Welcome to UC San Diego:
Applying for your U.S. Visa
WELCOME
to UC San Diego!
Presenters

• Grace Fuller  
  o Manager of International Experience & Engagement  
  o International Services and Engagement Office (ISEO)

• Jessica Boyle  
  o International Student Advisor  
  o International Services and Engagement Office (ISEO)

• Mary Hogan  
  o Director of Graduate Admissions  
  o Division of Graduate Education and Postdoctoral Affairs (GEPA)

• Shana Slebioda  
  o Student Services Advisor  
  o Division of Graduate Education and Postdoctoral Affairs (GEPA)
Agenda

• Graduate Admissions Reminders
• Applying for your F-1 or J-1 visa stamp
• Approaching Deadlines & Reminders
• Upcoming Webinars & Additional Resources
• Q&A
Before We Begin

You are in listen-only mode. You can hear us, but we can’t hear you.

Ask questions – Use the Q&A feature to submit questions. You can also contact us at iContact.ucsd.edu

We’re recording. You’ll be able to view this webinar recording at iNewStudentWebinars.ucsd.edu
First Steps Checklist
• Log into your application account at https://connect.grad.ucsd.edu/apply/ and view your application portal. Be sure to fill out the Statement of Legal Residence form if it is listed as a "to-do" item. This form is not required for all programs – if it is not listed, there is no action for you to take on this.

• Most students are “provisionally admitted” at this time. Please submit the items listed under your “Pending Admissions Documents” section in your portal to finalize your admission.

• Please contact gradadmissions@ucsd.edu if you have questions regarding your pending admissions documents.
Welcome to your applicant portal,

Your UCSD PID is:

Status Update
An update to your application was last posted March 5, 2020.

View Update >>

Forms
Please complete the following forms:
- 03/05/2020 Decision Reply Form
- 03/06/2020 Statement of Legal Residence

Pending Admission Documents
Please have your documents sent to Graduate Admissions at the address listed below. Documents must be received in an envelope sealed by the issuing institution. Documents will not be accepted if opened or sealed by the student.

University of California San Diego
Graduate Division - Graduate Admissions
9500 Gilman Drive #0003
La Jolla, CA 92093-0003

For test scores and CGSC/CHESSIC documents: Please refer to the instructions provided in the Explanation ofPending Documents.

For e-transcripts: Please have them sent to gradadmissions@ucsd.edu.

If you have any questions, please email us at gradadmissions@ucsd.edu.

If you need to contact us regarding your application, provide your name and this reference number:

Verify Address
We have your addresses listed as follows:

Mailing Address

United States
Permanent Address: * Note:
international applicants
should have a permanent
address outside of the
United States.

Admitted Students
- What to Do Immediately
- Before You Arrive on Campus
- When You Arrive on Campus
- International Students
iNewStudent.ucsd.edu

NEWLY ADMITTED INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Welcome newly admitted international students! Follow the links below for advising guides based on your educational level or type.

UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS
Bachelor's students

GRADUATE STUDENTS
Master's and Ph.D. students.

EXCHANGE STUDENTS
University of California Education Abroad Program (UC EX) exchanges students & Global Exchange Program students.

SUMMER SESSION STUDENTS
Short-term students during only for summer session.

READMITTED STUDENTS RETURNING TO UC SAN DIEGO CLICK HERE

INFORMATION FOR NEWLY ADMITTED INTERNATIONAL GRADUATE STUDENTS

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What to expect at Customs, activating your F-1 or J-1 status upon arrival to UC San Diego, and International Student Orientation.

LEARN MORE
LEARN MORE
LEARN MORE
Applying for your U.S. Visa: F-1 and J-1 Students
01. Request and receive Form I-20 or DS-2019 from ISEO (required for SEVIS Transfer students too!)

02. Schedule visa interview (DS-160, pay fees)

03. Attend visa interview

04. Receive visa stamp and plan travel to U.S.

05. Arrive to the U.S. (apply for entry at Port of Entry)

06. Complete SEVIS Check-In to activate status
The Visa Process

01

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Arrive to the U.S. (apply for entry at Port of Entry)
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Schedule visa interview (DS-160, pay fees)

Attend visa interview

Complete SEVIS Check-In to activate status

Arrive to the U.S. (apply for entry at Port of Entry)

Receive visa stamp and plan travel to U.S.

