

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS PRE-ARRIVAL INFORMATION

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Welcome – International Students

Now that you have been accepted at California Miramar University (CMU), you are likely to have numerous questions on what documents to bring, how much money, what to expect upon arrival in the U.S., etc. To help you prepare for your departure, please consult Education USA's excellent guide on pre-departure planning found at:

<http://www.educationusa.info/pages/students/planing>.

When Can You Arrive into the United States

Students can enter the U.S. no earlier than 30 days before the I-20 program start date. However, a student visa may be issued up to 120 days in advance of your course start date.

Documents for Entry into the United States

- Review your passport and visa to ensure they are still valid for entry. Your passport should be valid for at least six months past your expected stay.
- Check for the correct visa classification (F-1).
- Be sure your family/last name and first name are the same on both your passport and visa.
- Address of where you will be living in the U.S.

Documents You Should Carry on You

The following documents should not be put in your checked luggage:

- Passport
- SEVIS Form 1-20
- Receipt verifying payment of SEVIS Fee I-901
- Evidence of financial resources
- Transcripts

For more information on what to expect for arrival into the U.S., please go to:

<http://www.cbp.gov/travel/international-visitors>

Arriving at Your Port of Entry

Upon arrival into the U.S, all individuals are subject to inspection by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers. You will be asked to state why you are entering the U.S. and show your documents. Once you have completed the inspection, an electronic **I-94** Arrival/Departure Record is processed.



Welcome – International Students

Arriving at Your Port-of-Entry Continued

You will need to print your electronic I-94, or it can be done when you check in at CMU. The I-94 will be needed for your student file, Department of Motor Vehicles if you plan on obtaining a California driver license, Social Security Administration, and for Employment Eligibility Verification.

To print the electronic I-94 follow these steps:

- Access the Customs and Border Patrol website at <http://www.cbp.gov/I94>
- Type in the requested data to access your I-94
- Check that your information in the system is correct
- Print out 2 copies of the form—one for your student file and one for yourself

Additional information on the I-94 can be found at: <http://www.cbp.gov/travel/international-visitors/i-94-instructions>

Getting to CMU

All attempts should be made to fly into San Diego instead of Los Angeles (LAX) as it is costly to travel between LAX and San Diego. San Diego is located 112 miles (180 kilometers) south of Los Angeles. If you do decide to fly into LAX, you will need to take a commuter flight, bus, train, or shuttle to San Diego.

- **Shuttle Service** - Cloud 9 Shuttle, Prime Time Shuttle - \$282 - \$360 – reservations needed
- **Amtrak** – to reach Union Station, take the FlyAway bus from terminal 1 – fare is \$9.00
The bus leaves every half hour. Allow at least 35 minutes to reach Union Station.
Amtrak – one way fare from Los Angeles to San Diego is \$37.00
- **By Car** – CMU International Admission’s Office is located at 3550 Camino Del Rio N., Suite 208, San Diego, CA 92108. Telephone (858) 653-3000 x 22.
Directions: From LAX take the I-105 East to I-405 South to San Diego, continue and merge onto I-5 South and exit onto 8 East. Continue on 8 East and exit at Mission Gorge Road/Fairmount Avenue. Go under the freeway and make a left onto Camino Del Rio N. Drive for 1.2 miles. CMU is located on the right side.

Arrival into San Diego International Airport

San Diego International Airport is located downtown and is approximately 20 minutes from the CMU campus. Airport shuttles, taxis, and car rentals can be found at all terminals. If you have a hotel reservation in San Diego, some hotels provide complimentary shuttle services to and from the airport.



Welcome – International Students

Getting to CMU Continued

Meet and Greet

A representative from CMU will meet you upon arrival at San Diego's International Airport and transfer you to your hotel or housing. The fee for this service is \$60.00. Please advise of your flight arrival information at least 2 weeks before arriving.

Taxi service to the CMU area is approximately \$30 - \$35 plus gratuity. All taxis from the airport are registered, and the driver must charge the fare based on a standardized electronic meter. You may pay with cash or credit card.

Shared Shuttle Services to the CMU area is approximately \$22. Shuttle services:

- Cloud 9 – <http://www.cloud9shuttle.com>
- EZ Ride – <http://ezrideshuttle.com>
- Prime Time – <http://www.primetimeshuttle.com>

Health Insurance

Health insurance is **mandatory** and a copy of your insurance policy will be required when you register for your classes. You may purchase health insurance in your home country or you may purchase it when you arrive. CMU has an arrangement with International Student Insurance to provide inexpensive student health insurance. Their website is: <http://www.internationalstudentinsurance.com/explained>

Housing

You are responsible for your own housing arrangements as CMU does not offer student housing. Some suggestions for student housing:

- San Diego Student Housing – www.sandiego-studenthousing.com
- The Suites on Paseo – www.suitesonpaseo.com
- Vantaggio Suites – www.vantaggiosuites.com
- Kamo Housing – www.kamohousing.com
- Studio 819 – www.studio819.com
- DormBooker – www.dormbooker.com

The cost varies for a single bedroom or shared bedroom. However, expect to pay a minimum of \$600.00 per month. This may or may not include utilities-electric, water, and internet.



Welcome – International Students

Housing Continued

If you prefer to live with a host family, please contact:

- <http://san-diego.homestaybay.com/en>
- <http://www.sandiegohomestay.com>

The cost of a homestay varies and may or may not include meals.

Another option for housing is to stay in a hotel or hostel for a week upon arrival and then, look for a place to rent. If you choose this option, let us know and we can recommend a few hotels near the school.

Transportation

The San Diego Transit offers a monthly pass that is valid on all buses (except express buses) and the trolley. The cost is \$72.00 and can be purchased at all Trolley/Coaster/Sprinter station ticket vending machines. A map for the trolley, bus maps, and timetables can be found at:

- <http://www.sdmts.com/Trolley/Trolley.asp>
- http://www.sdmts.com/map_timetable.asp

Orientation – Registration

Prior to your arrival, you will be notified of your orientation date. During orientation, you will be provided with information regarding school rules, schedules, visa rules, banking, and other information to help you, while at CMU.

All new international students (including transfer students from other U.S. schools) must check in at CMU's International Program Center **within 15 days** of your program start date.

Failure to check in may result in the termination of your SEVIS record and loss of your F-1 status.

Maintaining Your Visa Status

If you change your residence while studying in the U.S., you **must** advise the Designated School Official (DSO) of your address change **within 10 days**.

For more information on maintaining your status, please see:

- <http://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/maintaining-your-status>



Welcome – International Students

About San Diego

San Diego has a mild climate. The average annual high is 70°F (21°C) and the average annual low is 58°F (14°C). More detailed weather can be found at:

- <http://www.currentresults.com/Weather/California/Places/san-diego-weather-averages.php>

San Diego offers amazing beaches, cultural events, historical sites, and sporting events. For more information, visit:

- <http://www.sandiego.org/articles/25-fun-free-things-to-do-in-san-diego.aspx>