

# ***GETTING STARTED AT*** **UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA** **SAN DIEGO**



## **WELCOME INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS!**

The staff at the International Center congratulates you on your admission to the University of California, San Diego (UCSD). We are happy to welcome you to UCSD and will do our best to make your experience here a successful one. In this publication, you will find useful information about getting started at UCSD:

- Arrival at UCSD
- Required Orientation for International Students
- Other Required College or Academic Department Orientations
- UCSD Email Account
- UCSD Course Registration
- UCSD Photo ID Card
- Social Security Card
- California Driver's License
- Banking & Money Matters
- Housing Assistance
- Campus Tours
- Information for Families

## ARRIVAL AT UCSD

All new international students (including transfer students from other schools in the USA) MUST check in at the International Center. Check-in and orientation are required for all new UCSD students who are not US citizens or Permanent Residents. The International Center's staff can assist you during the designated check-in period:

### REQUIRED CHECK-IN PERIOD

**January 3 – 5, 2007**  
9:00 am – 4:00 pm  
International Center

At check-in, please bring copies of your I-94 status-related documents and contact information:

- Passport biographical information page(s) (including photo and expiration date)
- Visa (in your passport)
- Front and back side of I-94 card (small white card stapled in your passport)
- All pages of your I-20 (F-1 Students) or DS-2019 (J-1 Exchange Visitors)
  - Transfer Students: Provide copies of your previous school's I-20 or DS-2019
  - If you changed or applied to change I-94 status to F-1: I-797 Receipt from USCIS
- Local address, telephone number, and email.

If dependents accompanied you to the USA, please provide copies of their I-94 status-related documents.

Failure to check in within 15 days of your arrival at UCSD may result in the termination of your SEVIS record and loss of your F-1 or J-1 status, or it may prevent you from registering for classes at UCSD.

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ORIENTATION

All new international students (including transfer students from other schools in the USA) MUST attend a mandatory orientation session. Please bring your I-94 status-related documents with you. Late attendees will be asked to attend another session, so please plan accordingly. The session will cover important information regarding your I-94 status and the services available to international students at UCSD.

### REQUIRED ORIENTATION FOR ALL NEW INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

**Friday, January 5, 2007**  
10:00 am – 12:00 pm  
International Center Lounge

Failure to attend an orientation session may prevent you from registering for classes at UCSD.

NOTE: This orientation is different from your college or academic department orientations.

To register for orientation, please visit:  
<http://icenter.ucsd.edu/students/admitted.html>

## OTHER MANDATORY ORIENTATIONS

You must attend the International Student Orientation and your college, academic department, or professional school's sessions. Contact their offices directly for more details about their orientation schedule and requirements.

### Undergraduate Students

- **Eleanor Roosevelt College**  
Jan. 8, 9-11am Asante A-D  
Contact: 858-534-9864
- **Earl Warren College**  
TBA Contact: 858-534-4350
- **John Muir College**  
TBA Contact 858-534-3587
- **Roger Revelle College**  
TBA Contact 858-534-3490
- **Sixth College**  
TBA Contact: 858-534-1481
- **Thurgood Marshall College**  
TBA Contact: 858-534-7395

**Graduate Students**, contact the graduate coordinator at your Academic Department.

## UCSD EMAIL ACCOUNT

Every UCSD student is assigned a UCSD email account. Upon arrival at UCSD, you need to activate your email account. To activate your account, you may either—

1. Visit Academic Computing Services (ACS) Applied Physics & Mathematics Building (AP&M) in Room 2113, or
2. Visit the ACS website and follow the directions at <http://acs.ucsd.edu/student>

## UCSD COURSE REGISTRATION

- **EAP Reciprocity Students:** Enroll in classes via TritonLink at <http://tritonlink.ucsd.edu>  
Meet with an academic advisor if you need assistance with selecting courses. Campus fees are automatically waived. If you receive a bill, please contact Molly Ann McCarren, the EAP Coordinator, at [mmccarren@ucsd.edu](mailto:mmccarren@ucsd.edu)
- **Graduate Students:** Meet the graduate coordinator in your academic department.

