



Undergraduate Exchange Program

Program Summary 2016/17

Greetings from the University of San Diego! We are pleased to partner with you in a student exchange. Please use this Program Summary to assist you in learning more about our institution and the exchange application process. You can also find this information on our website at <http://www.sandiego.edu/oiss>.

Mailing Address

International Center, Serra Hall 315
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5998 Alcalá Park
San Diego, CA 92110 U.S.A.



Contact

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About USD

USD is a private, coeducational, Roman Catholic institution situated on 180 acres overlooking San Diego's beautiful Mission Bay. For more than 50 years, USD has been dedicated to providing a values-based education rooted in the liberal arts. The university enrolls approximately 8,300 students who choose from more than 60 undergraduate and graduate degree programs. USD is known for its commitment to teaching and takes pride in the personalized approach it brings to the educational process.

Statistics (2015)

- Enrollment: Approximately 8,251 undergraduate, paralegal, graduate and law students
- Fall Entrants: 1,105 freshmen, 375 transfer students, 74 exchange students, 690 graduate students, 243 law students
- Demographics: 36% minority students, 7% international students
- Alumni: 65,088 living in all 50 states and 141 countries, with 63% living in California

Academic Organization

- College of Arts and Sciences
- School of Business Administration
- Shiley-Marcos School of Engineering
- Hahn School of Nursing and Health Science
- Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies
- School of Law (Graduate Only)
- School of Leadership and Education Sciences

Location

USD's Alcalá Park Campus

The 180-acre campus overlooks Mission Bay Aquatic Park with views of San Diego Bay and the Pacific Ocean. Close to business, cultural, residential, and recreational areas, the campus is near the air and rail terminals, and a city bus line runs right past the campus. The campus is named Alcalá Park after the Spanish university city of Alcalá where St. Didacus, from whom San Diego received its name, worked and studied.

The City

Known for many reasons as "America's Finest City," San Diego has an almost perfect climate with warm, sunny days and cool evenings. Throughout the year, students can take advantage of San Diego's many outdoor recreational and cultural opportunities. The museums of Balboa Park, the Old Globe Theatre, the world-famous San Diego Zoo, Sea World, beaches, opera, downtown San Diego and La Jolla, and the Mexican border are only minutes away. The rapidly developing economy of Greater San Diego provides varied employment opportunities for the USD graduate.

Directions and Maps: <http://www.sandiego.edu/visit/>

Academic Calendar & Application Deadlines

<http://www.sandiego.edu/academic-calendars/>

Fall Semester = August to December

Spring Semester = January to May

Term	Nomination Deadline	Application Priority Deadline	Application Final Deadline
Fall 2016	March 1, 2016	Not Applicable	March 17, 2016
Spring 2017	September 23, 2016	October 7, 2015	October 14, 2016

Meeting the Priority Application Deadline will give students priority during class registration. All application materials must be complete and accurate when submitted. *Incomplete applications will not be accepted.*

Application Instructions

We have recently implemented a new, simplified application that students will complete entirely online through our international student information system called iTorero. Students will be sent detailed application instructions and will upload scanned copies of all documents to iTorero, eliminating the need for partner universities to collect and ship application materials to San Diego.

Language Requirement

Students must be proficient in English and submit confirmation through an official **TOEFL score report, IELTS score report and/or a letter from their home university academic advisor stating that the student is prepared to take courses in English.**

A TOEFL or IELTS score is strongly recommended for students whose native language is not English. Students can take the internet, computer or paper TOEFL exam. Scores older than 2 years are considered invalid and will not be accepted. For a testing center in your country, please visit www.toefl.org or www.ielts.org.

USD’s minimum required scores are as follows:

Exam	Minimum Score
TOEFL Internet-Based	80
TOEFL Computer-Based	213
TOEFL Paper-Based	550
IELTS	6.5

Course Selection

Students should copy and paste the following link into their browser for instructions on how to select courses.

