



LET THE JOURNEY BEGIN

UC San Diego
International Students
& Programs Office

iStudents.ucsd.edu

Congratulations on your admission to UC San Diego!

Dear New Triton,

The International Students & Programs Office (ISPO) would like to warmly welcome you as you begin this exciting new journey here in beautiful La Jolla, California.

This journey is not one you will travel alone. There are nearly 10,000 international students from over 100 different countries on campus. These fearless innovators and bold risk-takers have paved a way for you to start building your future at UC San Diego!

ISPO offers a wide array of services and programs for international students and their dependents before and after they begin their program at UC San Diego. Our knowledgeable staff are here and ready to help educate and guide you through visa regulations in the United States as well as assist you in achieving your personal, academic and professional goals.

Please take a few moments to carefully review all of the information enclosed here in your ISPO Welcome Packet. This packet is filled with helpful tips and important information designed to help you navigate through your first steps as a new international student.

If you have any questions about the admissions process, be sure to check out the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) located on our website which offers insight and answers provided by current students who were once in your shoes! Visit our website at iNewStudent.ucsd.edu

Safe travels, New Triton! We can't wait to meet you.

Sincerely,



Your friendly staff at the
International Students &
Programs Office

UC San Diego
International Students
& Programs Office



NEXT STEPS TO TAKE BEFORE YOU ARRIVE AT UC SAN DIEGO

Find out what you should do prior to arriving on campus by visiting [iNewStudent.ucsd.edu](https://www.ucsd.edu/newstudent).
This list should help you get started:

APPLY FOR F-1 or J-1 VISA if needed.
Ensure immigration documents are in order.

CHECK START DATE on your Form I-20 or DS-2019.
Plan to arrive in the U.S. no earlier than 30 days prior to the program start date on your Form I-20 or Form DS-2019.

CONFIRM HOUSING arrangements.

ENROLL IN COURSES & PAY TUITION and fees.

COMPLETE HEALTH SCREENING requirements.

COMPLETE REQUIRED ONLINE TRAININGS including the iTritonOnline Training and assigned College/Department Online Program.

SIGN UP FOR ON-CAMPUS ORIENTATION and pre-arrival webinars to help you prepare for arrival.

FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH CAMPUS by visiting maps.ucsd.edu

Follow us on social media [@ispo.ucsd](https://twitter.com/ispo.ucsd)

TRAVEL PLANNING TIP:

Remember to plan to arrive in U.S. no earlier than 30 days prior to the program start date. You may be refused entry into the U.S. if you attempt to arrive any earlier. Please note that if you are a SEVIS transfer student, this rule does not apply, and you may arrive prior to 30 days before your program start date.



NEXT STEPS TO TAKE

ARRIVING AT UC SAN DIEGO



Find out how to prepare for and what to expect upon arrival in the U.S. by visiting iNewStudent.ucsd.edu. Use this list to get started:

HAVE YOUR IMMIGRATION DOCUMENTS READY to present at the Port of Entry.

CLEAR CUSTOMS and enter the U.S. in F-1 or J-1 status.

ARRANGE TRANSPORTATION TO CAMPUS using available transportation services (Rideshare, Shuttle, etc).

PRINT ELECTRONIC FORM I-94 by visiting i94.cbp.dhs.gov

COMPLETE Document Self-Check at iSelfcheck.ucsd.edu

ATTEND ON-CAMPUS ORIENTATION and meet your fellow international students and ISPO Staff. Visit iOrientation.ucsd.edu for more information about orientation.

connect to new students ispo.ucsd.edu/advising/culture-diversity.html



TRAVEL PLANNING TIP:

ISPO recommends that you schedule 2-3 hours between connecting flights, or when crossing a land border to allow enough time when passing through a U.S. Port of Entry. Also, ensure your immigration documents are in-hand ready to present at the Port of Entry and not in your checked-in luggage!





WHEN PARENTS ARE INFORMED, STUDENTS BENEFIT!

UC San Diego's Parent & Family Programs supports parents and families of international students from the very start. Families are encouraged to attend the International Parent & Family Orientation in September parents.ucsd.edu



SIM CARD

Included in your packet is a free SIM card for your personal use. Note that you are not required to use these services and can simply discard it. For questions about the card, please contact J1 SIM or Campus SIMs directly.

EMERGENCY CONTACT:

If you are experiencing a health or safety emergency outside of normal business hours, call: **(858) 534-4357**

URGENT REQUESTS:

Submit any urgent requests via our iContact.usd.edu page or call our Main Officephone during normal business hours (Monday to Friday, 9am – 4pm). **(858) 534-3730**

PRINT THE
EMERGENCY CARD

IMMIGRATION DOCUMENTS AT A GLANCE

FORM I-20 (F-1 STUDENTS) OR FORM DS-2019 (J-1 EXCHANGE VISITORS)



This document is included within this packet. It reflects your program information and is indicative of which visa type you will begin your program in upon arrival to the U.S. Validate this form by taking the following steps:

- 1 REVIEW your Form I-20 or DS-2019 for accuracy. Take note of your Program Start Date.
- 2 SIGN and date the form at the bottom of page 1.
- 3 PAY SEVIS I-901 Fee to activate this document. Visit www.fmjfee.com to make this payment.



FORM I-94

Your Form I-94 is an online arrival and departure record. It shows when you last entered the U.S., in what status, and for how long you are permitted to remain in the U.S. Visit i94.cbp.dhs.gov to generate this document upon arrival.

PASSPORT



This document is issued by your country of citizenship. Ensure that this document has at least 6 months validity in the future.



U.S. VISA

This is a page located within your passport. A U.S. Visa is issued by a U.S. Consulate outside the U.S. upon approval of an F or J Visa. You'll need a valid and unexpired visa each time you seek entry into the U.S. If you have a valid F-1 or J-1 visa, you do not need to re-apply for the F-1 or J-1 visa.

ISPO NOTE: Citizens of Canada do not require an entry visa but must present the Canadian passport, UC San Diego Form I-20 or Form DS-2019, financial statements and proof of payment of the SEVIS fee when entering the U.S. from Canada.

UC San Diego

International Students & Programs Office

Our team of expert staff **supports and guides** international students with their academic and personal **goals**, successful transition to campus and student life, and **meaningful engagement** with the university and local community.

Highlights

8th

LEADING U.S. INSTITUTION FOR HOSTING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

UC San Diego is ranked #8
among U.S. institutions.
(2020 Open Doors Report by the
Institute of International
Education)

18th

BEST UNIVERSITY IN THE WORLD

UC San Diego ranks 18th Best
University in the World based
on the 2020 Academic Ranking
of World Universities (ARWU)
by the Center for World-Class
Universities at Shanghai Jiao
Tong University in China.

Other rankings include:

- 8th Best Public University
in the USA
(2020 US News & World Report)
- 21st Best University
in the World
(2021 US News & World Report)

6th

TOTAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURES IN THE U.S.

With \$1.45 billion received
in sponsored research support,
UC San Diego ranks #6 in the
U.S. and #2 among all
University of California
campuses.
(2019 National Science Foundation)

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[iStudents.ucsd.edu](https://istudents.ucsd.edu)

MONDAY - FRIDAY: 9am - 4pm

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Global Education

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21 Professional Staff
10 Student Staff



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