We are pleased that you have chosen to be part of the UC Irvine campus community where you will join international students and scholars representing 86 different countries. We encourage you to share your culture, experiences and perspectives. Your contributions will enhance the experience of everyone at UCI.

Throughout your time at UCI, you will have many opportunities to meet and connect with others. The relationships you develop will help you build a sense of community and will make your experiences at UCI most enjoyable, and the friendships you will make during your college years may last a lifetime.

If you need help in making connections with others, a good place to start is with the International Center’s activities and programs, such as the English Conversation Program (ECP) and the International Student Transitioning to Educational and Personal Success (I-STEPS) course, see page 11. International students have reported these programs have helped them gain confidence to make new friends!

Become familiar with the International Center’s services and programs on page 11. We are looking forward to meeting you!

Welcome and best wishes, may your time at UCI be fulfilling and enjoyable.

Sincerely,
Anna Carrera Wimberly, M.S.
Director, International Center
Transitioning to Irvine
Moving to a new place can be very exciting! Adjusting to American culture, the culture in California and the UCI community may take some time. Some of the initial challenges international students experience is cultural misunderstanding in the following areas: dating, the casual style of dress, the emphasis on self-reliance and independence, and the seemingly impersonal manner of people toward one another.

The International Center and the Office of Student Life & Leadership have numerous programs and events that will help you understand life and culture at UCI.

International Center: www.ic.uci.edu
Student Life & Leadership: www.studentlife.uci.edu

As you become more familiar with your new surroundings you will discover commonalities and differences between your home country and the U.S. You are encouraged to maintain your own standards and values, and be aware that there may be times when it will be more appropriate to conform to the customs of the people among whom you are living. Experience and familiarity will help guide you.

Remember to always be yourself, friendly, relaxed, and open to learning about American customs and teaching others about your culture and country!

Orange County – “The OC”
UC Irvine is located in Orange County, California. The OC is located between Los Angeles County and San Diego County, two of the biggest and most popular cosmopolitan areas in the United States.

Irvine is a diverse city with a population of over 200,000. Many languages are spoken and many ethnic restaurants and establishments are found to meet everyone’s cultural preferences. For more information about the City of Irvine visit their website at www.cityofirvine.org. You will find information about events, recreation, festivals and much more.

Weather
Southern California has enjoyable weather almost year-round. The warmest month of the year is August with an average maximum temperature of 85°F/29°C while the coldest month of the year is December with an average minimum temperature of 40°F/4°C. It is helpful to dress in layers. Some days, especially during the winter and early spring, mornings and evenings will be cold and the weather can get warm rapidly toward the middle of the day. Wearing layers of clothing will allow you to quickly make adjustments in your apparel for comfort throughout the day. Rainy season in Southern California runs from November through March/April.
ORIENTATION PROGRAMS

Orientation programs are the first step to success at UCI. The information you receive will be important for your successful academic and personal transition.

UNDERGRADUATE FRESHMEN STUDENTS orientation.uci.edu

The Student Parent Orientation Program (SPOP) is offered many times each summer in July and August for new freshmen students and their parents/guardians. Orientation is mandatory for all incoming freshmen.

- International freshmen who attended high school in the United States are encouraged to attend SPOP.

The International Student Orientation (ISO) is designed for new international freshmen. It will be held in late September.

- International freshmen who attended high school outside of the United States are required to attend ISO.

STUDENT VISA INFORMATION FOR FRESHMEN STUDENTS IN THE U.S.

- If you are transferring your SEVIS record from a U.S. high school, English or college preparation program and you are NOT traveling to your home country between the end of classes from your current school and start of classes at UCI, you are able to stay in the U.S. during the summer in F-1 status. This option will allow you to attend SPOP. You may travel outside the U.S. and return anytime during the summer months but you must return to the U.S. with an I-20 or DS-2019 from UC Irvine, not the one from your previous school.

TRANSFER STUDENTS orientation.uci.edu

The transfer experience at UCI should be positive and enriching, both academically and socially. The Transfer Success orientation seeks to promote this by exposing transfer students to the various resources and services available on campus. In addition, new students will have an opportunity to meet current UCI students and learn the “survival secrets” from the pros - current students! This is an optional program and does NOT include academic advising.

STUDENT VISA INFORMATION FOR TRANSFER STUDENTS

- If you will transfer in your SEVIS record from a U.S. college and you are not traveling to your home country between the end of classes at your current college and the beginning of classes at UCI, you are able to stay in the U.S. during the summer. This option will allow you to attend one of the Transfer Success dates. You may also travel outside the U.S. and return anytime during the summer months but you must return to the U.S. with an I-20 or DS-2019 from UC Irvine, not the one from your previous college.

GRADUATE STUDENTS grad.uci.edu/services/campuswide-orientation

- The Campuswide New Graduate Student Orientation helps new students navigate their graduate career at UC Irvine. This event, in addition to school/department-based orientations, covers common aspects of the UCI graduate student experience, including sessions on graduate support services (such as programs offered through the Graduate Resource Center), as well as important administrative topics (like health insurance). This event will give new students the opportunity to connect with fellow grad students from other disciplines across campus.

- The New International Graduate Student Orientation helps new international students navigate their graduate career at UC Irvine. This event, in addition to school/department-based orientations, covers common aspects of the UCI international graduate student experience. Sessions include graduate support services as well as important administrative topics. This event gives new international graduate students the opportunity to connect with fellow international students from other disciplines across campus.
IMMIGRATION INFORMATION

YOUR DATE OF ENTRY INTO THE U.S.
You can enter the U.S. up to 30 days before the start date stated on your I-20 or DS-2019.

