

Welcome to



Table of Contents

WELCOME INCOMING STUDENTS!

IMPORTANT BMS CONTACTS

FINDING A PLACE TO LIVE

ORIENTATION

BMS RETREAT

ACADEMIC CALENDAR 2023-2024

CAR ISSUES

STUDENT ID CARD

ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION

SETTING UP UTILITIES

STIPEND AND TAXES

CALIFORNIA RESIDENCY

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

HEALTH INSURANCE

WHEN AND HOW TO START LOOKING FOR A ROTATION

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY: NSF GRFP

UNION INFORMATION

IMPORTANT LOCATIONS FOR WHEN YOU MOVE (CLOSEST TO UCSD)

LIST OF IMPORTANT WEBSITES

NEIGHBORHOOD MAP (FROM UCSD)

SAN DIEGO NEIGHBORHOOD MAP

APARTMENT COMPLEXES NEAR CAMPUS

SAN DIEGO REGIONAL TRANSIT

UCSD PARKING LOT LOCATION MAP

Welcome Incoming Students!

We have put together this packet of information to help you get settled at UCSD.

While we have tried to anticipate as many of your questions as we could, there are always more things you may want to know, so please do not hesitate to ask us anything. If we don't know, we will help you find somebody who does!

Feel free to get in touch with us; our contact information is on the next page. We have made a Facebook group for your incoming class, so send one (or all) of us a friend request and we can add you to the group! (See the next page for all the contacts and social media information you'll need.)

You made a great decision by picking UCSD and the BMS program, and we can't wait to see you in the fall!

Stay classy!

Celeste Kanne, Jeff Chiu, Jenna Sneifer, Katie Hatch and Rylee Start
BMS Welcome Liaisons

P.S. - Great website for grad students: <http://grad.ucsd.edu>

Important BMS Contacts

Chair:

Kevin Corbett, kcorbett@health.ucsd.edu

PSB 3266, Phone: (858) 822-5569

Vice Chair:

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BRFII, 2A19, Phone: (858) 246-0754

Director of Graduate Affairs:

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5012 BSB, Phone: (858) 534-3982

Student Affairs Coordinator:

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Program Affairs Coordinator:

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BMS Welcome Liaisons:

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Jenna Sneifer (jsneifer@health.ucsd.edu)

Katie Hatch (khatch@health.ucsd.edu)

Rylee Start (rstart@health.ucsd.edu)

BMS Web and Social Media:

Slack (for issues, feel free to contact Sonya Haupt, srhaupt@health.ucsd.edu): https://join.slack.com/t/bmsgraduateest-ou78445/shared_invite/zt-g38bz1it-l6XFJ26cA6RfFGaepmxinA

Website: <http://biomedsci.ucsd.edu>

Twitter: https://twitter.com/ucsd_bms

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/UCSDBMS/>

All Students Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/117399715037735/>

BMS Events Google Calendar:

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/u/1?cid=Ym1zZ3JhZGNvdW5jaWxhZ21haWwuY29t>

Finding a Place to Live

We are frequently asked, “How do I find somewhere to live? Where are the good places?” Well, here is some information to try to make your search a little easier!

On-Campus:

- <https://hdhgradfamilyhousing.ucsd.edu/>
- ARCH Centralized Leasing Office Phone: (858) 534-2724

THE FIRST THING YOU SHOULD DO ONCE YOU ACCEPT AT UCSD IF YOU WANT TO GET INTO ON-CAMPUS GRAD HOUSING, IS SIGN UP ON THE HOUSING WAITLIST

Current Resident Monthly Charges (July 1, 2023- June 30, 2024)

Coast

Unit Type	Double Occupancy - Shared Bedroom	Single Occupancy Bedroom	Full Unit
Studio	\$636	\$1272	\$1272
1 Bed / 1 Bath	\$772.50	\$1545	\$1545
2 Bed / 1 Bath	\$463.50	\$927	\$1854

One Miramar Street (OMS)*

Unit Type	Double Occupancy - Shared Bedroom	Single Occupancy Bedroom	Full Unit
2 Bed / 1 Bath	\$555	\$1110	\$2220

Mesa Neuva

Unit Type	Double Occupancy - Shared Bedroom	Single Occupancy Bedroom	Full Unit
Studio**	\$688.50	\$1377	\$1377
1 Bed / 1 Bath	\$1117.50	\$2235	\$2235
2 Bed / 2 Bath			
- Master	\$721.50	\$1443	\$2856
- Non-Master	\$706.50	\$1413	\$2856
3 Bed / 2 Bath			
- Master	\$541.50	\$1083	\$3177
- Non-Master	\$523.50	\$1047	\$3177

Mesa

Unit Type	Double Occupancy - Shared Bedroom**	Single Occupancy Bedroom	Full Unit
Central Mesa			
1 Bed / 1 Bath	\$847.50	\$1695	\$1695
2 Bed / 1 Bath	\$502.50	\$1005	\$2010
3 Bed / 1 Bath	\$477	\$954	\$2862
South Mesa			
2 Bed / 1 Bath	\$529.50	\$1059	\$2118

Nuevo West (furnished)**

Unit Type	Double Occupancy - Shared Bedroom**	Single Occupancy Bedroom	Full Unit
Studio	\$741	\$1482	\$1482
2 Bed / 1 Bath	\$579	\$1158	\$2316
4 Bed / 2 Bath	\$502.50	\$1005	\$4020
6 Bed / 3 Bath	\$489	\$978	\$5868

Nueva East

Unit Type	Double Occupancy - Shared Bedroom	Single Occupancy Bedroom	Full Unit
1 Bed / 1 Bath	\$1017	\$2034	\$2034
2 Bed / 1 Bath	\$579	\$1158	\$2316
3 Bed / 2 Bath - Townhouse	\$547.50	\$1095	\$3285
3 Bed / 2 Bath	\$502.50	\$1005	\$3015
4 Bed / 2 Bath	\$481.50	\$963	\$3852

For additional on-campus housing questions contact HDH:

gradfamilyhousing@ucsd.edu

* Rates include water, trash, gas, and parking. Cable and internet will be provided for Mesa and Miramar residents. Residents in two-bedroom apartments pay for electricity. The refundable security deposit is \$100.

**All utilities included (water, trash, gas, electricity, cable, internet, parking). Apply here: <https://hdhgradfamilyhousing.ucsd.edu/apply/index.html>

- Coast will have a significantly longer waitlist (~2yrs), and it is unlikely that you will get an offer this year for these locations. If you want to move into on-campus housing as soon as possible, be sure not to rank Coast!
- You can live in these grad student residences with a non-UCSD student, but you must show proof of “committed couple status”. See this document for more details: https://hdhgradfamilyhousing.ucsd.edu/_files/Couple-Additional-Resident-Documentation.pdf or contact the Welcome Committee for more information.
- You can also find and indicate a preferred roommate through the application (see above). You will be offered an apartment only if you have an overlapping housing interest. This may take longer as it will require an entire apartment to be vacant instead of just one room.

Off-Campus:

There are several neighborhoods off-campus with grad student-friendly prices (see maps at the end of this packet). Here are a few of the major ones and the contact information of a BMS student who lives (or used to live) there!