TODAY!
The Visa Process

Request for your Form I-20 or DS-2019 by submitting the appropriate NEW ADMIT form in iPortal (iPortal.ucsd.edu).

Review instructions at iNewStudent.ucsd.edu under STEP 1.
Scheduling your visa interview
02 Schedule your visa appointment

Submit the DS-160: Online Nonimmigrant Visa Application

- AND -

Pay the SEVIS I-901 Fee
02 Schedule your visa appointment

Submit the DS-160: Online Nonimmigrant Visa Application

- Will include the $185.00 visa fee ("MRV fee")
- USembassy.gov --> Check your local U.S. embassy or consulate's website for specific instructions on applying for a NONIMMIGRANT visa, including payment instructions
Submit the DS-160: Online Nonimmigrant Visa Application

- Prepare required documents/information ahead of time per the instructions on the embassy/consulate's website
- Have your passport and Form I-20 or DS-2019 with you
- Takes approximately 1-2 hours to complete if prepared beforehand
School Contact Information
Name of the advisor listed on your Form I-20 or DS-2019
858-534-3730
istudents@ucsd.edu

Find this information under STEP 1 at iNewStudent.ucsd.edu
02 Schedule your visa appointment

Submit the DS-160: Online Nonimmigrant Visa Application

• Print the confirmation page with the barcode! You will be required to bring a printed copy to your visa interview.

• Following successful submission of your DS-160, you will be able to schedule your visa interview, pending appointment availability.

Print this page!
Schedule your visa appointment

Pay the SEVIS I-901 Fee

- Pay at least 3 business days before your visa interview
- Required any time you receive a new SEVIS ID number (open a new F or J record)
- F-1: $350 | J-1: $220
- Print the confirmation receipt page! You will be required to bring a printed copy to your visa interview
ISEO Tip

Citizens of CANADA and BERMUDA

❌ NOT required to apply for a F-1 or J-1 visa stamp

✅ Must still present a valid Form I-20 or DS-2019 to seek entry to the US

✅ Must still pay the SEVIS I-901 fee

For more information visit [travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov) and search "Citizens of Canada and Bermuda"
**The Visa Process**

1. **Request and receive Form I-20 or DS-2019 from ISEO (via iPortal)**
2. **Schedule visa interview (DS-160, pay fees)**
3. **Attend visa interview**
4. **Receive visa stamp and plan travel to U.S.**
5. **Arrive to the U.S. (apply for entry at Port of Entry)**
6. **Complete SEVIS Check-In to activate status**

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Visit [iNewStudent.ucsd.edu](http://iNewStudent.ucsd.edu) for more information.
Attend your visa interview
Attend your visa interview

What to Bring

- **Passport** valid for at least 6 months after your Program Start Date
- **Form I-20 or DS-2019**, printed and hand-signed
- **DS-160 confirmation page** (with the barcode)
- Proof of payment:
  - **Visa fee** ("MRV fee") if payment was required prior to your interview
  - **SEVIS I-901 fee**
- **Passport photo** if you were unable to upload as part of your DS-160
- **Proof of funding** documentation
- Documentation of home country address (**ties to home country**)

Adapted from Travel.State.gov, “Student Visa”
Attend your visa interview

What to Bring

*Other documents may be required or recommended!*

*Check the embassy or consulate’s website for a complete list of documents you should bring.*
Attend your visa interview

What to Expect

• The visa interview goes quickly
• Be brief and maintain a positive attitude
• Be ready to talk – the consular officer expects to have a (short) conversation with you
  o Your program of study and its connection to long-term career or life goals
  o Your source(s) of funding
  o Your ties to your home country
• Be prepared to have the entire interview conducted in English

Adapted from NAFSA’s "10 Points to Remember When Applying for a Student Visa"
03 Attend your visa interview

Visa Delays

- ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESSING
- DENIAL
Attend your visa interview