F-1 OR J-1 IMMIGRATION STATUS
Once you are admitted to UCI, the International Center issues a certificate of eligibility called I-20 for F-1 students and DS-2019 for J-1 students. This certificate of eligibility (also known as visa document) must be used to apply for a student visa at a U.S. Consulate or Embassy. After your student visa is issued, you can make plans to come to the U.S. (Note for Canadian citizens: a student visa is not required but you must obtain F-1 or J-1 status when you enter the U.S.)

SEVIS
The Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) is a database system used by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (USCIS) and SEVIS-approved educational institutions to monitor students in F-1 and J-1 status. Your SEVIS number is printed on your I-20 or DS-2019 form.

APPLYING FOR AN F-1 OR J-1 STUDENT VISA
Required documents:
• I-20 (for F-1 Visa) or DS-2019 (for J-1 Visa)
• Nonimmigrant visa application form DS-160.
• A passport valid for travel to the U.S. and with a validity date at least six months beyond the applicant’s intended period of stay in the U.S.
• One (1) 2" x 2" photograph
• An MRV fee receipt to show payment of the visa application fee (for information visit the U.S. Embassy or Consulate website where you are going to apply for your F-1 or J-1 Visa).
• I-901 SEVIS fee receipt www.fmjfee.com
• Admissions Letter from UCI
• Financial documents
• Documents to demonstrate a connection to your home country

WHEN & WHERE TO APPLY FOR AN F-1 OR J-1 VISA
The International Center recommends you apply for your F-1 or J-1 visa once you obtain your I-20 or DS-2019 at a U.S. consular office in your home country. Apply early! Some visa applications may require further administrative processing. This can add several weeks to the process.

The International Center is unable to intervene on your behalf to speed up this process. The U.S. consular officer will determine whether you qualify for the student visa. No assurances regarding the issuance of visas can be given in advance. For U.S. Consular offices, visit www.usembassy.gov.

TIPS FOR YOUR VISA INTERVIEW

1. Ties to Your Home Country
Under U.S. law, all applicants for nonimmigrant visas are viewed as intending immigrants until they can convince the consular officer that they are not. Be prepared to show that you have reasons for returning to your home country that are stronger than those for remaining in the United States.

2. Speak Clearly
Keep it brief and in English. Because of the volume of applications received, all consular officers are under considerable time pressure to conduct a quick and efficient interview. Keep your answers to the officer’s questions short and to the point. Plan for the interview to be conducted in English and not in your native language.

3. Be prepared to explain your major and how it fits your future career plans
You should be able to explain the reasons you will study in a particular major and how studying in the U.S. relates to your future professional career when you return home.

4. Employment
Your main purpose in coming to the United States is to study, not for employment opportunities before or after graduation. While many students do work during their studies, such employment is incidental to their main purpose of completing their U.S. education.

5. Maintain a Positive Attitude
Stay calm and friendly throughout the process. Do not engage the consular officer in an argument. If you are denied a student visa, ask the officer for a list of documents he or she would suggest you bring in order to overcome the refusal, and try to get the reason you were denied in writing.
PREPARING FOR YOUR ARRIVAL

FOR STUDENTS OUTSIDE THE U.S. (NEW INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS)

1. **Review your I-20 or DS-2019.**
   Contact the International Center immediately at internationalcenter@uci.edu if a correction is needed.

2. **Pay the SEVIS fee.**
   The Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) www.fmjfee.com

3. **Contact the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate to schedule a visa appointment.**
   A list of consulates is available at www.usembassy.gov

4. **Gather documents needed for the visa interview.** Follow guidelines provided in this handbook and requirements specific to the U.S. Embassy or Consulate where you will have your interview. We recommend that you read Frequently Asked Questions on Student Visas at travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/study-exchange/student.html.

5. **Be prepared for your interview.** This will be a short conversation and a review of your documents. Be sure you are able to explain why you want to study in the U.S. and why this is important for your future career.

6. **Make travel arrangements AFTER you receive your visa.**

7. **Carry documents with you on the airplane.**
   Keep your I-20 or DS-2019, passport, student visa, admissions letter, SEVIS I-901 fee receipt and financial documentation with you when you travel. Do not put these immigration documents in your checked luggage. You will need to present these to a Customs and Border Patrol officer (CBP) when you enter the U.S.

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FOR STUDENTS ALREADY IN THE U.S. COMPLETING A TRANSFER OF THEIR SEVIS RECORD

1. **Review your I-20 or DS-2019.**
   Contact the International Center immediately at internationalcenter@uci.edu if a correction is needed.

2. **You do not have to pay the SEVIS fee again** if the SEVIS record from your previous school was transferred to UCI and your new I-20 or DS-2019 from UCI has your previous SEVIS record number.

3. **If you are traveling outside the U.S.**
   during the summer, you must use the I-20 or DS-2019 issued by UCI to re-enter the U.S.

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HELPFUL ONLINE RESOURCES

- Study in the States
  studyinthesates.dhs.gov/ive-been-accepted
- Paying for your SEVIS Fee
  studyinthesates.dhs.gov/paying-your-i-901-sevis-fee
- Applying for a Visa to Travel to the United States
  studyinthesates.dhs.gov/applying-for-a-visa-to-travel-to-the-united-states
- Get Ready to Go!
  studyinthesates.dhs.gov/get-ready-to-go
- Arriving in the United States
  studyinthesates.dhs.gov/getting-to-the-united-states

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Explore Southern California: Griffith Observatory
Upon arrival to the U.S., a U.S. Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) officer will review your immigration documents.