Beach communities:

- **La Jolla**– This affluent city stretches from the grad student housing at UCSD down to North Pacific Beach. Some deals can be found on Craigslist for rentals near the beach, but most housing here is quite expensive. Downtown La Jolla is known for upscale boutiques, wine shops, and restaurants.
- **Del Mar/Solana Beach/Cardiff-by-the-Sea/Encinitas** – These small beach communities are just north of campus. They are clean, relatively quiet, and offer upscale local shops (similar to La Jolla). Some places can be found within budget, but there is significant traffic on the commute home.
- **Pacific Beach (“PB”) and Mission Beach** – This beach community is just south of La Jolla. It has a college atmosphere with lots of cheap restaurants and a lively nightlife. Most housing is within budget, especially the farther east you are from the beach. However, traffic in and out is an issue during rush hour since there is only one freeway exit for all of PB.
- **Ocean Beach (“OB”) and Point Loma** – OB and Point Loma may have some good deals (especially if you want to live near the beach), but the commute is more difficult than the other beach communities. This area offers a unique blend of surfers, hippies, and environmental activists.

Inland:

- **UTC/University City** – This is the area directly south and southeast of campus. Most of the apartments are on the pricey side. However, it is very close to campus, making for a very convenient commute using either the bus system or a bike. This area doesn’t have much of a nightlife, so students often travel to other areas of the city for entertainment.
- **Clairemont** – South of University City, this area is primarily residential. There are many great houses and apartments for cheap, but there are a few not-so-great areas (check out the place before you commit). It’s close and easy to get to school!
- **Hillcrest, Mission Hills, North Park** – These trendy urban neighborhoods are just north of downtown and have a lot to offer. They are primarily populated by

young 20's/30's, and have lots of popular bars, breweries, eateries, and events. Since this area is the farthest from UCSD, the commute can be longer, especially during rush hour.

- **Carmel Valley, Sorrento Valley, Mira Mesa** – These suburban neighborhoods are located north and east of UCSD. Housing prices tend to be more affordable in Carmel Valley, Sorrento Valley, and Mira Mesa, but these neighborhoods are also a little farther from UCSD. Mira Mesa is home to Ballast Point and many other restaurants and breweries. There is less traffic during rush hours (4 p.m.-7 p.m.) but a significant lack of public transportation to this neighborhood.

See what the City of San Diego says about the neighborhoods:

<http://www.sandiego.gov/planning/community/profiles/>

Resources from UCSD for searching for an off-campus place:

<https://students.ucsd.edu/campus-services/housing/offcampus/index.html>

Note: Some helpful places to look for housing include craigslist, facebook, Zillow, and apartments.com. Feel free to reach out to any of the welcome committee liaisons, or your student mentor/host for questions, or to get in touch with a student currently living in a specific neighborhood!

When to move to San Diego?

We recommend first-years to arrive at the campus in the first week of September or earlier, so that you do not miss any fun events :)

Orientation

Fall 2023

BMS Orientation will begin with a scavenger hunt on Friday, September 15, 2023. On Monday, September 18, will have an introduction session followed by a lunch with your A-SPAC Advisor at the [Ida and Cecil Green Faculty Club](#). Orientation activities will continue through Friday October 6 and classes will begin on **Thursday, September 28, 2023**.

The Division of Graduate Education and Postdoctoral Affairs (GEPA) will also hold an [Incoming Graduate Student Resource Fair](#) on **Thursday September 7, 2023**. Please note that this is a separate event taking place before BMS orientation begins.

New International Student Orientation is designed to help orient you to the UC San Diego campus community, inform you of your F1/J1 rights & responsibilities, and give you an opportunity to connect with other new international students! Students must complete [iTriton Online Training on Canvas](#) before **September 11, 2023**. [International Orientation Sessions](#) will be held **September 12-14, 2023**. These sessions are **strongly recommended** and will be conducted virtually. International Welcome Programming events will take place in-person as well as virtually **September 18-27, 2023**.

There are several topics that will be covered during Orientation. These include:

- Mental Health Awareness
- Professionalism
- Short research talks from faculty and students
- Meeting your A-SPAC Advisor (your advisor during the first year)
- Predoctoral Fellowship Writing Workshop
- NSF GRFP Fellowship Application

BMS Retreat

All BMS students and faculty are invited to join us at the [Omni Rancho Las Palmas Resort](#) in the Palm Springs area from **Wednesday September 20 – Friday September 22, 2023**. We will listen to student and faculty research talks, have a few meals together, and enjoy the southern California weather. The retreat will be a great opportunity for you to meet the rest of the program, both students and faculty, as soon as you arrive at UCSD. BMS will provide free transportation for all first-year students.

If you have any general questions about the BMS requirements, you can look up the guidelines here: [BMS Guidelines](#)

Academic Calendar 2023-2024

Fall 2023	
Fall Quarter begins	Monday, September 25
Instruction begins	Thursday, September 28
Fifteenth day of instruction	Wednesday, October 18
Veterans Day Holiday	Friday, November 10
Thanksgiving Holiday	Thursday – Friday, November 23–24
Instruction ends	Friday, December 8
Final Exams	Saturday – Saturday, December 9–16
Fall Quarter ends	Saturday, December 16
Winter Break	Monday – Tuesday, December 25–26
New Year Holiday	Friday – Monday, December 29, 2023 and January 1, 2024
49 Days of Instruction - 60 Days in Quarter	
Winter 2024	
Winter Quarter begins	Wednesday, January 3
Instruction begins	Monday, January 8
Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday	Monday, January 15
Fifteenth day of instruction	Monday, January 29
Presidents' Day Holiday	Monday, February 19
Instruction ends	Friday, March 15
Final Exams	Saturday – Saturday, March 16–23
Winter Quarter ends	Saturday, March 23
48 Days of Instruction - 59 Days in Quarter	
Spring 2024	
Spring Quarter begins	Wednesday, March 27
César Chávez Holiday	Friday, March 29
Instruction begins	Monday, April 1
Fifteenth day of instruction	Friday, April 19
Memorial Day observance	Monday, May 27
Instruction ends	Friday, June 7
Final Exams	Saturday – Friday, June 8–14
Spring Quarter ends	Friday, June 14
Commencement programs	Saturday – Sunday, June 15–16
49 Days of Instruction - 58 Days in Quarter	

Car Issues

Driver's License

You are required to get a driver's license *within **10 days*** of moving to California. Do it, and don't wait until the last minute. Schedule a DMV appointment online to cut down on wait time. If you have a license from another state you will need to take a written test but not a driving test to receive your California license.

