

New International Scholars

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Dear International Scholar:

We are pleased to welcome you to the University of California at San Diego (UCSD). The staff and volunteers at the International Center will do their best to make your stay at UCSD a successful one. We hope that the enclosed information will answer some of your questions and help you to prepare to come to UCSD.

You will want to try to arrive at UCSD between Monday and Friday when university offices are open to assist you. The International Center and many other campus **offices may be closed** for at least a week **in late December** for the Christmas/New Year holidays. Check with your department for other campus holidays that may affect your arrival.

You should first check in with the academic department sponsoring you. **YOU MUST ALSO CHECK IN AT THE INTERNATIONAL CENTER WITHIN 30 DAYS OF THE START DATE IN SECTION 3 OF THE DS-2019**, even if this is not your first visit to UCSD. Failure to check in within 30 days at the International Center will result in an INVALID SEVIS record.

Fees. As part of the visa application process you will be required to pay the visa application fee and the new SEVIS fee. Please note that if you are applying for J-2 visas for any dependents, J-2 visas require the visa application fee but NOT the SEVIS fee. Information on how to pay the SEVIS fee may be found at <http://www.ice.gov/graphics/sevis/>. You may choose to pay using the internet or by mailing in your application. If paying this fees using over the internet, please make a copy of the receipt and bring it to your visa appointment. This fee must be paid prior to your visa appointment.

It is important that you attend a one-time, one-hour mandatory Immigration Information Session for all **new** international scholars offered every **Wednesday at 9:30am** at the International Center. Spouses are welcome to attend. We think you will find it a very helpful program that will answer many of the questions you have when you first arrive.

You must notify your UCSD department **AND** the UCSD International Center if you change your address within ten days of moving to the new address.

Please read the enclosed information thoroughly. For more detailed information, you may want to check our website at <http://ucsd.edu/center/isso>. In addition to all of the practical matters, we encourage you to find out as much as you can about life in the United States. We also hope to learn more about your country and hope that you will bring any information that you would like to share with us. We wish you a safe and pleasant trip to San Diego and we look forward to meeting you when you arrive at UCSD.

Sincerely,
The International Center Staff and Volunteers

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Important Information Inside

GOVERNMENT REGULATIONS: VISAS, etc.



If you are outside the U.S., you will need to apply for a visa (except Canadians). If you are already inside the U.S., you should contact your current international advisor to be sure that you are following the correct procedures.

If you are coming to UCSD as a J-1 Exchange visitor, the appropriate document (DS-2019 Form) is enclosed. **Read the enclosed information carefully so that you do not have difficulty with obtaining a visa or entering the U.S.** The International Center will help you with questions about government regulations throughout your stay at UCSD. Immigration regulations can be very complex and can cause confusion even among government agencies. Direct your questions to the UCSD International Center, rather than to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

REQUIRED HEALTH INSURANCE



Medical care in the United States is extremely expensive. **It is a requirement of the university and of the United States Department of State that all international scholars and family members have adequate health insurance coverage.**

If UCSD is employing you or if an organization is sponsoring you, you should ask your department or sponsor if they are paying for your health insurance. If they are not, you will need to pay for health insurance for yourself and your family.

You should purchase a short-term policy to cover your travels and then arrange your insurance as soon as you arrive in the U.S. The International Center can provide information about insurance policies available to you.

If you are bringing a health insurance policy from your home country, be sure that your policy offers a minimum of \$50,000 coverage per accident or illness, that it will pay the U.S. cost of medical care, and that it will be accepted by U.S. hospitals.

TRANSPORTATION



If you have not made arrangements for someone to meet you at the San Diego airport, it will cost approximately \$25 to take a taxi to the UCSD campus. Shuttle services are also available and less expensive. You can obtain further information at the airport Traveler's Aid desk.

After you arrive at UCSD and obtain a UCSD ID card, you will be entitled to a free bus permit that allows you to ride free on city buses within an area near the UCSD campus. There is also a free shuttle bus between the main campus and the UCSD Medical Center. Otherwise, public transportation in the San Diego area is limited and many scholars decide to buy automobiles.

A reliable used car costs at least \$5,000 and necessary repairs are usually very expensive. California also requires that you obtain a California driver's license, even if you have an international driver's license. Required car insurance may cost an additional \$1,000 per year or more. Most insurance companies require evidence of your driving records for the past three years. We recommend that you bring your driving records and proof of previous insurance if you plan to buy a car.

FINANCES



In general, you should plan on a monthly budget of at least \$1,500 to \$1,800, depending on your requirements. We estimate an additional \$300 per month if you bring your spouse, and up to \$200 per month for each child. These are very conservative estimates. When you first arrive, you will need sufficient funds to cover transportation to the university, temporary housing, apartment deposits, meals, etc.

You will not want to bring large amounts of cash with you. Because international bank transfers normally take three weeks, we suggest that you bring a minimum of \$2,500 in traveler's checks and/or a bank card to withdraw money from automatic teller machines (ATM) to cover your initial expenses. If you are receiving funds from UCSD, check with your department to find out when you will receive your first check. Most UCSD positions are paid once per month.

TEMPORARY HOUSING



You may want to ask your academic department if they can make temporary housing arrangements for you on campus before you contact a hotel.

When contacting a hotel, **you should inquire about special rates for UCSD visitors.** Some hotels may offer free breakfast and/or airport transportation. Be sure to ask what the price includes. A complete hotel list and more housing information is available from the Off-Campus Housing Office, UCSD, 9500 Gilman Drive, La Jolla, CA 92093-0309.