<http://catcher.sandiego.edu/items/intserv/Exchange%20Student%20Course%20Selection%20Instructions%2010.01.2015.pdf>

The USD Exchange Program Advisor will enroll students in academic classes on a space-available basis based on the “Learning Agreement” completed by the student and approved by the student’s home university advisor.

Please note that students must select 5 primary courses and 3 alternate courses for a total of 8 courses on the Learning Agreement. **The entire Exchange Program application will not be reviewed or accepted if the Learning Agreement is not complete with a total of 8 courses.**

USD Student Account

All students are required to pay student fees to USD by the end of the first week of classes each semester. Fees will be charged to the student’s Student Account.

- A USD Student Account is a record of a student’s costs to attend USD.
- It is used to **charge** student fees such as student body fees, room and board, and some approved miscellaneous fees (if applicable, such as a recreation class, meal plan, parking permit, etc).
- All **payments** made to USD will also be applied to their student account.
- A student account is not a bank account.

Certification of Finances

Students must demonstrate they have sufficient funds available for academic and living expenses equal to a minimum of \$9,342.00 per semester.

All documents must be in English and current (cannot be more than 3 months old) at the time of application to be considered valid.

Descriptions of necessary supporting documents for different types of funding are listed below. Most exchange students are financed through **Personal** and/or **Family/Third-Party Sponsor**.

Funding Source	Required Supporting Document(s)
Personal Funds	Original bank statement
Family / Third-Party Sponsor	Original bank statement AND Original letter of sponsorship (including duration of financial support, amount allowed to use, and relationship of the sponsor to you), stating you are allowed to use the funds for study in the Unites States
Home Government	Original scholarship letter from sponsoring organization outlining dates, amount, and terms of sponsorship
U.S. Government Funding	Original scholarship letter from sponsoring organization outlining dates, amount, and terms of sponsorship
All other organizations' funding	Original scholarship letter from sponsoring organization outlining dates, amount, and terms of sponsorship

**Estimated Expenses
(One Semester)**

Expense	Cost
Tuition	<i>Waived for exchange students</i>
SEVIS Fee (mandatory for student visa)	~ \$180 <i>Subject to change. See http://www.ice.gov/ for current costs.</i>
Undergraduate Student Body Fee*	\$109
Health Center Fee*	\$110
Student Life Pavilion Fee*	\$70
Vista Newspaper Fee*	\$4
Health Insurance (optional USD plan)	~ \$994
Living Expenses (On-Campus Room and Board)	~ \$6,025
Personal Expenses (Books, supplies, transportation)	~ \$1,850
Total Estimated Expenses** (Per Semester)	\$9,342

*Mandatory student fees.

**Please note that the above costs are taken from the 2015-2016 academic year and may increase slightly for the 2016-2017 academic year. Students from Tecnológico de Monterrey must demonstrate proof of an additional \$4,000 for living expenses during their internship period. Therefore, these students must demonstrate proof of \$13,342 at the time of application submission.

An Explanation of Mandatory Student Fees

Fee Type	Explanation of Expense	Cost
Health Center Fee	Gives students access to the on-campus Health Center	\$110
Undergraduate Student Body Fee	Allows students to use campus facilities (library, gym, computer labs), and participate in student clubs and activities	\$109
Student Life Pavilion (SLP) Fee	Gives students access to the SLP facilities	\$70
Vista Newspaper Fee	Supports the student newspaper (<i>The Vista</i>)	\$4

Above costs are subject to change.

Information about Expenses

- Recommended spending money in San Diego for personal expenses (books, supplies, transportation) is **approximately \$1,800 USD per semester minimum.**
- Miscellaneous personal expenses include minimal expenses and do not include cost associated with travel to/from San Diego or within the United States during vacation periods.
- Exchange Students will be enrolled in USD's health insurance plan unless they waive this coverage by demonstrating enrollment in a comparable health insurance plan.
- Upon arrival at USD, students will be expected to purchase their own textbooks. A bookstore is located on campus.
- Exchange Students are not required to live on campus or purchase a meal plan. Living cost off-campus will vary depending on student's preferences.