California Registration

You are required to register your car *within **20 days*** of moving to California. You might as well do it at the same appointment to get your driver's license. It is a California state requirement to have a new Smog Certificate upon initial registration, so make sure you do it **before** you go to the DMV (~\$50). It is easiest to make a smog check appointment a few days before your DMV appointment. If you live near campus, I recommend the Shell station/service center on the corner of Genesee and Governor (University City Service Center). The DMV website has more details:

(<http://www.dmv.ca.gov/vr/smogfaq.htm#BM2535>)

Tips and Tricks

- If you don't have a car you will probably want one. Many people attempt to live here without a car, and, while it is *possible*, it makes life pretty difficult. If you are thinking of buying a car, the best option would be to buy it once you arrive in San Diego (easier registration, taxes, etc).
- It is expensive to register a car in California. If you have NOT had your car (in your name) for a full year, you will be forced to pay taxes on the worth of the car. This is to try to keep people from buying cars out of state and driving them over the border to avoid California taxes. If you paid taxes on the car in another state, you will pay the difference between the CA sales tax, and the cost of sales tax where you bought the car (since California will most likely be higher!). You are not exempt if you got the car for "free" or if it is a "gift" from parents, etc. You still have to pay sales tax!
- If you want to figure out what your registration will cost, you can use the DMV's handy calculator: <https://mv.dmv.ca.gov/FeeCalculatorWeb/index.jsp>
- Find the DMV's around San Diego and look up all the official rules here: <https://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/dmv/dmv/offices>

- [Make an appointment on the DMV website before you even get to San Diego! Appointments are scheduled 2+ weeks in advance, but making one will dramatically reduce your wait time at the office.](#)
- [If you want to avoid the wait at the DMV, you can also register your car at AAA \(if you are a member\) or at certain car repair shops around the city. Colonial Garage in La Jolla does smog checks and car registration together for a good deal:
https://colonialgarage.net/](#)
- [Message the #general slack channel or reach out to a Welcome Committee member if you have any questions about bringing/shipping a car from out-of-state.](#)

Parking on campus

For grad students, you can buy a parking permit (B permit) via this link:

<https://ucsd-transportation.t2hosted.com/Account/Portal>

B Permit Prices and Payment

Payment Description	Cost
10 Days	\$53.50
Consecutive Day (30 to 365 days, prepaid) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replaces legacy monthly, quarterly and annual options • Choose the exact date range that you wish to park, from 30 days up to 365 days • Days are sold at a discounted daily rate that reflects the understanding that you will not be parking seven days a week unless you live on campus. 	\$3.22/day

With your virtual B permit, you can always “park down” in S or D spaces if you don’t find a conveniently located B parking space. You can also save by purchasing D parking on an ongoing basis.

If you do not drive to campus on daily basis, you can pay for parking through [ParkMobile](#) APP using flexible parking program.

Detailed information about flexible parking is here:

[https://transportation.ucsd.edu/commute/flexible-parking.html#Staff-\(PSS\)-&-Graduate-Students](https://transportation.ucsd.edu/commute/flexible-parking.html#Staff-(PSS)-&-Graduate-Students)

Be aware that spots fill up early in the morning. Here is a list where you can find the availability of the parking lots: <https://transportation.ucsd.edu/commute/availability.html>

Convenient parking lots close to the **School of Medicine** are:

- **Gilman Parking Structure** at Villa La Jolla and Gilman Drive, B spots fill up by ~7:45am,
- **Osler Parking Structure** at Gilman Drive and Osler Lane, spots fill up by ~8am
- There are also B spots at the **UCSD Medical Center La Jolla** (see right side of map) with shuttles to main campus/SOM.

For an up-to-date, interactive map of campus, including B parking spots and construction: <https://maps.ucsd.edu/map/default.htm>

Student ID Card

All students enrolled/registered for the current school quarter or session are entitled to a single, official UCSD Student ID card from the University.

Graduate students should have received instructions to submit their photo electronically through the Photo Tool at <https://students.ucsd.edu/finances/campus-cards/photo-tool.html> between May 1st and August 1st*.

Your ID cards will be available in the BMS office on Friday, September 18 as part of the scavenger hunt.

The campus ID card has many perks and uses:

- Check out books and materials through UCSD libraries
- Use it as a debit card at various campus dining facilities
- Use your ID to purchase a rec card or gain access to recreation classes and facilities
- Get discounts or free admission to sporting events through the UCSD Box Office
- Get free rides on public transportation
- Show your affiliation, if needed, on UCSD shuttles
- Get employee/student discounts on attractions, electronics, education, movies, and more. Visit <https://sfs.ucsd.edu/campus-cards/discounts.html> for more information

Questions? Contact Campus Cards
(858) 534-6606 campuscards@ucsd.edu

Alternative Transportation

Check out the Triton Commuter Club!

- Recognizes and rewards your actions to reduce the traffic, parking and environmental impacts of driving alone.
- Detailed info visit: <https://transportation.ucsd.edu/commute/tcc.html#How-to-Participate-in-Triton-Co>

Public Transportations (Bus, Trolley, Train):

- Triton *U-Pass* is a UC San Diego universal transit pass program that provides students unlimited rides on all regional MTS and NCTD mass transit bus and trolley/light rail routes during academic quarters.
 - Use your phone to access U-Pass
 - Download the **PRONTO app** and create your account with your @ucsd.edu email, and link to the U-Pass program
- More information about how to access U-Pass visit <https://transportation.ucsd.edu/commute/transit/u-pass.html>
- Learn how to use U-Pass: [U-Pass Tutorial Video](#).

Free UCSD Shuttles:

- In addition to the free public buses, UCSD has a network of shuttles. These run from various housing complexes to campus, and also include several routes around the campus itself.
- An up-to-date live map of shuttle routes can be found here: <https://tritontransit.ridesystems.net/routes/17/stops>. Please note, routes are liable to change between quarters and over the summer.
- Download the **TransLoc app** for real-time shuttle locations on your phone!
- Most shuttles are equipped with bike racks for those who bike
- More information can be found on the UCSD Transportation Services website: <https://transportation.ucsd.edu/campus/shuttles/index.html#Triton-Transit:-Shuttles>

Biking:

- Guidelines for biking: <https://police.ucsd.edu/resources/bike-skate.html#Bicycles>

- Register your bike to help the Police to recover if it got stolen
 - More detailed information can be found here:
<https://transportation.ucsd.edu/initiatives/register.html>
 - If you bike for most of your commute to UCSD and are registered with the state of California, then you can join the Pedal Club. The Pedal Club allows you 10 complimentary days for parking your car per quarter with an Occasional Use permit. You also can get maintenance discounts at the UCSD Bike Shop among other benefits.
 - If you will be living in any of the Mesa housing complexes or OMS, there will soon be a pedestrian bridge crossing the I-5 freeway making biking to campus even easier.
 - **Spin bike sharing:** GPS-equipped bikes available all around campus and campus housing for your convenience. Download the Spin app to your phone.
 - Detailed information of the spin share program is here:
<https://transportation.ucsd.edu/campus/shared.html>
 - See website for more details if you bike to campus:
<https://transportation.ucsd.edu/commute/bicycling.html#UC-San-Diego>

Car-pool

- Use UC San Diego's **Triton Commuter Club** or personal networking to find other UC San Diego faculty, staff and students who want to carpool
- Register your carpool
 - Email iride@ucsd.edu with "Register New Carpool" in the subject line.
- More information can be found on the website:
<https://transportation.ucsd.edu/commute/carpools.html>

Proposals are being developed for changes to the transit subsidy and other alternative transportation and incentive programs.

Still have questions? More details about the transportation around campus, please visit <https://transportation.ucsd.edu/>

Setting Up Utilities

If you are living in UCSD On-campus Grad Housing, some utilities will be set up for you, while others you will be expected to handle. Check out your Residential Services Office for any discounts or deals.

Electricity

- San Diego Gas and Electric
 - <http://www.sdge.com>
 - (800) 411-7343
 - Make sure to ask about the **CARE** discount – BMS students are eligible with our salary and this discount makes a huge difference in the utility bill!