**DOCUMENTS NEEDED AT THE PORT OF ENTRY**
1. I-20 or DS-2019
2. Valid Passport
3. F-1 or J-1 student visa
4. Financial documents
5. Admissions Letter
6. I-901 receipt of SEVIS fee

**LAND BORDERS PORT OF ENTRY**
If you enter the U.S. by land, you will receive a paper form of the I-94. The I-94 card records your arrival and departure from the U.S.

**AIR AND SEA PORT OF ENTRY**
If you enter the U.S. by air or sea, your arrival will be recorded electronically, and you can print your I-94 at [https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov](https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov).

Traveling without all immigration documents needed to enter the U.S. might be reason to be denied entry. Entry to the U.S. is up to the discretion of the immigration officer at the port of entry.

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**Travel tip**

Carry your documents with you because you will need to have access to these important documents at the port of entry. Do not pack documents in checked baggage.

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**I-515A FORM**
If you are granted entry to the U.S. after coming with insufficient documentation, you may receive an I-515A Form at the time of entry; which allows you to stay in the U.S. for 30 days. If you receive an I-515A form, you MUST come to the International Center to meet with an advisor.

**BIOMETRIC PROCEDURE**
At the Port of Entry you should expect to experience U.S. VISIT’S biometric procedure: a digital, inkless finger scan and digital photograph.

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**FOR CANADIAN CITIZENS**

Canadian citizens do not need to apply for a visa at a U.S. Consulate, but must enter the U.S. in F-1 or J-1 status.

Canadian citizens will need the following to enter the U.S. as students:

- Canadian passport
- The original I-20 or DS-2019
- I-901 SEVIS fee payment
- Financial documents
- Proof of ties to Canada

After successful entry to the U.S., Canadian international students must complete the International Center check-in process, [iNavigateUCI](page 9).

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**VISA & SEVIS FEES**

**NONIMMIGRANT VISA APPLICATION PROCESSING FEE**
[travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/fees/fees-visa-services.html](https://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/fees/fees-visa-services.html)

**Visa Issuance Fee:** If the visa is issued, you may need to pay an additional visa issuance reciprocity fee. Please consult the visa reciprocity table at [travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/fees/reciprocity-by-country.html](https://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/fees/reciprocity-by-country.html)

Once you obtain your new I-20 or DS-2019 from UCI, consult the “Who pays – or does not pay – the I-901 SEVIS fee and when is it paid?” page: [www.ice.gov/sevis/i901/faq](http://www.ice.gov/sevis/i901/faq)
WHEN YOU ARRIVE

AIRPORT TRANSPORTATION

There are 3 major airports near UCI:
- **Los Angeles International Airport (LAX)**
  44 miles (71 km) from UC Irvine
- **John Wayne Airport (SNA)**
  Less than 4 miles (6 km) from UC Irvine
- **San Diego Airport (SAN)**
  83 miles (132 km) from UC Irvine

All airports have ground transportation options such as shuttle service, public transportation, taxis, etc. We recommend you make arrangements to travel from the airport to UCI prior to arriving in the U.S.

- **LAX:**
  www.lawa.org/welcome_lax.aspx?id=132
- **SNA:**
  www.ocair.com/groundtransportation
- **SAN:**
  www.san.org/Parking-Transportation

LAND TRANSPORTATION

If you are traveling by land from other parts of the U.S.:

- **Amtrak (train):** www.amtrak.com
  Drop-off in City of Irvine
  Need to take a taxi to UC Irvine

- **Greyhound (bus):** www.greyhound.com
  Drop-off in City of Santa Ana
  Need to take taxi to UC Irvine

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS IN IRVINE & NEARBY CITIES

The UC Irvine vicinity has numerous accommodation options. The following rates are subject to change without notice. Contact the hotel in advance to confirm rates, availability and amenities. When making the reservation let the hotel know that you are coming to UCI. Make your reservation early.

- **Atrium Hotel**
  18700 MacArthur Blvd.
  Irvine, CA 92612
  Fax: 949-757-0330
  Tel: 949-833-2770
  UCI Rate: $95
  Complimentary shuttle from SNA and there is a shuttle to UCI campus.
  Complimentary internet and breakfast.
  www.atriumhotel.com

- **Ayres Hotels and Suites**
  325 Bristol St.
  Costa Mesa, CA 92626
  Fax: 714-549-3741
  Tel: 714-429-9372
  UCI Rate: $99
  Complimentary shuttle from SNA and there is a shuttle to UCI campus.
  Complimentary internet and breakfast.
  www.ayreshotels.com

- **Holiday Inn Express – Costa Mesa**
  2070 Newport Blvd.
  Costa Mesa, CA 92627
  Tel: 949-631-6000
  UCI Rate: $89
  Complimentary internet and breakfast.

- **Travelodge – Orange County Airport**
  1400 Bristol St.
  Costa Mesa, 92626
  Fax #: 714-557-9164
  Phone #: 714-557-8700
  UCI Rate: $62
  Complimentary shuttle from SNA and there is a shuttle to UCI campus.
  Complimentary internet and breakfast.
  www.travelodge.com

YOUR NEW ADDRESS

Carry your new address information with your immigration documents when you travel because you will need the specific address of your destination.
As an international student you are required to comply with the immigration laws and regulations of the United States. As a student in F-1 or J-1 status, you are responsible for learning, understanding, and complying with the U.S. laws and regulations that apply to you. Your failure to be aware of and comply with these requirements could jeopardize your academic plans.

