

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

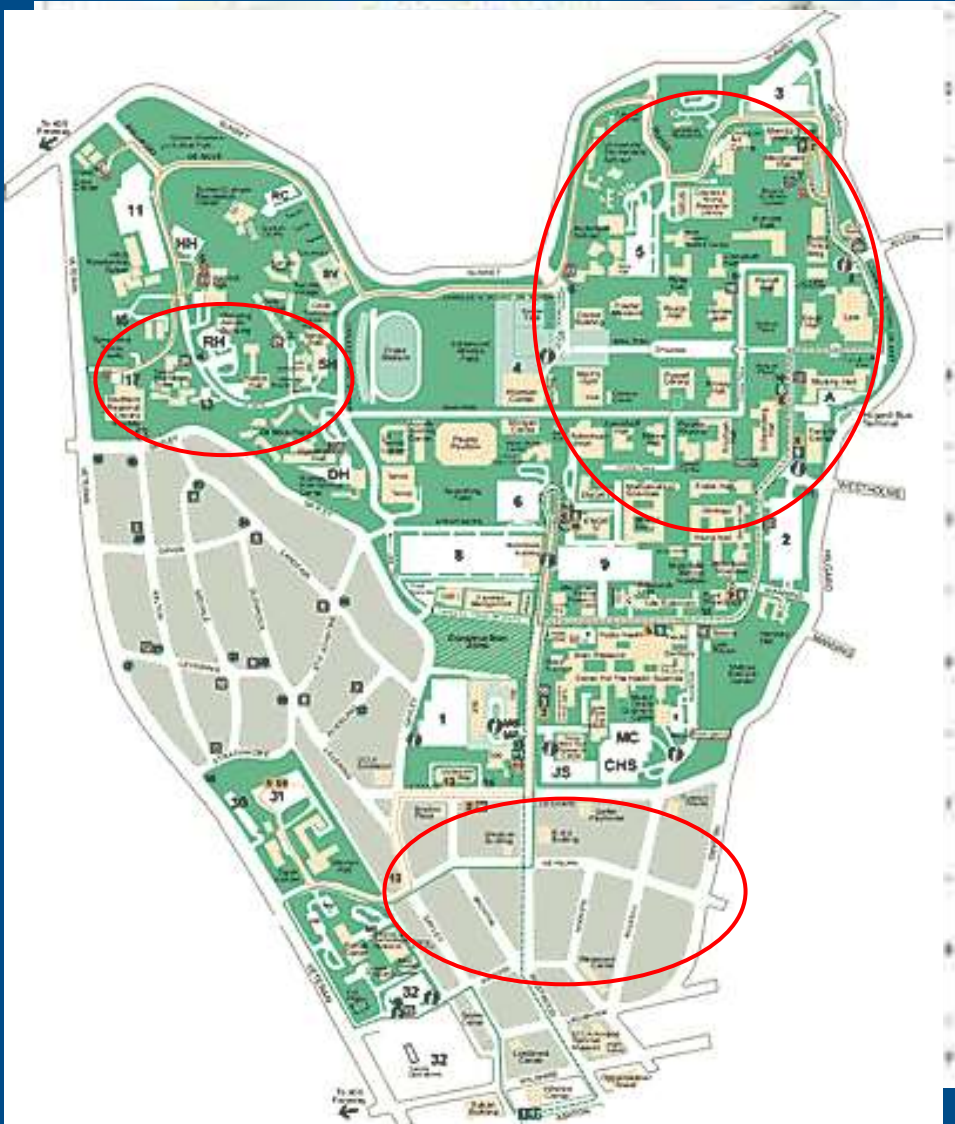
UC SYSTEM





UC LOS ANGELES

- Located between the beach and Beverly Hills
- Known for excellent sport teams and local rivalry with USC
- Often used as filming location for TV shows and movies
- More than 1,000 clubs & societies



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 & Apartments

Student Housing Cooperatives (UCEAP students have priority on waitlist)

Community Housing – CHO



STUDENT LIFE – CAMPUS FACILITIES

- Powell & YRL
 - But there are other options too!
- Work out at the Wooden Center & Sunset Rec – for free!
- Great food -options whether you're on a meal plan or not
- Study on and off the Hill
- Print at Student Activities Center & on the Hill
- Grab food and hang out at Ackerman
- Check out our on-campus museums and the library archives!
- On campus jobs available
- Dashew Centre – Bradley Hall – For all queries, SSN, Visa etc. – also offer great trips at reduced prices for international students

- Club & Intramural sports
- More than 1,000 societies
 - Enormous Activities Fair
- Daily Bruin, UCLA Radio, FPS
- Bruin Bash, JazzReggae Festival & tons of other events!
- Beat 'SC Bonfire, Inverted Fountain, Bruin Bear
- Social scene
- Den Pass!



STUDENT LIFE - CAMPUS



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.

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

HEALTHCARE

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

The cost is \$643 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



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
- Think about having a credit card, in a lot of places it is customary to pay by credit, you will find this useful also with accommodation fees
- Clothes for all weathers – it's not as hot as you think!
 - Berkeley- Bipolar weather
 - NorCal has greater variety of weather than SoCal
- Electricals – lower voltage don't bring hairdryers, speakers etc.
- House essentials like sheets can be picked up cheaply
- Few British Goods places, bring your own tea and biscuits?
- Really think about what you need to bring with you – things can be inexpensive
 - Exchange rate is in your favor!

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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