Water

- San Diego Public Utilities - Water
 - <http://www.sandiego.gov/water/>
 - (619) 515-3500

Cable/Internet (There are a couple others but these are the main ones)

- Spectrum/Time Warner Cable
 - <https://www.spectrum.com/>
 - 1-888-892-2253
- AT&T UVerse/Internet
 - <http://www.att.com/>
 - Note: Some locations will only let you install direct TV with ATT Internet. If you are in grad housing and have only this option, there is a good chance that you won't be able to get a signal due to the trees around the neighborhood. However, all locations have access to Time Warner.
- DirecTV
 - <http://www.directv.com/DTVAPP/index.jsp>
 - (888) 795-9488
 - You can get \$100 off if a friend or family member who also has a DirectTV account refers you.
- Cox Communications
 - <http://www.cox.com/>
 - 866-961-0027

Stipend/Salary and Taxes

- **Start-up Stipend:** all entering Ph.D. students will receive a one-time BMS Transition Award in the amount of \$1,500 to use at their discretion (we recommend that the award be used for relocation expenses or for educational expenses, such as the purchase of a computer). **You will receive the \$1,500 check/direct deposit for the Transition Award on October 1, 2023.**
- **Monthly Stipend:** your regular monthly support begins September 1, but UCSD pays you after you work (i.e., “in arrears”). Therefore, **your first regular monthly stipend in the amount of \$3,388 will be issued on October 1, 2023, along with your start-up stipend.** You will be paid the first of each month going forward.
- **Stipend Direct Deposit**
 - **Domestic & International Students (ACTION ITEM):** please make sure to sign up for stipend Direct Deposit at [Student Financial Solutions](#) if you have not already done so.
 - **International Students:** your stipend payment will be processed via Oracle Financial Cloud and you will be required to complete a Glacier record for tax purposes. In early September, you will receive an email from support@online-tax.net. **Please follow the instructions to complete your Glacier record within 5 days of receipt.** Once your Glacier record is complete, you will receive a follow up email to Register for Payment Works to be set up as a Payee with UCSD and provide your bank details for Direct Deposit.
- **Paycheck Issues:** any issues with your pay during your first year should be brought up to Erin Gilbert, egilbert@health.ucsd.edu as soon as possible.
- **Taxes:** A “stipend” payment is considered merit based support, not employment/compensation and taxes are not withheld up front. However, **stipends are taxable income, and you will have to report the earnings to the IRS and pay Federal and State income tax (if applicable) when you file your taxes. It is important to put away some money every month or make [estimated tax payments](#) to avoid a tax penalty when you file.**
- **YOU MUST FILE YOUR TAX RETURNS AS A RESIDENT OF CALIFORNIA,** not of any other state. If you are filing in multiple states, be sure to indicate California as your primary residence on ALL, or your residence may be challenged. Disclaimer, this is not legal advice, but some people have run into issues when establishing residency because they made this mistake.

California Residency

What is residency for purposes of tuition?

After you've been admitted, the University of California determines if you're a California resident for tuition purposes—that is, whether you qualify for resident or nonresident tuition.

The term “California resident for purposes of tuition” is different from other definitions of California residence. For example, a person who is a California resident for tax or voting purposes is not necessarily a resident for purposes of tuition at the University of California.

Because the definition of residency varies between offices, information from the admissions office (or on your financial aid award letter) does not necessarily mean you are a resident for purposes of tuition.

Residency for purposes of tuition is decided by the UCSD [campus residence deputy](#).

All Residence for Tuition Purposes information can be found at <https://students.ucsd.edu/finances/fees/residence/about.html>

For questions, contact the [Residence Deputy](#). No other University personnel are authorized to supply information relative to residence requirements for tuition.

If you are a US Citizen, You **MUST** become a California resident before the start of your second year. To do this, you need the following 12 things. Start collecting these in a folder ASAP!!! It's *MUCH* easier if you start as early as possible. **YOU HAVE TO DO THIS!!!**

You will need (copied from [online](#)):

1. California driver's license or a California ID card as soon as possible but within a few months of arriving in the state. The DMV has very specific rules; see their [Information for persons new to California](#). Operating a vehicle in California that is not owned by you still requires you to obtain a California driver's license and proof of California car insurance.

2. Voter registration card or affidavit from Registrar of Voters. Contact Registrar of Voters at (800) 696-0136, or check status and apply online at the [County of San Diego's website](#).
3. Bank and credit card statements with a California address and California transactions for all 12 months prior to the quarter for which you are applying.
4. California car registration and car insurance card within the first quarter of admission. The DMV has very specific rules; see their [information for persons new to California](#). Operating a vehicle in California that is not owned by you still requires you to obtain a California driver's license and proof of California car insurance.
5. Tax transcript and all pages of Federal and all state tax returns for the past year, or W2s **only if you did not file** in any state. Your residency will be questioned if, during the period you are claiming to be a California resident, you file a full-year resident tax return in another state or file a full-year nonresident California state tax return. If you filed a California Part-Year Resident return (Form 540NR), be sure to include your [Schedule CA page \(540NR\)](#). Black out all social security numbers on all tax documents. If you did not keep copies, call the Franchise Tax Board for copies of state tax return and the IRS for your federal tax return at least 90 days before you submit your packet.
6. **Evidence of financial independence (you must meet ONE requirement).**
You:
 - Are a **single undergraduate under age 24** and were not claimed as a dependent for tax purposes by either nonresident parent or any other individual for the current tax year immediately preceding the quarter for which you request classification as a resident, and you can demonstrate self-sufficiency for the current year. Single undergraduates under 24 must submit, for the applicable quarter a petition is being filed, a budget worksheet form. Use the applicable form - [Budget Worksheet](#) (PDF)
 - Document all sources of income listed on the worksheet, and include your own and your parents' prior tax year of state and federal tax returns, **or**
 - Are financially dependent on a California resident parent who meets the University's requirements for residence for tuition purposes (eligible to establish residence, one year physical presence showing intent to remain in the state); student would submit the 10 items for the parent(s) claiming to be a resident(s) and for the student his/herself, **or**

- Will be at least 24 years old by Dec. 31 of the academic year for which classification as a resident is requested (student would submit copy of driver's license), **or**
- Are a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces, **or**
- Are a ward of the court or both parents are deceased, **or**
- Have a legal dependent(s), **or**
- Are a married student who was not claimed as an income tax deduction by either parent or any other individual for the tax year immediately preceding the term for which classification as a resident is requested, **or**
- Are a **graduate or professional school student**

7. Proof of physical presence in California **for the summer immediately prior to the change of classification request:**

- Employment verification from California employer, or from your major department attesting to physical presence in the state, **and**
- Either bank or credit card statements, whichever one indicates dates/location activity on them for June, July, and August. If there are other names on the account in addition to the student's, the only statements that can be provided must be in the student's name only.
- If absent from the state, provide airline tickets.
- If on an out-of-state research appointment, provide a letter from your department endorsing your absence.
- Do not submit store receipts as proof of your physical presence.

Summer actions count! A student's actions during the entire year, including the summer, affect the determination made regarding residence status for tuition purposes. A student who is in California solely for educational purposes is not eligible for California residence for tuition purposes regardless of the length of his or her stay.

If a student returns to his or her former place of residence (outside California), he or she will be presumed to be in California solely for educational purposes and only strong evidence to the contrary will rebut this presumption.

A student seeking to establish California residence who accepts employment or conducts research outside of California will be questioned regarding his or her attempts to find employment and/ or conduct research within California. Leaving the state for a unique research opportunity or for

special circumstances (such as a medical emergency) may not preclude the student from being classified as a resident, but the burden will be on the student to provide convincing evidence that leaving the state was not inconsistent with his or her claim of permanent residence. See [Residence for Tuition Purposes: Temporary Absences](#).