Soon after arrival to the U.S. you must complete the required iNavigateUCI: International Center Visa Check-In. This is part of your requirements to maintain legal visa status in the U.S.

iNavigateUCI will provide you with required information to help you understand your visa status requirements and responsibilities to maintain legal student visa status. You will also be introduced to resources and services available to you from the International Center.

As part of iNavigateUCI you will need to provide information required by the U.S. government in order to keep your SEVIS record valid and for you to be in compliance with visa regulations.

After reviewing the informational part of iNavigateUCI you are required to provide the following:

1. Your address of where you live in the U.S.
2. A copy of your I-94 document (arrival document)

It is possible for you to start iNavigateUCI while still in your home country; however reporting your address and providing a copy of your I-94 must be done AFTER you arrive to the U.S.

You must complete iNavigateUCI by the deadline depending on your start date of your visa document. If you do not complete iNavigateUCI by your deadline you will not be in compliance with visa status regulations and you run the risk of losing your legal status in the U.S.

### iNavigateUCI Deadlines:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic Term</th>
<th>Visa Document Start Date</th>
<th>iNavigateUCI Deadline</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Summer Session 1</td>
<td>06/26/2017</td>
<td>June 30, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Session 2</td>
<td>08/07/2017</td>
<td>August 11, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall Quarter Start Date</td>
<td>09/25/2017</td>
<td>September 29, 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winter Quarter Start Date</td>
<td>01/03/2018</td>
<td>January 10, 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spring Quarter Start Date</td>
<td>03/28/2018</td>
<td>April 4, 2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The UCI International Center is your only source for visa information.

For questions about the International Center Visa Check-In process, contact the IC at 949-824-7249 or internationalcenter@uci.edu.
TRAVEL & U.S. RE-ENTRY

TRAVEL SIGNATURES
Each time you travel out of the U.S., you need to have a valid travel signature. You can request a valid travel signature by completing a Travel Form (www.ic.uci.edu/General/travel.php).

To request a travel signature on your I-20 (F-1) or DS-2019 (J-1) you will need to drop-off a Travel Form and your I-20/DS-2019 at the International Center. You can submit your documents any time during International Center office hours Monday through Friday 8 am to 5pm (except holidays). You will then wait 5 business days, and pick-up your signed I-20/DS-2019 with a Photo ID at the IC.

ENTRY VISA TO ANOTHER COUNTRY (NOT THE U.S.)
If you plan to visit another country (other than your home country) you must contact that country’s embassy or consulate for information about entry requirements. Each country has specific requirements for entry that are different depending on your citizenship status and residency status. Before you make any travel plans be sure that you are informed of these requirements. A list of foreign consular offices in the United States is available from the U.S Department of State.

AUTOMATIC VISAA REVALIDATION
International students who have maintained their student status are allowed to re-enter the U.S. after a visit to Canada, Mexico or adjacent islands with an expired student visa, if the following conditions are met:

- The travel is for less than 30 days.
- You have a valid F-1/J-1 status in the U.S.
- Your I-20/DS-2019 is valid (if you are on your grace period after program completion, Automatic Visa Revalidation does not apply).
- You have a valid travel signature on your visa document (I-20/DS-2019).
- You have a valid admission stamp on your electronic or paper Form I-94 Arrival/Departure Record.
- You have a valid passport.

In some situations, you will not be able to use the Automatic Visa Revalidation option. If any of the following situations below apply to you, you will need to apply for a new U.S. visa to re-enter into the U.S.:

- You applied for a new visa which has not yet been issued;
- You applied for a new visa and it was denied;
- You have been outside of the United States for more than thirty days;
- You have traveled to a country other than Canada, Mexico, or an adjacent island which is not included in the automatic revalidation provisions;
- You are a national of a State Sponsors of Terrorism designated country, including Iran, Syria or Sudan.
- You are in possession of an F student visa or J exchange visitor visa and have traveled to Cuba;

The International Center website has specific instructions on these processes, required forms and business hours: www.ic.uci.edu
I-STEPS (International Students Transitioning to Educational and Personal Success)
Fall and Winter Quarters

I-STEPS is a 10 week class for new international students. Program includes workshops and discussions about resources to succeed academically and socially at UCI. I-STEPS assists students in transitioning to a new campus and new country with the support of staff members and their international peers. Topics include: understanding U.S. classrooms, American slang, time management, getting involved in campus organizations and more!

English Conversation Program (ECP)
Fall, Winter and Spring Quarters

ECP is a course that provides international students the opportunity to practice and improve their conversational English with the assistance of English-speaking facilitators. This course is offered throughout the year.

English facilitators assist international students by improving their English conversation skills through one-on-one pairings, group activities and more. ECP is an opportunity for both international students and English facilitators to further their cultural insight, build relationships, and recognize the value of our diverse campus community.

International Coffee Hour
In collaboration with the Counseling Center
Every Friday, 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Counseling Center

International Coffee Hour is a weekly event where students from all over the world engage in casual conversations while enjoying brewed coffees and teas from different countries. This program is co-hosted by the Counseling Center.