## UCSD PHOTO ID CARD

Upon arrival at UCSD, obtain a UCSD photo ID card. You need to show your ID card whenever you receive services at the University. ID cards are processed Monday through Friday, from 8:00 am – 4:30 pm (hours may change during the summer) at Student Business Services (SBS) located at 201 University Center on Myers Drive.

- **EAP Reciprocity Students:** Go directly to Student Business Services (SBS). Make sure you identify yourself as an EAP Reciprocity student and provide your student ID number.
- **Graduate Students:** Contact your academic department.

### SOCIAL SECURITY CARD

A social security card is required for students who will be earning money in the USA. A SOCIAL SECURITY CARD WILL NOT BE ISSUED FOR ANY OTHER REASON.

#### Application Process

You must wait at least 10 days from arrival into the USA before applying for a Social Security card. This will allow enough time to activate your SEVIS record. You must apply in person at a local Social Security Administration office.

The following documents are required to apply for a Social Security card:

- Passport
- I-94 card (small white card stapled in passport) Copy the front and back of I-94 to include with your application.
- UCSD ID Card, driver's license, or other form of photo identification.

#### Other Document Requirements

- **F-1 student:** Valid I-20, verification letter from the UCSD International Student Advisor, and a job offer letter from a prospective employer.
- **J-1 students:** Valid DS-2019 and a letter from the UCSD International Student Advisor.

Upon application for a social security card, a receipt will be issued. The card will be mailed in approximately three weeks.

#### Where to Apply

There are several offices listed in the San Diego telephone directory. They are open Monday through Friday from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. For a list of offices, please visit <http://www.ssa.gov>

The office closest to the UCSD main campus is in Kearny Mesa:

### SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

#### Closest To Campus

8505 Aero Drive  
San Diego, CA 92123  
Phone: (858) 278-1097  
Toll Free Number: (800) 772-1213

For bus routes to this office, visit:

- **San Diego Metropolitan Transit Board**  
<http://www.sdcommute.com>
- **UCSD Transportation and Parking Services**  
<http://blink.ucsd.edu/go/splashtps>

### CALIFORNIA DRIVER'S LICENSE

The State of California's Department of Motor Vehicles requires California residents to have a California driver's license even if the resident possesses a valid international driver's license. Students and scholars are considered to be California residents (for driving purposes only) if they have rented an apartment, are being paid any money and will be paying income tax, or are going to school in California.

#### Application Process

The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) requires a written test and a road test. No appointment is necessary for the written test, but an appointment and a car are required for the road test. A US Social Security card is not needed to apply for a driver's license. The DMV is often crowded, so allow ample time to complete the process. Appointments are also available online at <https://eg.dmv.ca.gov/foApt>Welcome.jsp>

Under current law, a temporary license will be issued pending USCIS confirmation of the applicant's I-94 status in the USA. It may take as long as nine months to receive the actual driver's license in the mail. Temporary permits can be renewed until the card is received.

#### Where to Apply

The closest DMV Office to UCSD is located at—

### DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES

#### Closest To Campus

4375 Derrick Drive  
San Diego, CA 92117  
Toll-Free Number: (800) 777-0133

For a complete list of DMV office locations, visit <http://www.dmv.ca.gov>

### BANKING & MONEY MATTERS

In the USA, it is customary to use checks and credit cards rather than using cash because it is easier and safer. It is best to open an account at a bank so that money can be taken out of the account when needed. It is not safe to carry large amounts of cash.

Most banks are open Monday through Friday from morning until mid-afternoon, and some are open also on Saturday morning. Upon opening an account, a "cash machine" card will be offered so you can withdraw money at any hour, day or night. These cards can be used at automated teller machines (ATMs) all over the world. Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) are located behind the Price Center on campus and at the Student Center. Using an ATM at a different bank may cost \$1-\$5 each time it is used.

The two main types of bank accounts are—

- **Checking Account:** Allows checks to be written for purchases and for paying bills.

- **Savings Account:** Offers a place to keep your money and earn interest.

Some checking accounts also pay interest. Most people in the USA pay their bills with checks. Cash should NEVER be sent in the mail to pay for a bill or for any other reason.