8. Copies of all your housing contracts, monthly rental agreements, lease or proof of property ownership for the past year, or verification in writing from property owner of housing agreement.
9. Proof of utilities in your name, e.g. gas, electric, water, etc. **CHOOSE ONE** for all 12 months prior to the quarter for which you are applying, only submit the usage page for each month.
10. Non-US citizens must provide proof of eligible USCIS status in the US (permanent resident card, I-94 record for the past year, I-821D DACA approval notice, etc.).

Note: Attach a written statement as to the circumstances of any missing or late-dated documents. Make copies of all documentation to keep for your records.

International Students

Information for newly admitted international graduate students can be found at <https://ispo.ucsd.edu/advising/visa/new-students/index.html>

The International Students & Programs Office's (ISPO) orientation is designed to help orient you to the UC San Diego campus community, inform you of your F1/J1 rights & responsibilities, and give you an opportunity to connect with other new international students!

STEP ONE: Complete [iTriton Online Orientation](#) on Canvas

- June 1-September 11, 2023
- This is a mandatory virtual orientation that needs to be completed on Canvas.
- Deadline: September 11, 2023

STEP TWO: International Orientation Sessions

- September 12-14, 2023
- These sessions are strongly recommended and will be conducted virtually.
Example sessions include:
 - "Meet ISPO & Understand Your Immigration Document"
 - "Know the Rules"
 - "Working in the U.S."
- [Register now!](#)

STEP THREE: International Welcome Programming

- September 18-27, 2023
- Welcome programming will take place in-person and virtually and is strongly recommended.
- Examples of previous events and programs:
 - U See San Diego (Bus Tour of San Diego)
 - International Social Mixer
 - Intercultural Communication Workshop
 - Meet-Ups! For Students, By Students
 - And more!

Resources for International Students Attending UCSD Fall 2023

Step 1: Have Your Immigration Documentation Read at Port of Entry

Be ready to present the following documents to the Customs and Border Protection (CBP) official:

- Current passport (valid up to 6 months after your entry date).
- Form I-20 or DS-2019 (electronic copies are allowed for Fall 2020).
- Valid F-1 or J-1 visa stamp in your passport.

Recommended:

- Travel support letter (available for download within the **iPortal**)
- Copy of enrollment in **Tritonlink**
- Copy of financial support that is no more than 6 months old
- **ISPO Emergency Contact Card**: in case you need a phone number to give to CBP to verify your student status

Step 2: Arrange Transportation to UC San Diego

Learn about your [transportation options to campus](#).

Step 3: Print Electronic 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.

Print or save a copy of it and keep it safe!

Step 4: Complete Document Self-Check

After arrival into the U.S., complete the [International Student Document Self-Check](#) within 15 days of your program start date at UC San Diego.

Step 5: Attend Orientation

ISPO's New International Student Orientation will be delivered in hybrid format with both in-person as well as online components to accommodate all of our students!

Health Insurance

· Please note, you will NOT be covered by the UC Student Health Insurance Plan (UC SHIP) until September 4, 2023, so you will want to be certain that you are covered by your own health insurance if you choose to move in during the summer. If you let your health insurance coverage lapse you may not be covered later for any conditions deemed “pre-existing” and might end up paying a lot of money to get treated for something simple. Again, MAKE SURE you are covered by your own health insurance over the summer!

- Details on the UCSD Student Health Insurance Plan:
 - <https://wellness.ucsd.edu/studenthealth/Pages/default.aspx>
 - Download the mobile app for UC SHIP once your coverage starts: <https://wellness.ucsd.edu/studenthealth/insurance/Pages/UC-SHIP-Mobile-App.aspx>
 - UC SHIP coverage is provided by Anthem BlueCross/BlueShield. If you receive care at a location other than Student Health Services (on campus), you can view your claims here: <https://www.anthem.com/health-insurance/home/overview>
 - FAQ Page <https://shwadmin.ucsd.edu/uc-ship/faq.html>

When and how to start looking for a rotation

Don't freak out! You do not need to have your rotations set in stone before you get here! You will have plenty of opportunities to hear about the research going on at UCSD once you start Orientation, and you are not expected to start in a rotation lab immediately.

However, it may be to your benefit to e-mail a few professors during the summer and set up meetings for once you get to San Diego. The first rotation is often the hardest to set up as not all labs will be willing and able to take rotation students in the fall because of grant deadlines, conferences, or because they would rather you rotate when you're not adjusting to a new place. So plan accordingly and be prepared to reach out to more than one person.

Email the PI you would like to work with and set up an in-person or zoom meeting. Make sure to mention "BMS rotation" somewhere in the subject heading (or it may fall through the cracks). Try your absolute hardest to meet with professors before you agree to a rotation. The personal interaction you will have by sitting through a face-to-face meeting with your prospective PI is really important! Meet with as many professors as you can and pick the rotation that is the best fit for you. We have a large number of amazing faculty, so don't be discouraged if a rotation doesn't work out or someone you were interested in turns out not to be a great fit.

Be persistent! Sometimes professors don't answer email or they say they don't have space or funding, but, if you follow-up and are persistent, you can find out more!

Try to meet with the post-doc/grad student/technician you would be working with on a day-to-day basis during your rotation. A poor mentor can make for a miserable rotation – even if you like the professor and the work.

Ask the PI important questions:

- Do you have funding? This may feel awkward, but it is perhaps the most important initial question. This will not offend him or her.
- Do you have space and time for another graduate student?
- What sort of projects would I work on for my thesis?

Talk to current students. Don't hesitate to email and talk to students who have rotated in or joined the lab and get as many opinions as you can. Most students are more than happy to talk about their labs and research! And remember, the more opinions, the better informed you are when it comes to making a choice. On the BMS website you can search for a current student and see a list of their rotations and thesis lab:

http://biomedsci-db.ucsd.edu/student_index. You can also insert a professor's name

into this search engine and see which students are associated with each. Ask us if you need the name of students who know more about the lab you are interested in.

Visit the BMS Laboratory Rotation Projects Page (Password: Rocknroton)

http://biomedsci-db.ucsd.edu/lab_rotation to get an idea of which professors indicated they were able to take rotation students last year and the projects they were working on. Faculty are currently updating their lab rotation availability throughout the summer. Please note that this is not a comprehensive list — not all faculty accepting students are listed here.

There is no perfect lab! You will never find a perfect lab, but there are many amazing labs at UCSD that have great people, are doing top-notch science, and would be fun to work in. Don't get caught up trying to find the "perfect" lab and miss out on some of the great ones that are here. Be open to labs doing work that you know nothing about, or labs doing techniques that you've never heard of, or labs that do more computational modeling even though you can barely turn on your PC. Be adventurous and learn something!

Fellowship Opportunity: NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program (GRFP)

Interested in applying for a competitive fellowship during the fall semester? The NSF's GRFP fellowship provides:

- **\$37,000** annual stipend for three years (can be used over the course of 5 years)
- **\$16,000** cost-of-education allowance to UCSD

The deadline to apply is **October 16, 2023**. First year students are encouraged to apply, but there is absolutely no pressure to do so. You can also wait and apply during the fall of your second year!

