education or future international career opportunities, the IULS fully online model can provide a flexible starting point.

Its greatest value is not:

“Graduate and you are guaranteed to go to the United States.”

Instead, its value is:

You can begin building graduate-level academic experience, English capability, research skills, AI and digital-health knowledge, and a professional portfolio without first relocating to the United States.

Later, if you decide to:

- apply to another U.S. university;
- pursue doctoral study;

- enter the international health industry;
- develop expertise in AI and Digital Health;
- or explore future employment opportunities in the United States,

you may be better prepared academically and professionally than if you had not built this foundation first.

For this reason, we prefer to think of the IULS fully online master's degree as:

A Bridge Between Where You Are Today and Where You Want to Go Next

It allows students to build their capabilities first from their home country, and then decide whether their next step should lead to the United States, another country, or a globally oriented career.

If you would like, you are also welcome to share your:

- educational background;
- work experience;
- English level;
- current country;
- universities you may wish to apply to in the future;
- or career goals.

We would be happy to help you evaluate:

How the IULS master's program may fit into your individual academic and career plan.