

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA



Life whilst
studying at
the University
of California

TOPICS

- The UC system
- Academics
- Healthcare & Insurance
- Housing
- Student Life
- Student Support
- Finances

UC SYSTEM





UC DAVIS

- The northernmost UC campus
- Known for its agricultural research
- The only UC with a department of viniculture (winemaking)
- Many students use bikes to get around Davis and the surrounding areas



HOUSING

You are not guaranteed housing as an exchange student.

On campus

- Shared Dorm
- Meal Plan
- Resident Advisor
- Freshman

Off campus – plan for this

- Private accommodation i.e. apartment rentals (sometimes called community housing)
- Co-ops

HOUSING

- Residence Halls
- Private Campus apartments – The Atriums
- Tri-Cooperatives
- Community Housing – ASUCD Housing Office

<http://eap.ucop.edu/ReciprocalExchanges/Pages/Campuses/Instructions/Full2016/UCD.aspx>

STUDENT LIFE – CAMPUS FACILITIES

Study at Shields Library

Exercise at the ARC

- Free for students
- Rock climbing, martial arts, dance & more!

Grab some food at the Coffee House (CoHo)

Free admission to home sports games

- Largest student-spirit organization in the USA

Hang out in Memorial Union, or at the Arboretum



- 27 Intramural sport teams
 - Including inner tube water polo
- More than 650 societies
 - Student Government
 - Ethnic & Cultural organizations
 - Religious organizations
 - ...and more!
- The California Aggie newspaper
- KDVS student radio
- Picnic Day and Whole Earth
- Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts

STUDENT
LIFE -
ACTIVITIES

STUDENT LIFE - CAMPUS

- One of only three UC schools with a Division 1 football team
- Artistic campus environment
- Everybody cycles!



ACADEMIC LIFE

- Quarter system (3 x10 wk)
 - Plus Exams 'Finals' 1 week
- Grades A-F & GPA
- Marked on a curve
- Continuous assessment
- Attendance & contribution part of grade
- Exam questions more structured
 - Based around what is learnt in class not further reading

ACADEMIC LIFE

- More class time - 2-3 lectures per week
- Bigger class sizes
- Class sign-up
- US students complete General Education (GE) courses
- Lower division – basic classes
- Graduate course - options
- ‘Course readers’ & buying books
- Study groups
- TA’s & professor – student relationship
- Office Hours

HEALTHCARE

As a Reciprocity student, you will need to purchase a **compulsory HEALTH INSURANCE** for UCD, even if you have your own health insurance. It is extremely difficult to waive.

The cost is \$705 per quarter (2015-16 figures). There is a health centre on campus.

If you do not pay – you will not be enrolled.

All main services are offered, including general practice, sexual health, psychological and emergency services. You may sometimes have to pay a small fee for treatments



LOCAL AREA



STUDENT LIFE: CULTURE CLASHES

- People in the US tend to be more open and out-going.
 - Chances are the girl who bumped into you on the bus is just being friendly, not flirting.
 - Ladies, guys will be very forward.
- People sharing communal spaces tend to make conversation just because. Not responding is considered rude.
- Strangers will hold doors open for each other.
- If someone smiles to you on the street, smile back. This is a normal thing.
- We use the American style of eating (fork is held in the right hand), not the Continental.
- Pedestrians have the right of way.
- It's restroom (or bathroom), not toilet.
- "The customer is always right."
- Watch your language, please.
- We have a laid-back sense of style. Wearing sweats to class is perfectly acceptable.
- On the whole, we are big on manners.

DAY TO DAY LIVING

- Open an American bank account – they do not have overdraft options
- ATMs charge when not associated with your bank
- Still use swipe – so will have to sign!
- Sales Tax added on at till – in CA about 8.25-10%
- Tips – a 15-20% for service. Not leaving a tip is considered rude.
- If you have a student loan – you may want to have a parent be able to talk to the student loan company on your behalf – phone before you leave
- Cell phones – best option pay as you go. Costs to receive texts & calls!

WHAT DO I NEED?

- Visa, passport & photocopies
- Cash for first few days
- Clothes for all weathers – will be very hot in September but cold by December
- Electricals – lower voltage don't bring hairdryers, speakers etc.
- House essentials like sheets can be picked up cheaply
- There are places to find British goodies – but can be expensive so bring some with you (especially tea and biscuits!)
- Really think about what you need to bring with you – things can be inexpensive

USEFUL WEBSITES

<http://eap.ucop.edu/guides/reciprocity/Pages/default.aspx>

<http://eap.ucop.edu/ReciprocalExchanges/Pages/Discover-UC.aspx>

<http://eap.ucop.edu/ReciprocalExchanges/Pages/BeforeYouArrive.aspx>

<http://eap.ucop.edu/ReciprocalExchanges/Pages/resources.aspx>

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