Health Insurance

All international students are required by federal law to carry health insurance for themselves and their dependents for the duration of their program.

Students have the option to purchase health insurance through USD. Cost and summary of benefits will be provided to the student after acceptance. The insurance premium is automatically added to student's university bill at the time of registration during each semester. **Payment for the insurance premium is due with payment for student fees.**

Students who already have health insurance that meets USD and the US State Department's requirements may opt to waive the university health insurance plan by submitting an online waiver. **Students who complete the waiver are also required to provide proof of insurance prior to arrival at USD.**

For guidance on university guidelines for health insurance, please refer to: **<http://www.sandiego.edu/oiss/students-and-scholars/incoming/health-insurance-requirements.php>**

Heath Insurance Coordinator (contact for more information):

- Greg Grassi greggrassi@sandiego.edu
- Jessica Forrester jforrester@sandiego.edu

J-1 Student Visa

All Exchange Students who do not have US citizenship must obtain a **J-1 Student Visa**.

A **Form DS-2019**, issued by USD's Responsible Officer (RO), will be sent to the student after acceptance. Students will need this document to complete their J1 Visa application and appointment with the US Embassy or Consulate.

More information:

<http://www.sandiego.edu/oiss/scholars-and-faculty/j1visainformation.php>

Housing/Accommodations

Students must arrange their own housing. Assistance will be provided with on-campus housing. Students who choose to live off-campus will be responsible for making all arrangements independently.

Off-Campus Accommodations: Information about renting off-campus accommodations (including information about neighborhoods in San Diego, what to look for in a rental, etc.) can be found in our **International Students Handbook**: <http://catcher.sandiego.edu/items/usd/OISS%20Handbook.pdf> (see page 33). For current off-campus housing postings, please visit the Office of International Students and Scholars' Off-Campus Housing Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/USDOISShousing>

On-Campus Accommodations: Applying to live in on-campus housing is recommended. We will notify you when the on-campus housing application is available and provide you with instructions for completing it. We have found that students who live on-campus have had a much easier transition to life in San Diego. When comparing the cost of on-campus housing, students should consider the amenities, which make on-campus living a very economical and practical choice. Students who live on campus will have the advantage of a **furnished apartment/dorm room, wireless Internet upon arrival, and on-site laundry facilities**. View the following link to learn more: <https://www.sandiego.edu/residentiaallife/>

Residence halls are just a short walk to classes, campus dining facilities, the library, gym and the Student Life Pavilion. Students who live on campus will not necessarily need to rent a car to efficiently navigate San Diego on a daily basis. USD also operates a Tram Service, an on-campus service that shuttles students to various stops around campus.

<http://www.sandiego.edu/safety/tram-services/>

On-Campus Housing Application Process

Students will not have access to the housing application until they have been officially accepted by USD and have created their "USDOne/MySanDiego" accounts. More information about housing options and the on-campus housing application will be sent following students' completion of the exchange student application.

On-campus housing is **limited**, thus students who wish to live on-campus are encouraged to complete the housing application as soon as they are given access by the Exchange Program Advisor.

Residential Life will try to assign all exchange students to **apartments** on campus (upperclassmen housing).

http://www.sandiego.edu/residentiallife/student_housing/upperclassmen_and_transfer_housing.php

If space does not permit, exchange students will be placed in openings in first year areas (freshmen housing: Camino, Founders, Maher, Missions A or B).

http://www.sandiego.edu/residentiallife/student_housing/first_year_housing.php

On-Campus Housing Fees (per semester):

Estimated Cost of On-Campus Apartments *(subject to change)*

Single Unit*	\$6,125	Individual bedroom. No roommates. <i>* very limited</i>
Single Bedroom	\$5,400	Individual bedroom in an apartment shared with roommates.
Super Single**	\$5,610	Individual apartment. No roommates. <i>** very limited availability, mostly in the Spring and subject to approval</i>
Multiple Bedroom	\$4,305	Shared bedroom in an apartment with roommates.