Rates quoted below are subject to availability, may change without notice, and do not include tax:

Closest to the UCSD main campus (within walking distance):

Marriott Residence Inn 8901 Gilman Drive La Jolla, CA 92037 (858) 587-1770 \$129-\$179 per night	Radisson Hotel La Jolla 3299 Holiday Court La Jolla, CA 92037 (858) 453-5500 \$119-\$129 per night
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Near the UCSD main campus:

Embassy Suites Hotel 4550 La Jolla Village Drive La Jolla, CA 92037 (858) 453-0400 \$149-\$209 per night	La Jolla Marriott 4240 La Jolla Village Drive La Jolla, CA 92037 (858) 587-1414 \$139-179 per night
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The Lodge at Torrey Pines 11480 North Torrey Pines La Jolla, CA 92037 (858) 453-4420 \$95-\$155 per night	Del Mar Inn 720 Camino Del Mar Del Mar, CA 92014 (858) 755-9765 \$79-\$110 per night
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Near UCSD and the Scripps Institution of Oceanography:

Hotel La Jolla 7955 La Jolla Shores Drive La Jolla, CA 92037 (858) 459-0261 \$169-\$189 per night	Andrea Villa Inn 2402 Torrey Pines Road La Jolla, CA 92037 (858) 459-3311 \$90-\$99 per night (UCSD rate)
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Near the UCSD Medical Center:

Sommerset Suites Hotel 606 Washington Street San Diego, CA 92103 (619) 692-5200 \$79-\$109 per night
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Toll free phone numbers of economical hotels in the U.S. and San Diego (not necessarily near campus):

Motel 6	1-800-466-8356
Travelodge	1-888-578-7878
Best Western	1-800-462-9732
Holiday Inn	1-858-454-7101
Howard Johnson	1-800-446-4656
La Pensione	1-800-232-4683
Villager Lodge	1-800-598-1810

LONG-TERM HOUSING



The rental market in San Diego is very tight. It may take several days to find a suitable place to live. It will be helpful to rent a car in order to see several options before making a choice.

NEAR CAMPUS

La Jolla Del Sol Apartments are owned by the university and are located very near campus with a bus service available. There are one- and two-bedroom apartments for married and single visitors. Current rates range from \$879 to \$1179. However, there is a long wait list for few vacancies. For further information, write to La Jolla Del Sol at 8046 Regents Road, San Diego, CA 92122, or call (858) 587-1221. E-mail to ahoinfo@ucsd.edu. Website at <http://hdsu.ucsd.edu/hsgaffil/ljds.html>

OFF-CAMPUS

Housing is very expensive in the areas near UCSD, especially in La Jolla. A single person typically pays \$500-\$550 per month to rent a room in a home and share the bath and kitchen. Rent for a small one-person one-room "studio" apartment is \$800-\$900 per month. Rent for a one-bedroom unfurnished apartment is often \$950-\$1,100 per month, \$1,200-\$1,500 per month for a two-bedroom unfurnished apartment, and \$1,400-\$2,000+ for three or four bedrooms. You will have to pay an additional \$25-\$100 per month for utilities. Before moving in, you may be required to pay two to six months' rent in advance, or a security deposit of at least \$500.

Furnishings: You may be able to arrange for a furnished apartment for an additional \$250-\$300 per month. Most furnished facilities come with basic furniture, but without linens or cooking utensils. **Scholars who will be at UCSD for less than one year may rent low-cost kitchen utensils and baby furniture** from the Oceanids, a UCSD volunteer organization at the International Center. There are usually also opportunities to buy inexpensive used household items.

FAMILY



The UCSD International Center welcomes the spouses and children of our new scholars and offers many programs for them, including a weekly coffee hour, Cooking-in-America classes, English conversation groups, and many other activities. Two large volunteer groups, the Friends of the International Center and the Oceanids, organize many of these activities. If you have questions about your family's needs, you can contact either group after you arrive at the International Center.

If you are bringing children under five years old, there are two options for childcare on the UCSD campus. **Both are very popular programs and you should check on space availability as soon as you know your needs.**

The UCSD Early Childhood Education Center accepts **children from eleven months to six and a half years old**. Whole-day care is provided and the cost for care is based on the child's age. **There is usually a long waiting list for this program.** The Center also offers a referral service for other daycare options. For more information, see their site at <http://child.ucsd.edu>, write to the UCSD Early Childhood Education Center, 9224 Regents Road, La Jolla, CA 92093-0962, call (858) 534-2768, or e-mail to childcare@ucsd.edu.

*The International Cooperative Nursery School is located at the UCSD International Center and accepts **children three to five years old**. This school offers sessions two, three, or five days a week, morning or afternoons. Some parent participation is required. For more information, see www.geocities.com/icnshome/ or write to the International Cooperative Nursery School, UCSD International Center, 9500 Gilman Drive, La Jolla, CA 92093-0018, or e-mail to icns@ucsd.edu, or call (858) 455-9310.

If your **children are between five and eighteen years old** you may enroll them in a public or private school. Your place of residence in San Diego will determine which school your children will attend. Be sure to bring your children's birth certificates, copies of school records and documented proof of immunizations.

Your family will also find a variety of opportunities in San Diego for recreation and sports, theater and other cultural activities. The International Center can show you how to get involved.

SUMMARY

- Be sure that you and your academic department at UCSD have the same understanding and expectations about your arrival and stay at UCSD.**
- Make careful financial arrangements before you come to UCSD and be sure to have sufficient funds upon arrival.**
- Obtain health insurance for you and your family for your travels and be prepared to pay for long-term health insurance as soon as you arrive.**
- Be sure that you and your family have the appropriate government documents, visas, etc. to enter the United States.**
- Make temporary housing arrangements before you arrive in San Diego.**
- Check in with your academic department and at the International Center when you arrive in San Diego.**
- Attend the Orientation Program at the International Center any Wednesday at 9:30 am.**

HAVE A SAFE

JOURNEY

TO UCSD!