### Opening a Bank Account

To open an account at most banks, you will need one or two valid forms of identification and a local postal address to receive mail. A passport and a UCSD identification card are usually sufficient. At least \$100 is usually required to open an account, and there will be a monthly service charge for the account unless a “minimum balance requirement” (as much as \$500 or higher) is maintained. There will also be a charge to have checks printed. Banks often have “hidden” fees so be sure to inquire about all possible fees. Not all banks require a US Social Security Number to open an account, however, bank services may be limited (no online banking *etc.*) if you do not have a Social Security Number.

Below is a list of banks and credit unions located on-campus or near UCSD:

- **Bank of America**  
[www.bankofamerica.com](http://www.bankofamerica.com)
- **Citibank**  
[www.citibank.com](http://www.citibank.com)
- **San Diego County Credit Union**  
[www.sdccu.com](http://www.sdccu.com)
- **Union Bank of California**  
[www.uboc.com](http://www.uboc.com)
- **USE (University & State Employees Credit Union)**  
[www.usecu.org](http://www.usecu.org)  
NOTE: On campus next to Gilman Parking Structure.
- **Washington Mutual**  
[www.wamu.com](http://www.wamu.com)
- **Wells Fargo**  
[www.wellsfargo.com](http://www.wellsfargo.com)

### Transferring Funds from your Home Country

Full-service banks with international banking capabilities sell international money orders and receive deposits from banks outside of the USA. The best way to transfer funds from your country of origin to the USA is by electronic wire transfer directly from bank-to-bank. This method allows immediate credit and use of the money. Other methods of obtaining funds from abroad (example: money order, checks, *etc.*) will cause a delay of two weeks or longer in availability of funds.

### HOUSING ASSISTANCE

Do you need help making your housing arrangements? Please contact the UCSD Off-Campus Housing Office at Student Center Building A in Suite 200. You can also visit their website at <http://offcampushousing.ucsd.edu> to access an online database of available housing listings.

### HEALTH INSURANCE

Because healthcare in the USA is extremely expensive, international students at UCSD are required to buy health insurance coverage. You will be billed for the UCSD health insurance policy each quarter (3-month period). Your UCSD insurance policy will begin on the first day of the quarter. We also strongly recommend that you buy additional health insurance coverage for family members (spouse and children) who accompany you to the USA. Remember that the US government requires health insurance for all J-1s and J-2 dependents while in the USA.

### SHIP

All graduate and undergraduate international students at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD) are automatically enrolled in the Student Health Insurance Plan for Undergraduate, Graduate, and Professional Students (SHIP) plan as part of the registration process. International students in F-1 and J-1 statuses must first enroll in classes in order to pay for the health insurance. Effective date of the Winter Quarter policy is Friday, January 5, 2007.

### CAMPUS TOURS

UCSD offers tours of the campus every day at 11:00 am. For more information, please visit the Campus Tours office at the UCSD Price Center.

### INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES

The UCSD International Center welcomes the spouses and children of our new students and scholars and offers many programs for them including:

- Weekly coffee hours
- Cooking in America classes
- English conversation groups

Two large volunteer organizations, the Friends of the International Center and the Oceanids, organize many of these activities. If you have any questions, please contact the UCSD International Center.

The International Center can also provide assistance to meet your family's needs such as—

- Childcare options in the area.
- Preschools, elementary schools, middle schools, and high schools in the area.
- Opportunities in San Diego for recreation, sports, theater, and other cultural activities.
- Volunteer opportunities at UCSD and the local community.

## CONTACT US

### UCSD International Center

International Student & Scholar Office

University of California, San Diego

9500 Gilman Drive, Mail Code 0018

La Jolla, CA 92093-0018

Phone: (858) 534-3730

Fax: (858) 534-0909

Email: [icenter@ucsd.edu](mailto:icenter@ucsd.edu)

Internet: <http://icenter.ucsd.edu>

### Student Advisor Hours

#### By Appointment:

- Mondays and Fridays  
10:00 am -1:00 pm
- Tuesdays, Thursdays  
10:00 am -3:30 pm
- Wednesdays  
1:30 pm – 3:30 pm

#### Walk-In (No appointment required)

- Wednesdays  
10:00 am – 12:00 pm

The International Center is located on Library Walk across from Center Hall.