Click the link below to check if you're eligible to apply and to find other information about the fellowship application:

- <https://www.nsfgrfp.org/applicants/applicant-eligibility/>
-

More detailed information regarding the application process will be available to students during orientation in September. To ensure students are given feedback/comments on their NSF GRFP application, Dr. Matt Daughetry from the School of Biological Sciences at UCSD will host a workshop in October (exact time and date TBD).



Unionization Improves the UC Student Researcher (SR) Experience

Graduate Student Researcher encompasses Graduate Student Researchers, Trainees, and Fellows.

	BEFORE UNIONIZATION	AFTER UNIONIZATION
WAGES	Wage increases were unpredictable and determined unilaterally by UC. The lowest paid GSRs made \$22,000 over 12 months.	In the first-ever union contract from 2022, GSRs won 25%-80% wage increases over 2 years and introduced guaranteed experience-based pay increases. The minimum GSR pay rate will increase to \$34,564 per year. UC cannot reduce supplemental compensation or under-appoint GSRs to undermine or circumvent wage increases.
FEE/TUITION REMISSION	UC waived or remitted tuition and fees at their discretion.	UC remits 100% of in-state tuition, student services fees, and all campus fees for GSRs. The 2022 union contract codified the practice of remitting NRST for post-candidacy graduate workers.
HEALTH BENEFITS	Quality of benefits varied by campus.	UC pays 100% of premiums for consistent, trans-inclusive health care for all GSRs. GSRs won first-ever remission of dependent healthcare, covering single-parents or single-income households that fall above the free Medi-Cal coverage threshold.
CHILDCARE BENEFITS	No guarantee of childcare subsidies or other benefits for GSRs.	Childcare subsidies of \$1,350/quarter (\$2,025/semester), increasing to \$1,400/quarter (\$2,100/semester) in 2024. Paid leave for child care emergencies. Reasonable break time and facilities for lactation.
LEAVES (INCLUDING PAID PARENTAL LEAVE)	No guarantee of leave benefits for maternity, family, medical, bereavement or other reasons.	Salaried GSRs receive: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 8 weeks paid parental leave at 100% pay for both birthing and non-birthing GSRs• 8 weeks paid long-term medical care leave for serious illness of an GSR or family member• 2 days per quarter (3 days per semester) of paid short-term leave for personal illness and/or disability, family emergency, or immigration-related issues like visa appointments for the GSR or their family members• 5 days of paid bereavement leave for each occurrence
PERSONAL TIME OFF	PTO was only given at the PI's discretion, and time off requests were frequently denied.	All GSRs receive 12 days of personal time off per year. Requests cannot be unreasonably denied.
TRANSIT BENEFITS	UC unilaterally set all parking and transit policies. No guaranteed transit benefits.	GSRs won first-ever guaranteed transit benefits, including a commitment from UC to provide fully-funded transit passes at all campuses and up to \$50/month at campuses that do not yet have passes.
ACCESS NEEDS	Instances of discrimination, harassment, and exclusion handled through UC offices or state and federal agencies, which were time consuming, costly, and without representation by elected peer union reps.	Industry standard-setting protections against all forms of discrimination, harassment, and bullying. A grievance process with clear timelines-separate from the Title IX process-to resolve abusive or discriminatory conduct and the right to appeal to a neutral arbitrator. The right to survivor-centered interim measures and remedies after reporting in order to continue working in a safe environment.

BEFORE UNIONIZATION

AFTER UNIONIZATION

NON-DISCRIMINATION & INCLUSIVE CAMPUS ENVIRONMENT

Instances of discrimination, harassment, and exclusion handled through UC offices or state and federal agencies, which were time consuming, costly, and without representation by elected peer union reps.

Industry standard-setting protections against all forms of discrimination, harassment, and bullying. A grievance process with clear timelines-separate from the Title IX process-to resolve abusive or discriminatory conduct and the right to appeal to a neutral arbitrator. The right to survivor-centered interim measures and remedies after reporting in order to continue working in a safe environment.

APPOINTMENT SECURITY & NOTIFICATION

No guaranteed appointment length. Appointments could be unilaterally withdrawn after being offered. No consistent and transparent appointment notification process.

UC must send GSRs an appointment notification letter with consistent and transparent information about their pay, rights, and benefits. GSRs are guaranteed appointments that are commensurate with the past practice in their department, including 12-month appointments. If an appointment is withdrawn after being accepted, UC must provide an equivalent position or pay and benefits.

FAIR PAY FOR ALL WORK

GSRs were arbitrarily under-appointed at lower percent appointments that did not reflect their workload. No recourse for unreasonable or excessive workloads.

Workload must be commensurate with the GSR's appointment percentage. Most GSRs should receive 50% FTE appointments. Workload includes any work assignment, including required training, orientation, required meetings, required conferences.

DISCIPLINE & DISMISSAL

GSRs could be disciplined or dismissed arbitrarily or "at will."

UC must prove just cause in order to discipline or dismiss GSRs. This means that all discipline must be fair and cannot be arbitrary.

HEALTH, SAFETY, & WORKERS COMPENSATION

UC unilaterally set and enforced health and safety standards. Fellows and Trainees were excluded from workers compensation benefits.

GSRs have the right to work in a healthy and safe work environment. All GSRs are guaranteed access to medical care and leave in the event of a work related injury.

DISPUTE RESOLUTION

No neutral, fair contractual dispute resolution process. UC Admin is final decision-maker on all disputes.

All workplace disputes are resolvable by a fair and expedient grievance procedure and, ultimately, appeal to a neutral arbitrator.

FIGHTING FOR IMMIGRANT & INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' RIGHTS

No unified GSR voice in campus, system-wide, state, or national policy making.

Through the union, UC International GSRs and allies have a powerful voice in local and national policy-making. UAW members have helped: eliminate discriminatory International Student Fees; keep down the cost of UC Non-Resident Tuition; pass the California DREAM Act; fight discriminatory restrictions on OPT work opportunities; and fight anti-immigrant efforts to restrict student and H-1B visas and ban travel to countries with majority Muslim populations.

INCREASING SCIENCE FUNDING

No unified GSR voice in state or national policy making. Through our union, GSRs have successfully lobbied for greater federal research funding.

Union Contact:

Maya Gosztyla
sandiego@uaw2865.org
Head Steward, UAW 2865

Important shopping locations (closest to UCSD)

Ikea

2149 Fenton Parkway
San Diego, CA 92108-4739

Target

5680 Balboa Avenue
San Diego, CA 92111-2706

Wal-Mart

4840 Shawline Street
San Diego, CA 92111

Home Depot

4255 Genesee Avenue
San Diego, CA 92117

Costco

4605 Morena Boulevard
San Diego, CA 92117

Ralphs

8677 Villa La Jolla Dr
La Jolla, CA 92037-2354

Vons

7788 Regents Road
San Diego, CA 92122

Trader Joe's

8657 Villa La Jolla Dr
La Jolla, CA 92037-8309

Sprouts

3358 Governor Dr
San Diego, CA 92122

Balboa International Market

5905 Balboa Ave
San Diego, CA 92111

Zion Market

7655 Clairemont Mesa Blvd
San Diego, CA 92111

99 Ranch Market

7330 Clairemont Mesa Blvd
San Diego, CA 92111

If you need any other locations or ideas of where to get certain things – don't hesitate to get in contact with one of us.