English Development Workshop Series
In collaboration with Academic English

These workshops are geared to assist international students by enhancing their speaking and academic writing skills in the English language. Sessions are hosted by representatives from Academic English.
LIFE AT UC IRVINE

HOUSING

STUDENT HOUSING ON CAMPUS
UCI offers housing options for all new incoming international freshmen, transfer and graduate students. There is an online application process and you must meet the deadlines. The Student Housing website has detailed information about what to do and when to apply for housing on campus. www.housing.uci.edu

The International Center encourages you to review the Student Housing information as soon as possible to be able to meet their deadlines should you decide to live on campus.

• Graduate students: housing.uci.edu/grad
• Undergraduate students: www.housing.uci.edu/apply/How_To_Apply.html

OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING
If you decide to live off campus, the Student Housing office can assist you. www.housing.uci.edu/och

CHILDCARE SERVICES
For childcare services information in Irvine, contact UCI Childcare Services at www.childcare.uci.edu prior to your arrival to UCI to make arrangements.

TRANSPORTATION

ON AND NEAR CAMPUS
Anteater Express provides transportation services from UCI to nearby locations. Visit their website for more information: www.shuttle.uci.edu.

Additional UC Irvine transportation resources:
www.parking.uci.edu/AT

The Orange County Transportation Authority
Visit www.octa.net/default.aspx, an online resource with up-to-date transportation information. The Plan My Bus or Rail Trip link makes your planning easy. This site will also recommend using Google Maps to plan your trip.

CELL PHONES

OBTAINING A CELL PHONE
Obtaining a cell phone is a process that involves comparing costs between cell phone providers and deciding on a plan that includes the services you need.

Most cell phone providers will ask for a cash deposit for new clients who do not have credit history in the U.S. and a Social Security Number. Most cell phone contracts are for two years. However, some cell phone providers have month by month plans where you pay up-front each month. The best way to find a company that fits your cell phone needs is to compare cell phone companies’ options and plans.

Cell Phone Providers Near UC Irvine:
• AT&T: 949-622-8240
  17675 Harvard Ave. Suite B., Irvine, CA 92614
• T-Mobile: 949-251-1576
  3995 Alton Pkwy. Suite B., Irvine, CA 92606
• Metro PCS: 949-646-8921
  2200 Harbor Blvd. E-160, Costa Mesa, CA 92627
• Verizon: 949-450-1050
  71 Fortune Dr. #934, Irvine, CA 92617

UC IRVINE IS A SMOKE-FREE & TOBACCO-FREE CAMPUS

The University of California is smoke-free including on-campus housing communities. For more information about the implementation of this all-UC policy, please visit www.fm.uci.edu/programs/smoke-free/index.html

Explore Southern California:
Griffith Observatory
DRIVING IN THE U.S.
If you plan on driving in California, you must obtain a California Driver License from the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). You must complete iNavigateUCI (International Center Check-In process) before you apply. You will need to present your passport, I-20, DS-2019 visa document, and I-94 document. You will be required to take a driving and written test. It is highly encouraged that you schedule an appointment in advance by visiting: www.dmv.ca.gov/portal.dmv

HELPFUL HINTS
• Wait 10 days after checking in with the International Center to apply for a driver license
• Review the Driver License Handbook (available in various languages) www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/dmv/detail/pubs/pubs

Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) near UC Irvine:
• Costa Mesa, 650 W. 19th Street
  Costa Mesa, CA 92627
• Santa Ana, 1330 East First Street
  Santa Ana, CA 92701
• Laguna Hills, 23535 Moulton Parkway
  Laguna Hills, CA 92653
For more information, visit the Department of Motor Vehicles website www.dmv.ca.gov

Car Registration
Cars driven in California must be registered through the Department of Motor Vehicles. Evidence of financial responsibility must be carried at all times in the vehicle. Most Californians maintain financial responsibility through insurance companies, which provide the policy holder (you) with an identification card as evidence of coverage. The card must state the insurance company’s name, address, period of coverage and policy number.

BANKING
OPENING A BANK ACCOUNT
After you check in with the International Center you will be able to take care of other important matters such as opening a U.S. bank account. Generally students open a bank account at banks near UCI. However, you must look around and make sure that the bank you select meets your banking needs.

Banks Near UC Irvine:
• Wells Fargo Bank: UCI Student Center Unit G202GB. Irvine, CA 92697. 949-823-9722
• Chase Bank: 4543 Campus Dr., Irvine, CA 92612. 949-854-8122
• U.S. Bank: 4100 Newport Place Dr., Suite 100 Newport Beach, CA 92660. 949-863-2499
• Bank of America: 2600 San Miguel Dr., Newport Beach, CA 92660. 949-760-4612

Documents Needed to Open a Bank Account
If you have a Social Security Number (SSN) or International Tax Identification Number (ITIN):
• Student F-1 or J-1 visa
• U.S. Driver’s License or U.S. ID Card

If you DON’T have a Social Security Number (SSN) or International Tax Identification Number (ITIN):
• Student F-1 or J-1 Visa
• Passport

Prior to opening a bank account, it is recommended that you obtain your UCI Student ID. Having your UCI Student Identification card may facilitate the process. You can obtain your UCI Student ID on campus at The Hill.

Talk to a bank representative about your banking needs and they will assist you in selecting the best bank account option for you. Always read the documents you are signing and ask for clarification for anything that you don’t understand. If needed, ask the bank representative if they have information printed in your language.
EMPLOYMENT ON CAMPUS
Employment on campus is permitted for all international students in valid F-1 or J-1 status. This work is limited to 20 hours per week during the quarter. Full time (anything more than 20 hours per week) is permitted during vacation periods.