All students who live on campus will be required to pay a **\$100 deposit**. This deposit will be charged to their USD **Student Account** and refunded at the end of the semester if there are no damages or repairs needed to their residence hall.

Students who apply to live on campus but cancel after the given cancellation date will be required to pay a \$250 cancellation fee.

<http://www.sandiego.edu/residentiallife/year-round-housing/housing-cancellation-policy.php>

IMPORTANT: While on-campus housing is furnished, linens (sheets, blanks, pillows, towels) are NOT provided. Twin beds at USD are “extra-long” length (80”). We encourage our students to bring extra-long fitted sheets that will fit the extra-long university mattresses. There are shopping areas close to campus and students will have an opportunity to shop for household items during orientation.

**On-Campus Dining/
Meal Plans**

USD has a variety of dining facilities on campus and students. View dining options at <https://www.sandiego.edu/dining/campus/>

MEAL PLANS ARE OPTIONAL. Students can use cash and credit cards at all dining facilities, or electronically add money to their USD student ID cards

("campus cash," see below). Students who plan to eat on campus often may choose from a number of meal plans to best suit their needs. Meal plan costs range from \$218 to \$2,289 per semester.

Students are encouraged to wait until they arrive at USD to decide whether or not to purchase a meal plan and will have time to purchase a plan or make changes to their meal plan during the first week of classes.

More information at: <http://www.sandiego.edu/dining>

Transportation

Airport pick-up is not provided by USD. We recommend students take a taxi to campus or wherever they have arranged to live when they first arrive. A taxi ride from the airport to the USD campus should cost approximately **\$25, including a 10% tip.**

Public Transportation:

San Diego Metropolitan Transit System: <http://www.sdcommute.com/>

Public transportation in San Diego is not very efficient. It is possible to get around the city using public transportation, but not always the most convenient.

Car Rental: We do not recommend students purchase a car if only staying in San Diego for one semester, but students may want to rent a car.

Dirt Cheap Car Rental

4420 Pacific Highway, San Diego

Phone: (619) 234-9300

Website: <http://www.dirtcheapcarrental.com>

Parking Permit: Students who wish to park a car on campus must purchase a parking permit (<http://www.sandiego.edu/parking/>)

What is "MySanDiego"?

MySanDiego is an online portal where students access information such as USD email, class schedules, event calendars, student account billing, and other student resources. **All exchange students will be given instructions about how to open a MySanDiego account and USD email account after then have been officially accepted by USD.**

Buddy Program

Students may choose to participate in our **International Buddy Program (IBP)**, where new international students will be matched with current USD students. The Buddies will host a welcome event during orientation. Also, the Buddies assist exchange students in their first weeks at USD with getting books, cell phones, and anything else they might need as well as show new students where to go and what to do in San Diego. IBP participants will also be invited to special events throughout the semester. A goodbye luncheon will be held at the end of the semester for exchange students and their Buddies. We hope this program will help students overcome "culture shock" and spark life-long friendships. Questions? Email jforrester@sandiego.edu

Useful Websites

USD Homepage: <http://www.sandiego.edu/>

Office of International Students and Scholars (OISS)

Information for Incoming J-1 Exchange Students:

<http://www.sandiego.edu/oiss/>

OISS Photo Website: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usdoiss/sets/>

Exclusively dedicated to international student and scholar events!

U.S. Visa Information for Students:

<http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/study-exchange.html>

Checklist for applying for a J-1 visa at a U.S. Consulate

See section "Getting Your J1 Visa"

<http://www.sandiego.edu/oiss/scholars-and-faculty/j-1visainformation.php>

US Embassies and Consulates Abroad

<http://usembassy.state.gov/>

Guide to Education in the USA

<http://www.educationusa.state.gov/>

San Diego Life:

- Urbanist Guide: <http://www.urbanistguide.com/>
- USD's Life in San Diego: <http://www.sandiego.edu/campus-life/>