



LET THE **JOURNEY** BEGIN

UC San Diego

GLOBAL INITIATIVES

International Services and Engagement Office

iNewStudent.ucsd.edu

Congratulations on your admission to UC San Diego!

Dear New Triton,

The International Services and Engagement Office (ISEO) 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 nearly 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!

ISEO 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 ISEO Welcome Guide. This guide 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 beginning your program at UC San Diego, 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,



UC San Diego

GLOBAL INITIATIVES

International Services and Engagement Office

Your friendly staff at the
International Services and
Engagement Office



next steps to take BEFORE YOU START CLASSES

APPLY FOR YOUR FORM I-20
OR DS-2019
iNewStudent.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 ISEO](#)

[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/international-services). Use this list to get started.

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

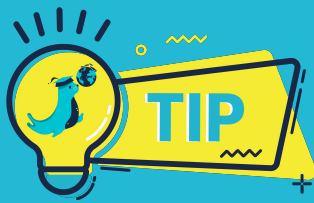
PLAN TO ARRIVE in the U.S. no earlier than 30 days prior to the program start date on your Form I-20 or Form DS-2019

CHECK CURRENT TRAVEL [conditions and restrictions](#)

CONFIRM HOUSING arrangements

CHECK START DATE on your Form I-20 or DS-2019

ENGAGE! Head to [iEvents.ucsd.edu](https://www.ucsd.edu/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 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 2025, but for some reason are unable to arrive, 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 [iServices.ucsd.edu](https://www.ucsd.edu/international-services) 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



The International Services and Engagement Office strongly recommends you wait to purchase flights or put deposits on housing, etc., until **AFTER** you have received your F-1 or J-1 visa stamp. If you must begin making financial commitments as you plan for your US arrival, we encourage you to seek refundable commitments as much as possible. **You are not eligible to seek entry to the US until you have received your visa.**

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. Use this list to get started.

HAVE YOUR IMMIGRATION DOCUMENTS PRINTED AND READY to present at the Port of Entry

PRINT ELECTRONIC FORM I-94 by visiting i94.cbp.dhs.gov

CLEAR CUSTOMS and enter the U.S. in F-1 or J-1 status

COMPLETE Document Self-Check at iSelfCheck.ucsd.edu

ARRANGE TRANSPORTATION TO CAMPUS using available transportation services (Rideshare, Shuttle, etc.)

CONNECT to new students



TRAVEL PLANNING TIP:

ISEO 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!

LET'S BE IN TOUCH!

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

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

Follow us on social media:



Add iEvents.ucsd.edu to your bookmarked tabs

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 ISEO 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.fmifee.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 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.

ISEO 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](#)



iPrograms

ISEO programs (iPrograms) are designed to support our international students, scholars, and families by creating opportunities for connection and community-building in a variety of ways. Be sure to check out our [Peer Mentorship Programs](#) too!

What is the difference between a program and an event? An event typically is a planned public occasion with a start and end time (e.g. Lunar New Year Celebration), while a program has more of an ongoing nature (e.g. For the English-in-Action program, participants may meet over the course of an academic year).



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 credits 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 at getccr.ucsd.edu



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

iUpdates



The International Services and Engagement Office (ISEO) is committed to being your resource for accurate and timely information. We will monitor developments in immigration policies and prepare for any potential impacts on our international community. Continue to monitor this page for immigration policy updates as well as specific guidance for UC San Diego's international students and scholars. [Learn more](#)

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 Parents & 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.ucsd.edu page or call our Main Office phone during normal business hours (Monday to Friday, 9am-4pm): (858) 534-3730

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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



#6 Best Public University in the nation in the 2024 Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU)



#3 among U.S. public universities by the 2025 U.S. News & World Report



#9 among all institutions worldwide and #1 among UC Campuses for Most Influential Researchers

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International Services and Engagement Office

iContact.ucsd.edu

MONDAY - FRIDAY: 9am - 4pm
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Global Initiatives

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