Visa Delays

ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESSING

• Special security clearance procedure lasting up to 60 days or more
• 221(g) letter indicating visa has been "refused"
• You may be required to submit additional documentation to consulate
• Please contact ISEO if you experience this (iContact.ucsd.edu)

DENIAL
**Attend your visa interview**

**Visa Delays**

** ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESSING **
- Special security clearance procedure lasting up to 60 days or more
- 221(g) letter indicating visa has been "refused"
- You may be required to submit additional documentation to consulate
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** DENIAL **
- Rare, but does happen
- In most cases, applicants can reapply
- Please contact ISEO if you experience this (iContact.ucsd.edu)
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4. Attend visa interview
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6. Arrive to the U.S. (apply for entry at Port of Entry)
Receive your visa stamp and plan travel to the U.S.
Obtaining your visa stamp

- Consular officer will collect your passport
- 1-2 weeks to produce and affix visa stamp
- Ask them how you can receive your passport back—may be mail or pick-up options
04 Receive visa, plan travel to U.S.

Obtaining your visa stamp

- Consular officer will collect your passport
- 1-2 weeks to produce and affix visa stamp
- Ask them how you can receive your passport back—may be mail or pick-up options

You now have the documents required to seek entry to the United States! Customs will require:

✓ **Passport** valid for at least 6 months after your Program Start Date
✓ **Form I-20 or DS-2019**, printed and hand-signed
✓ **F-1 or J-1 visa stamp** in your passport
Receive visa, plan travel to U.S.

Booking your travel to the United States

- Get your visa first!
  - We strongly recommend you wait to purchase travel until after you receive your visa stamp
Receive visa, plan travel to U.S.

Booking your travel to the United States

• 30-day entry rule
  ○ F-1 and J-1 students may enter the US no more than 30 days prior to the Program Start Date listed on their Form I-20 or DS-2019
Receive visa, plan travel to U.S.

Booking your travel to the United States

- 30-day entry rule
  - F-1 students: Look at the Earliest Admission Date field on your Form I-20
04 Receive visa, plan travel to U.S.

Booking your travel to the United States

- 30-day entry rule
  - J-1 students: Look at the "Form Covers Period:" box on your DS-2019 and calculate 30 days prior to the "From:" date (the "From" date is your Program Start Date!)
Receive visa, plan travel to U.S.

Booking your travel to the United States

- Plan for extra time at your first U.S. Port of Entry
  - We recommend you schedule 2-3 hours between connecting flights or when crossing a land border, to allow for SEVIS status verification at Customs
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Quick Recap: The Visa Process
The Visa Process

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Information for Newly Admitted International Graduate Students

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iPrograms

Redefining the world we know with one experience at a time.

iPrograms.ucsd.edu
Grad Pals Peer Mentorship Program
Follow us on Social Media!

UC San Diego International Services and Engagement Office
UC San Diego ISEO
@istudents.ucsd
@ISEOUCSD
IMPORTANT DEADLINES & REMINDERS

NOW
Apply for on-campus housing
Visit: hdh.ucsd.edu

NOW
Begin requesting your visa documents via the iPortal
Visit: iportal.ucsd.edu

May 1
Deadline to request your visa documents via the iPortal if your graduate program begins prior to August 1
Visit: iportal.ucsd.edu

July
Deadline to submit health immunization requirements and complete OPHD training
Register:
iNewStudentWebinars.ucsd.edu
Visit: iOrientation.ucsd.edu

Sept
Tuition due
Move-In Check-In
New International Student Orientation
Visit:
iOrientation.ucsd.edu
Upcoming Pre-Arrival Webinars

- March 21: Graduate Student Housing (*this Thursday!*)
- March 26: Student Health: Insurance & Immunization Requirements
- March 28: Graduate Student Funding
- April 02: TAships & TOEFL Requirements
- April 04: Student Life & Getting Involved on Campus
- May 02: Finances & Student Accounts Webinar
- May 03: SEVIS Transfers
- May 09: Campus Safety

All webinars will be recorded and posted at

iNewStudentWebinars.ucsd.edu
MONDAY - FRIDAY: 9am - 4pm
+1 858.534.3730
iContact.ucsd.edu

iNewStudent.ucsd.edu

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