List of Important Websites

Department/School sites

- <http://biomedsci.ucsd.edu>
- <https://students.ucsd.edu>

Housing

- <http://hdh.ucsd.edu/arch/gradhousing.html>
- <https://hdh.ucsd.edu/ARCHWaitlist/>
- <https://offcampushousing.ucsd.edu/>

Transportation and Maps

- <http://www.ucsdbus.com>
- <http://transportation.ucsd.edu/shuttles/index.html>
- <http://transportation.ucsd.edu/>
- <http://www-act.ucsd.edu/maps/>

Car

- <https://mv.dmv.ca.gov/FeeCalculatorWeb/index.jsp>
- <https://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/dmv/dmv/offices>

Health Insurance

- <https://shwadmin.ucsd.edu/>
- <http://studenthealth.ucsd.edu>

Utilities

- <http://www.sdge.com>
- <http://www.sandiego.gov/water/rates/>
- <https://www.spectrum.com/>
- <http://www.att.com/>
- <http://www.directv.com/DTVAPP/index.jsp>
- <http://ww2.cox.com/>

Establishing California Residency

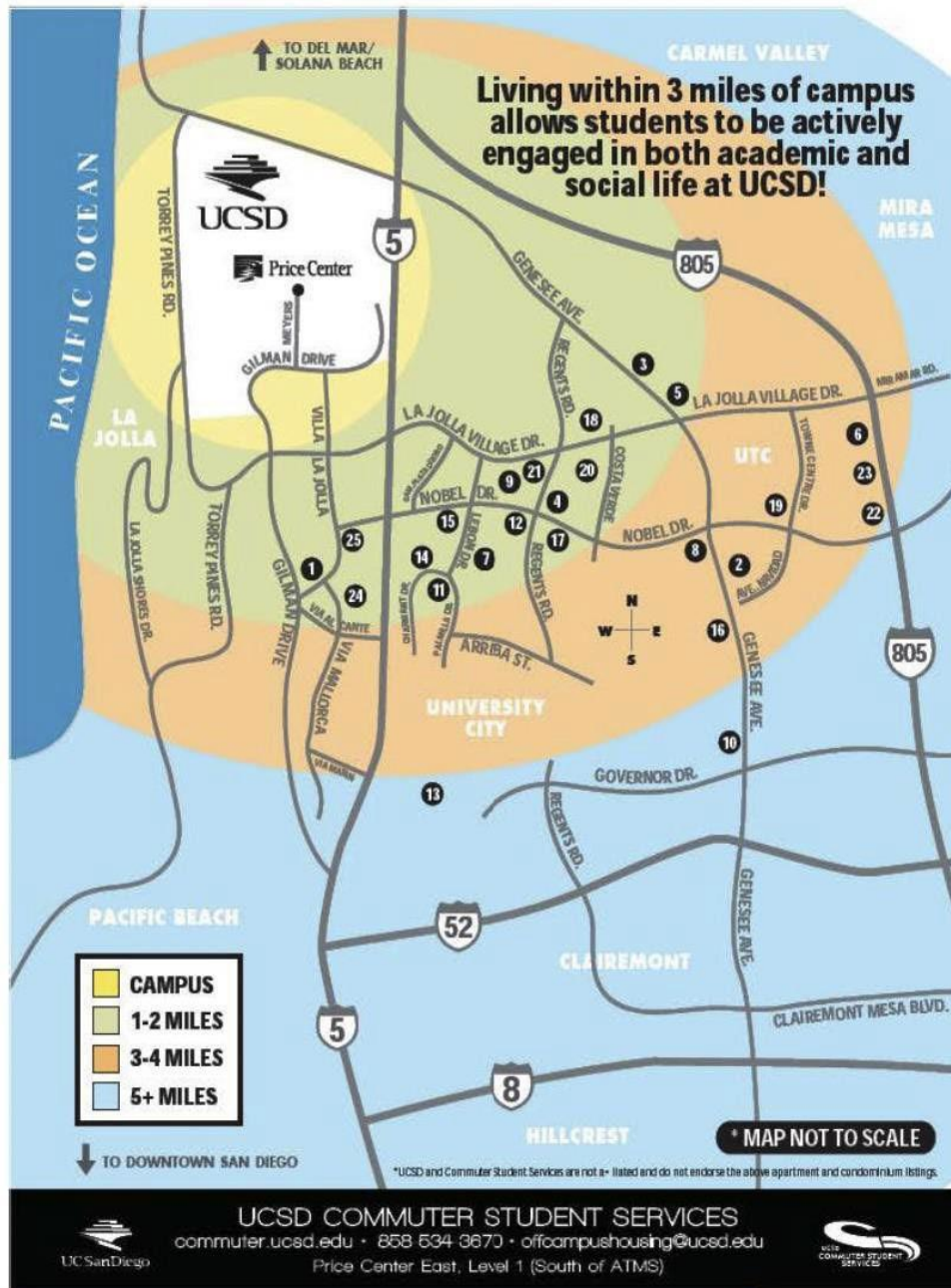
- <http://www.ucsd.edu/current-students/finances/fees/residence/status-change.html>

- <http://www.ucsd.edu/current-students/finances/fees/residence/criteria.html>

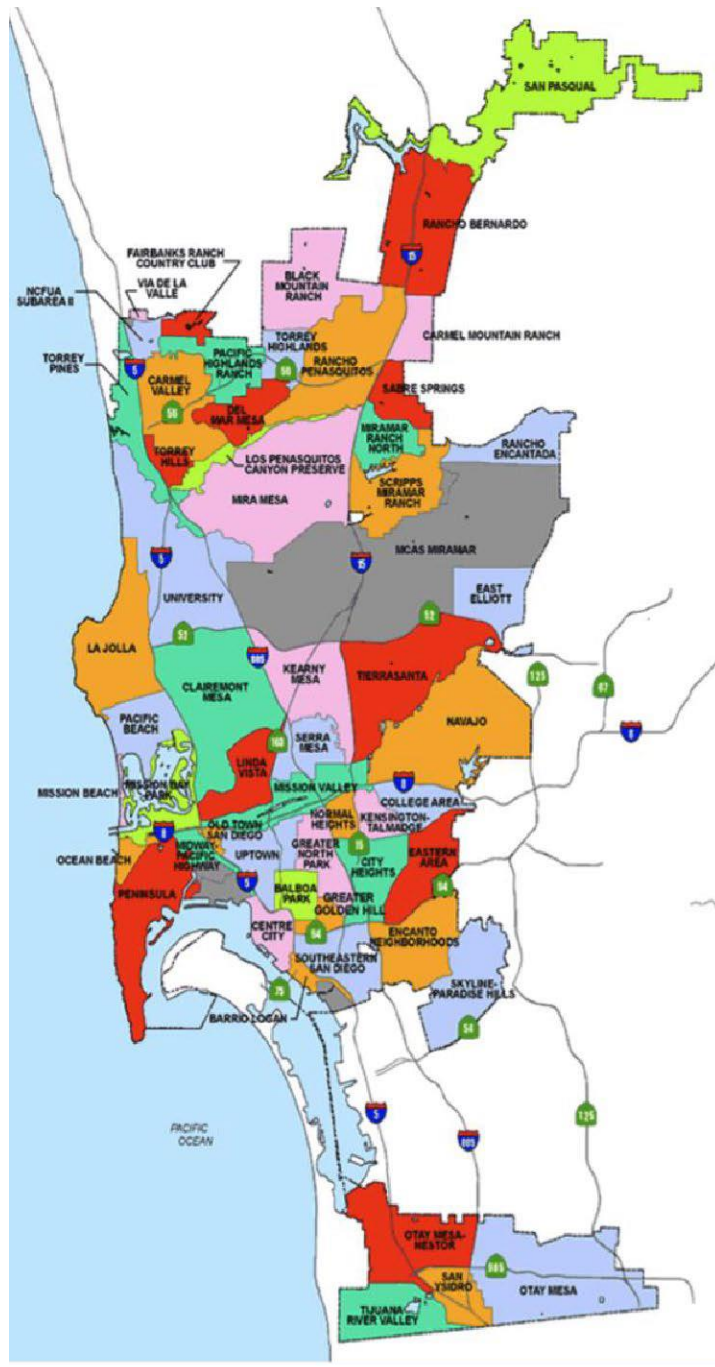
What to do in your free time

- <http://recreation.ucsd.edu/>
- <http://www.sandiegohikers.com/>
- <https://www.sandiegobrewersguild.org/>
- <http://www.westcoastersd.com/>
- <http://www.balboapark.org/>
- <http://sandiego.eater.com/>