For information for on-campus jobs visit the UCI Career Center at www.career.uci.edu. You will need to have your UCI net ID activated in order to look for jobs on campus through the UCI Career Center.

OFF-CAMPUS EMPLOYMENT FOR F-1
Off-campus employment may be permitted for students who have been in valid F-1 status for at least 9 months before obtaining authorization to work off-campus. Work authorization must be recommended by the International Student Advisor, and in some cases must be approved by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS).

OFF-CAMPUS EMPLOYMENT FOR J-1
Employment for J-1 students is called Academic Training. Student interested in Academic Training must schedule an appointment with an International Center advisor for information.

F-1 and J-1 students interested in working off campus must have approval before starting their work off campus.

Working off campus without authorization from the International Center or the USCIS is a violation of your student status.

GRADUATE STUDENTS WITH EMPLOYMENT ON CAMPUS
New graduate students expected to be employed by their academic departments as Graduate Student Researcher (GSR), Teaching Assistant (TA), Teaching Associate, Reader, Tutor or other acceptable title who need to apply for a Social Security Number (SSN) should plan to visit the hiring department to obtain a Social Security Student Verification Letter. www.ic.uci.edu/UCIDepartments/Departments.php

VOLUNTEER WORK
Volunteer work must be authorized. Schedule an appointment with an International Center Advisor to explore employment options for volunteer work.

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER
A Social Security Number is assigned to individuals who are authorized to work in the United States. All UCI employees must have a Social Security Number (SSN) to be employed. A receipt of application will be given to you when you apply for the SSN. You will need this for your hiring department. The issuance of the actual SSN card is about 30-45 days. You will receive your Social Security card in the mail.

The nearest Social Security Administration Office to UCI is located in Mission Viejo. The address is 26051 Acero Road, Mission Viejo, CA 92691. Please check website for office hours before visiting: www.ssa.gov.

Shuttle Service to Social Security Office
The International Center will offer shuttle service to the Social Security Administration Office for social security eligible students who are required to apply for a Social Security Number. The shuttle service will be scheduled for September 2015. This service includes a ride to the local Social Security Office, assistance from the International Center staff in the application process and coordination with the Social Security officials. Information about the schedule will be available on the International Center website, www.ic.uci.edu, in August.

F-1 & J-1 STUDENT STATUS EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS
www.ic.uci.edu/Students/F1Current/f-1.php
www.ic.uci.edu/Students/J1Current/j-1.php
ADJUSTMENT TO UCI AND THE U.S.
Once you settle in your new place in Irvine, you will find commonalities between your culture and the new culture you are living in. You might find food choices in Irvine interesting, you might also find familiar music, and may enjoy the weather. These are good indications that you are getting settled into your new environment. However, you may also discover differences.

If you are living in another culture different from your own, there may be times when you experience periods of frustration, anger, alienation, depression, or other reactions that come to be labeled as “culture shock.” Even students who come from other states in the U.S. might experience culture shock. Some degree of “shock” is inevitable and, some would argue, necessary for better adjustment. Each student reacts differently upon being in a new place with new food, music, customs, and culture.

Culture shock affects people in various degrees. Experiencing the above mentioned emotions is a normal adjustment process, and you should not feel bad, guilty, or inadequate as you adjust to your life at UCI.

CULTURAL ADJUSTMENT
Many experts agree that at first you may find your new situation a bit confusing. You may also find it to be exhilarating: a time of new experiences, sights, sounds and activities. The initial period of settling in often seems like an adventure with so much to learn and absorb in the new culture.

During this time, you may tend to look for and identify similarities between your home culture and U.S. culture. You may find that people seem really friendly and helpful. You may classify aspects of the culture that seem different or even unattractive as curious, interesting or “unusual.” As you become more involved in activities and get to know the people around you, differences rather than similarities may become increasingly apparent to you.

As these differences emerge, they may be troubling and sometimes shocking. Culture shock does not happen all at once. It is a feeling that grows slowly as you interact with other students, faculty and people in the community.

COMMON SIGNS OF CULTURE SHOCK
• Extreme homesickness
• Desire to avoid social settings which seem threatening or unpleasant
• Physical complaints and sleep disturbances
• Depression and feelings of helplessness
• Difficulty with coursework and concentration
• Loss of your sense of humor
• Boredom or fatigue
• Hostility toward the host culture

You can also try the following:
• Learn about and experience the new culture.
• Meet people and make new friends, both from your culture and other cultures, including Americans to help you better understand and exchange cultural similarities and differences.
• Expect that there will be similarities and differences.
• Stay in contact with family and friends at home. You can call, email, FaceTime or watch videos from your home country.
• Talk about what you are feeling with friends who are sympathetic of your situation, or contact an advisor at the International Center.
• Talking about these feelings will assist in overcoming negative feelings about your new environment.
• Take care of yourself: get plenty of rest, eat well, and maintain good hygiene.
• Exercise regularly. UCI’s Anteater Recreation Center (ARC) offers sports, gym, exercise, and leisure activities. You do not have to pay extra to use this facility, it is already included in your tuition and fees.

SETTLING IN

UCI Counseling Center

If you are having a difficult time with your transition or adjustment to UCI, please know there are many campus resources that can help. If you need help, reach out to the International Center, your academic unit and other campus support services. Become familiar with the services, resources and workshops offered through the Counseling Center. A great way to learn about them is to attend the weekly International Coffee Hour hosted by the UCI Counseling Center.

