



LET THE
JOURNEY
BEGIN

UC San Diego

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS
AND PROGRAMS OFFICE

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 journey as a new Triton.

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

ISPO offers a wide array of services and programs for international students and their families 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

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

Sincerely,



Your friendly staff at the
International Students &
Programs Office

UC San Diego
INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS
AND PROGRAMS OFFICE



next steps to take BEFORE YOU START CLASSES

APPLY FOR YOUR FORM I-20 OR DS-2019
[iPortal.ucsd.edu](https://iportal.ucsd.edu)

ENROLL IN COURSES & PAY TUITION and fees.

CHECK COURSE REQUIREMENTS for entry to the U.S.

COMPLETE HEALTH SCREENING requirements.

COMPLETE REQUIRED ONLINE TRAININGS including the **iTriton Online Training** and assigned College/Department Online Orientations.

SIGN UP FOR ORIENTATION and watch **pre-arrival webinars** to help you prepare for arrival.

FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH CAMPUS by visiting **maps.ucsd.edu** and taking the **virtual tour**.

ENGAGE! Follow us on social media



Explore UC San Diego

Connect with ISPO

Connect with other
International Tritons

next steps to take

PREPARING FOR ARRIVAL

Find out how to prepare for and what to expect upon arrival in the U.S. by visiting [iNewStudent.ucsd.edu](https://www.ucsd.edu/ispo/newstudent). Use this list to get started:

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

CHECK CURRENT TRAVEL [conditions and restrictions](#)

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.

ENGAGE: Head to [iEvents.ucsd.edu](https://www.ucsd.edu/ispo/events) to start engaging with the Triton community!



TRAVEL PLANNING TIP:

Remember to plan to arrive in the 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

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO ARRIVE

If you planned to physically travel to the U.S. to take classes for Fall 2023, but for some reason are unable to arrive, please follow these steps:

Contact your department (graduate) or college (undergraduate) to discuss your options for taking classes remotely.

If necessary, contact Admissions to request a deferral to a future term.

Visit [iPortal.ucsd.edu](https://www.ucsd.edu/ispo/portal) to request an adjusted started date on your form I-20 or DS-2019.

If you have on-campus housing, contact Housing, Dining, & Hospitality (HDH) to inquire about your options for adjusting your move-in date.



LET'S BE IN TOUCH!

Stay in touch with ISPO to get the latest news about immigration rules, fun things to do and much more.

[Download](#) the UC San Diego mobile app

[Subscribe](#) to our weekly newsletter

Follow us on social media



Add [iEvents.ucsd.edu](https://www.ucsd.edu/ispo/events) to your bookmarked tabs

next steps to take UPON ARRIVAL

Find out how to prepare for and what to expect upon arrival in the U.S. by visiting [iNewStudent.ucsd.edu](https://www.ucsd.edu/ispo/newstudent). 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](https://www.ucsd.edu/ispo/selfcheck)

ATTEND NEW INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ORIENTATION and meet your fellow international students and ISPO Staff. Visit [iOrientation.ucsd.edu](https://www.ucsd.edu/ispo/orientation) for more information about orientation.

[CONNECT](#) to new students



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!



IMMIGRATION DOCUMENTS AT A GLANCE

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



This document is provided to you by the iPortal after you complete your request. 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.

If experiencing difficulties at the U.S. port of entry,

contact us

GET ENGAGED



STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Getting involved is an important part of your student experience at UC San Diego. Student organizations are a great way to build your community and meet other students who share similar interests.

[Learn more](#)



INTERNATIONAL PEER COACHING

The International Peer Coaching Program is a collaboration between the International Students and Programs Office and the Student Success Coaching Program. The International Peer Coaches support incoming international students through a variety of different coaching programs and services. If you have a desire to get connected to campus, have a mentor who has gone through a similar experience, or would like support adjusting to American culture, you should sign up for the program today!

[Learn more](#)



GLOBALLY ENGAGED TRITONS (GET) CO-CURRICULAR RECORD (CCR) CERTIFICATE

The Globally Engaged Tritons (GET) Co-Curricular Record (CCR) Certificate allows UC San Diego students to earn credit on their [Co-Curricular Record](#) (CCR) for being involved in events on campus that promote the global engagement and internationalization of our campus. Globally Engaged Triton (GET) events allow students to highlight their own culture or learn about other cultures as well as allow students to develop their global leadership skills. [Learn more](#)



IEVENTS CALENDAR

Check out the iEvents Calendar for all events regarding global engagement and international community at UC San Diego!

iEvents.ucsd.edu

QUICK RESOURCE GUIDE



RETURN TO LEARN

For all updates on the COVID-19 pandemic and campus plans, learn more at ReturnToLearn.ucsd.edu



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. Learn more at parents.ucsd.edu



RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS WITH DEPENDENTS

[*The University of California San Diego \(UCSD\) Students With Dependents*](#) is here to assist students, who may identify as a student parent, caregiver, and guardian, in navigating the resources available to them on- and off- campus.



EMERGENCY CONTACT:

save the emergency card on your phone

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

If you are detained at a U.S. Port of Entry:

- During normal business hours: (858) 534-3730 (Monday to Friday, 9am – 4pm PT)
- 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 Office phone during normal business hours (Monday to Friday, 9am – 4pm): (858) 534-3730

Know the difference between Urgent Request vs. Emergency Request

UC San Diego

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND 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



LEADING U.S. INSTITUTION FOR HOSTING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

UC San Diego is ranked 8th among U.S. institutions. (2022 Open Doors Report by the Institute of International Education)



BEST PUBLIC UNIVERSITY IN THE U.S.

- 3rd Best Public University in the U.S. (Forbes 2022)
- 20th Best Global University (2022-2023 US News & World Report)
- UC San Diego ranks 21st Best University in the World based on the 2022 Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) by Shanghai Ranking Consultancy



TOTAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURES

UC San Diego received \$1.64 billion in sponsored research funding for FY2022 (July 1-June 30). This marks the 12th consecutive year the campus has earned more than \$1 billion in funding to support its extensive research enterprise.

See how ISPO positively shapes the international student experience in [ISPO's 2021-2022 Impact Report](#)

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iNewStudent.ucsd.edu

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