

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 SAN DIEGO



- The southernmost UC campus
- Located near the beach in La Jolla
- Known for scientific research, especially around climate change
- College system makes a big campus easier to navigate



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 (sometimes called community housing)

HOUSING

- I House – competitive, getting involved in clubs
- On Campus – joining undergraduate waitlist
- Off- Campus Housing



STUDENT LIFE – CAMPUS FACILITIES

- Libraries (Geisel; Biomed)
- 3 Gyms (FREE) including out/indoor pool
- Price Center – The Loft, Eat, Study areas
- Lounges in each colleges and Price Center
- Triton Cash
- Cafeterias linked to dorms/ colleges
- Porter's Pub
- Art Trail – Sun God



STUDENT LIFE -ACTIVITIES



- Sport clubs- Intramural
- Clubs/ Organizations – some links with I House
- UCSD Guardian
- Campus events such as Sun God, Spirit Week, (each college has one big event)
- Welcome Week (Meet the Beach, tours around San Diego)
- The Zone (many free activities, cheap surf lessons)
- Big Sports Game: Fall (Water Polo), Winter (Basketball)
- Finals week: Midnight Pancakes, free food, free massages, therapy fluffies

- 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.

STUDENT LIFE: CULTURE CLASHES

*On the whole, we
are big on manners.*

ACADEMIC LIFE

- Quarter system (3 x11 wk)
- Exams 'Finals' 1 week
- Grades A-F & GPA
- Can be 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 UCSD, even if you have your own health insurance. It is extremely difficult to waive.

The cost is \$611 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



- San Diego has population 1.4 million (8th largest city in USA)
- The campus is situated to the north of the city in La Jolla
- Blacks Beach is a short walk from campus
- The city has many beaches – La Jolla shores, the Cove, Pacific Beach, Mission Beach – each are unique
- Diverse food culture – cheaper eat out or take away (from any restaurant) - MEXICAN FOOD (Taco Tuesday)
- Many areas of San Diego – downtown, Gaslamp, Coronado, Fashion Valley, Balboa Park – museums and the famous San Diego Zoo!
- Padres and Chargers games
- Free Bus sticker & free shuttles round campus-safe rides. Bikes can be a good option.
- 2 hours to LA by train (goes along the beach)
- Make friends with people with cars
- UTC Mall, Ralphs, Trader Joes, Jamba Juice, Costco, Target – all great for food shopping

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 – it's not as hot as you think!
- 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!)
- 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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