The Counseling Center is the primary counseling and mental health agency for UCI students. They provide individual, couples and group and family counseling. Contact information for the Counseling Center, 203 Student Services I, (949) 824-6457, www.counseling.uci.edu.
BIKE SAFETY
bike.uci.edu
If you plan to use a bicycle for transportation, you must be aware of rules and regulations related to bike safety.

BLUE LIGHT PHONES
Blue light telephones are emergency telephones located throughout campus and provide direct communication to the UCI Police Department. Use the phones to report crime, fire or medical emergencies 24 hours a day. There are over 185 blue light phones on campus that can be easily identified on a UCI campus map by a diamond shaped symbol.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
In cases of an emergency, it is important to be aware of a building’s secure-in-place or evacuation plan. Secure-in-Place notifications will be issued to the campus in cases of a potential threat to the campus that require you to remain indoors. In a situation where building evacuation is required, become familiar your surroundings and available exits from your location.

EMERGENCY RESOURCES
In a health or safety emergency, dial 9-1-1.
911 is the phone number you call to contact an emergency operator. This person will help you get the emergency assistance you need. This emergency number can be used from any phone in the United States. If you are on campus, you can contact the UCI Police Department by calling (949) 824-5223.

We recommend you program the UCI Police Department phone number into your cell phone.

FREE SPEECH
freespeech.uci.edu
UC Irvine recognizes the rights of individuals to engage in constitutionally protected free speech and maintaining public safety. The UCI Police Department supports and enforces the UCI codes and regulations governing the time, place, and manner for the exercise of free speech and public assembly.

THEFT
Always keep your personal property safe. It is possible that theft of personal property may occur in different areas of campus. It is important to lock the door to your residence at all times, even when sleeping. Many students choose to purchase locks for items of value, such as computers.

FIRE SAFETY
Make note of the closest exit wherever you are located.
If you experience a fire-related emergency, such as: cooking accidents, overloaded power strips or exposure to open flames, stay safe and call 9-1-1 for help. Use a fire extinguisher if one is available and you know how to use it, and only if it is safe to do so.

SAFETY ESCORT SERVICES
police.uci.edu/cso/index.html
The Community Service Officer (CSO) Safety Escort program is a free service provided to members of the UCI community as a safe alternative to walking alone at night.

For a free safety escort, call: (949) 824-7233 (SAFE). This service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

SEXUAL ASSAULT
www.care.uci.edu
soinfo.uci.edu
Sexual assault is physical sexual activity which occurs without consent of the other person. UCI CARE (the Campus Assault Resources & Education office) has several confidential support services to members of the UCI community who are impacted by sexual assault, relationship abuse, family violence and/or stalking.

UCI POLICE DEPARTMENT
The UCI Police Department provides the UCI community with the highest level of public safety and police services. They are committed to respecting human dignity and to understanding the needs and values of the UCI community. They maintain an environment that supports the well-being of students, faculty, staff and visitors at UCI.

(949)824-5223
410 E. Peltason Drive, Irvine, CA 92617
police.uci.edu
Get ready to get involved, learn, enjoy new experiences and have fun as you take advantage of all that UCI has to offer!

Below is a selection of the involvement opportunities through Student Life & Leadership. For complete information visit www.studentlife.uci.edu to gain more insight into campus life at UCI.

CAMPUS ORGANIZATIONS
www.campusorgs.uci.edu

More than 600 registered campus organizations offer opportunities to become involved outside of the classroom to enhance students’ overall collegiate experience. Find friends who share your interests, whether academic, environmental, multicultural, political, recreational, sport, religious, service, social, athletic, or in Greek fraternities or sororities.

CROSS-CULTURAL CENTER
ccc.uci.edu

Dedicated to creating and maintaining a socially just campus, fostering the cultural identities within our community and providing opportunities for intellectual exchange, student leadership development and community engagement.

GENDER EDUCATION INITIATIVE
sites.uci.edu/gendereducation

Program to provide a safe and welcoming space, to create a more supportive and inclusive campus climate that encourages the success of all students, staff and faculty regardless of sex or gender identity.

INTERNATIONAL CENTER
www.ic.uci.edu

Provides student visa advice support, programs, activities and resources to assist with a smooth transition to the U.S. and the campus.

LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS
studentlife.uci.edu/leadership/index.php

Opportunities to get involved as a leader at UCI, training to develop your leadership skills and ways to connect with other student leaders.

The Leadership Train website will help you find great leadership opportunities tailored specifically to your needs and desires.

LEBIAN GAY BISEXUAL TRANSGENDER RESOURCE CENTER
www.lgbtrc.uci.edu

Dedicated to providing a safe and welcoming environment for UCI’s diverse lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex and ally communities. Strives to develop an atmosphere of acceptance and wellbeing in which the campus community can support the academic mission of the university.

Welcome Week will take place on campus from September 25-27, 2017. Several events that showcase student clubs and organizations and student talent will create opportunities for new students to meet and interact. Learn how you can get involved on campus during the Anteater Involvement Fair, held on September 25, 2017 in Aldrich Park!
RESTAURANTS, GROCERIES & STORES
IN IRVINE AND NEARBY CITIES

INTERNATIONAL RESTAURANTS
Inexpensive: $        Moderate: $$        Expensive: $$$

• 85C Bakery Cafe
  2700 Alton Pkwy. Ste 123
  Irvine, CA 92606
  Taiwanese Bakery
  $

• A & J Restaurant
  14805 Jeffrey Rd.
  Irvine CA 92618
  Chinese
  $

• Annapoorna
  14450 Culver Dr.
  Irvine CA 92604
  Indian
  $

• BCD Tofu House
  2700 Alton Pkwy.
  Irvine CA 92606
  Korean
  $

• Blue Mediterranean Café
  3601 Jamboree Rd.
  Newport Beach CA 92660
  Mediterranean, Middle Eastern
  $

• Boiling Point
  14140 Culver Drive, Suite A
  Irvine, CA 92606
  Taiwanese, Hot Pot
  $$

• Capital Seafood
  85 Fortune Dr. #329
  Irvine CA 92618
  Chinese
  $

• Caspian Restaurant
  14100 Culver Dr.
  Irvine CA 92604
  Persian
  $

• Cha for Tea
  4187 Campus Dr.
  Irvine CA 92612
  Taiwanese
  $

• Chong Qing Mei Wei
  5406 Walnut Ave. Suite C
  Irvine CA 92604
  Szechuan
  $$

• Class 302
  18090 Culver Dr.
  Irvine CA 92612
  Taiwanese, Coffee & Tea
  $

• Cucina Enoteca
  31 Fortune Drive
  Irvine, CA 92618
  Italian, Pizza
  $$

• Curry House
  14407 Culver Dr.
  Irvine CA 92604
  Japanese
  $$

• Dhaba
  2222 Michelson Dr.
  Irvine CA 92612
  Indian, Halal, Pakistani
  $$

• Guppy Tea House
  2730 Alton Pkwy. #101
  Irvine CA 92606
  Taiwanese
  $

• Hen House Grill
  4515 Campus Dr.
  Irvine CA 92612
  Persian, Iranian
  $$

• India Cook House
  14130 Culver Dr.
  Irvine CA 92604
  Indian
  $

• Kaya Restaurant
  14120 Culver Dr.
  Irvine CA 92604
  Korean
  $$

• Le Diplomate Café
  4237 Campus Dr.
  Irvine CA 92612
  Vietnamese Sandwiches
  $

• Miyabi Shabu Shabu & Grill
  15435 Jeffrey Rd., Suite 119
  Irvine CA 92612
  Japanese, Hot Pot
  $$

• Natraj's Tandoori
  13246 Jamboree Rd.
  Irvine CA 92602
  Indian Buffet
  $

• Panini Café – Irvine
  3041 Michelson Dr.
  Irvine CA 92612
  Italian, Mediterranean
  $

• Pho Tasia
  5329 University Dr.
  Irvine CA 92612
  Vietnamese
  $

• S W Seafood & BBQ Restaurant
  5406 Walnut Ave.
  Irvine CA 92604
  Chinese
  $$

• Santouka Ramen
  14230 Culver Dr.
  Irvine CA 92604
  Japanese
  $

• Tokyo Table
  2710 Alton Pkway.
  Irvine CA 92606
  Japanese
  $$

• Urban Seoul
  2750 Alton Pkwy.
  Irvine CA 92606
  Korean-Mexican Fusion
  $$
INTERNATIONAL GROCERY STORES

- **99 Ranch Market**
  15333 Culver Dr., Irvine
  www.99ranch.com
  Asian grocery, fresh produce, bakery

- **Albertson’s**
  4541 Campus Drive
  Irvine, CA 92614
  Fresh produce, groceries, bakery, ethnic foods section

- **Assi Natural Market**
  4730 Barranca Pkwy., Irvine
  Grocery, ethnic food

- **H Mart**
  2600 Alton Pkwy., Irvine
  Korean market, food court inside

- **Halal Meat & Produce Market**
  14805 Jeffrey Rd. Suite E., Irvine
  Pakistani and Indian grocery store, food court

- **Irvine Ranch Market**
  2651 Irvine Ave., Costa Mesa
  Meat and deli section, quality produce

- **Mitsuwa Marketplace**
  14230 Culver Dr.
  Irvine CA 92604
  Japanese

- **Wholesome Choice**
  18040 Culver Dr., Irvine
  Fresh produce, bakery, meat and deli sections.

- **Zion Market**
  4800 Irvine Blvd., Irvine
  Produce really fresh and affordable, great place to get ingredients for Korean food.

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS & RETAIL

- **Daiso**
  14280 Culver Drive, Suite A, Irvine, CA 92604
  Discount Store, Basic Household Items and Snacks

- **Target**
  3750 Barranca Pkwy., Irvine CA 92606
  Household items, fresh grocery, pharmacy, clothing, linens, photo printing

- **Walmart**
  16555 VonKarman Ave., Irvine CA 92606
  Large department discount store offering food, household items and clothing.

SHOPPING CENTERS

- **Diamond Jamboree**
  Corner of Jamboree Rd. and Alton Pkwy.
  Large selection of places to eat.

- **Irvine Spectrum**
  71 Fortune Dr. Irvine, CA 92618
  A large outdoor shopping mall with a movie theater, ferris wheel and comedy club.

- **South Coast Plaza**
  3333 Bristol St., Costa Mesa, CA 92626
  Defines the luxury shopping experience with boutiques, personal service and upscale amenities.

- **The District**
  2437 Park Ave., Tustin, CA 92782
  Outdoor shopping mall with a good mixture of stores and places to eat.