Neighborhood Map (from UCSD)

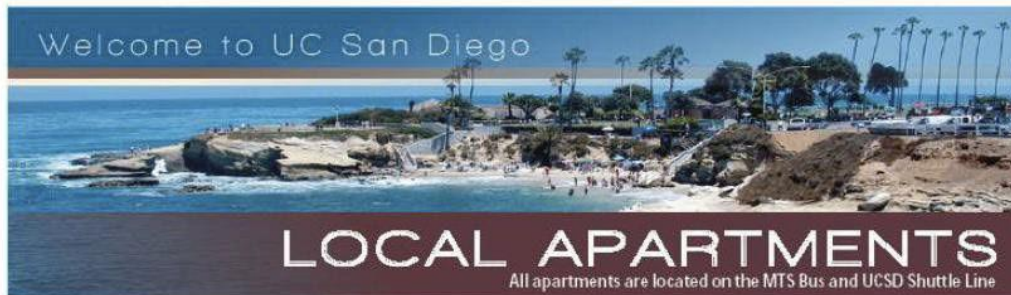


San Diego Neighborhood Map



Apartment Complexes Near Campus

<https://offcampushousing.ucsd.edu/>



1 Archstone Apartments 8506 Villa La Jolla La Jolla, CA 92037 888-325-8588 lajollacrossroads.com 0.5 miles to campus 286 units \$1425 - 1815 average rent	2 Archstone UTC 7938 Avenida Navidad San Diego, CA 92122 888-325-5920 utoe.archstone.com 2.36 miles to campus 328 units \$1000 - 1900 average rent	3 Canyon Park 9555 Genesee Ave. San Diego, CA 92121 866-777-0545 canyonpark.com 2.5 miles to campus 223 units \$1000 - 1585 average rent	4 Costa Verde Village 8720 Costa Verde Blvd. San Diego, CA 92122 866-420-0664 costaverdevillage.com 1.41 miles to campus 1257 units \$1155 - 2230 average rent	5 La Jolla Canyon 9515 Genesee Ave. San Diego, CA 92121 866-434-7889 gardencommunities.com/lajollacanyon 1.91 miles to campus 157 units \$1150 - 1675 average rent
6 La Jolla Crossroads 9085 Judicial Drive San Diego, CA 92122 866-363-9145 lajollacrossroads.com 2.39 miles to campus 995 units \$1275 - 2385 average rent	7 La Jolla International Gardens 3417 Lebon Drive San Diego, CA 92122 866-434-7884 dmesstetomca.net 1.18 miles to campus 400 units \$1205 - 1670 average rent	8 La Jolla Nobel 4247 Nobel Drive San Diego, CA 92122 866-434-7891 forrent.com/lajollanobel 1.93 miles to campus 140 units \$1170 - 1475 average rent	9 La Jolla Palms 3535 Lebon Drive San Diego, CA 92122 800-861-5741 1.2 miles to campus 232 units \$1765 - 2200 average rent	10 La Jolla Park West 5185 Luigi Ter. San Diego, CA 92122 866-328-9899 forrent.com/lajollaparkwest 3.28 miles to campus 175 units \$1270 - 1615 average rent
11 La Regencia 7881 Palmira Drive San Diego, CA 92122 866-434-7885 gardencommunities.com/la-regencia 1.37 miles to campus 560 units \$1345 - 1910 average rent	12 La Scala 3845 Nobel Dr. San Diego, CA 92122 866-434-7887 lascalaetomca.net 1.43 miles to campus 354 units \$1140 - 1815 average rent	13 Las Flores 7039 Charmant Dr. San Diego, CA 92122 866-858-6644 www.las-oreasapartments.com 2.43 miles to campus 312 units \$1445 - 1955 average rent	14 Mirada at La Jolla Colony 7568 Charmant Dr. San Diego, CA 92122 866-449-0425 mirada_apbepmc.com 1.44 miles to campus 444 units \$1235 - 1820 average rent	15 Nobel Court 3737 Nobel Dr. #2101 San Diego, CA 92122 877-258-3981 nobelcourt.com 1.16 miles to campus 267 units \$1295 - 1900 average rent
16 Pacific Gardens 8148 Genesee San Diego, CA 92122 866-467-6332 forrent.com/pacific-gardens-utc 2.09 miles to campus 156 units \$1175 - 1680 average rent	17 Regente Court 8485 Regents Road San Diego, CA 92122 888-255-0322 regentecourtlincolngpts.com 1.6 miles to campus 251 units \$1415 - 2350 average rent	18 Regente La Jolla 9237 Regents Road La Jolla, CA 92037 866-468-8415 regentecourtmanagement.net 1.27 miles to campus 320 units \$1545 - 2700 average rent	19 Torrey Pines Village 8939 Lombard Place San Diego, CA 92122 866-668-0907 torreypinesapb.com 2 miles to campus 134 units \$1100 - 1600 average rent	20 Towers at Costa Verde 8775 Costa Verde Blvd San Diego, CA 92122 866-648-0668 www.gardencommunities.com 1.44 miles to campus 600 units \$1625 - 2905 average rent
21 Trieste Apartments 3950 Mahala Ave. San Diego, CA 92122 888-263-7922 triesteapartmentsa.r.com 1.36 miles to campus 302 units \$1397 - 1717 average rent	22 Valentia 5305 Toscana Way La Jolla, CA 92037 858-622-0211 valentiaesthproperties.com 2.5 miles to campus 318 units \$1600 - 2250 average rent	23 The Villas of Renaissance 5280 Flore Terrace San Diego, CA 92122 800-873-5950 2.43 miles to campus 923 units \$1350 - 2475 average rent	24 Villa La Jolla 8540 Via Mallorca La Jolla, CA 92037 866-667-815 forrent.com/villalajolla .91 miles to campus 228 units \$1300 - 1710 average rent	25 Village Square 8883 Via Mallorca San Diego, CA 92037 866-413-5928 forrent.com/apartmentsonthesquare .91 miles to campus 116 units \$1195 - 1325 average rent

*Information collected quarterly. UCSD and Commuter Student Services are not affiliated and do not endorse the above apartment and condominium listings.



UCSD COMMUTER STUDENT SERVICES
commuter.ucsd.edu • 858-534-3670 • offcampushousing@ucsd.edu
 Price Center East, Level 1 (South of ATMS)

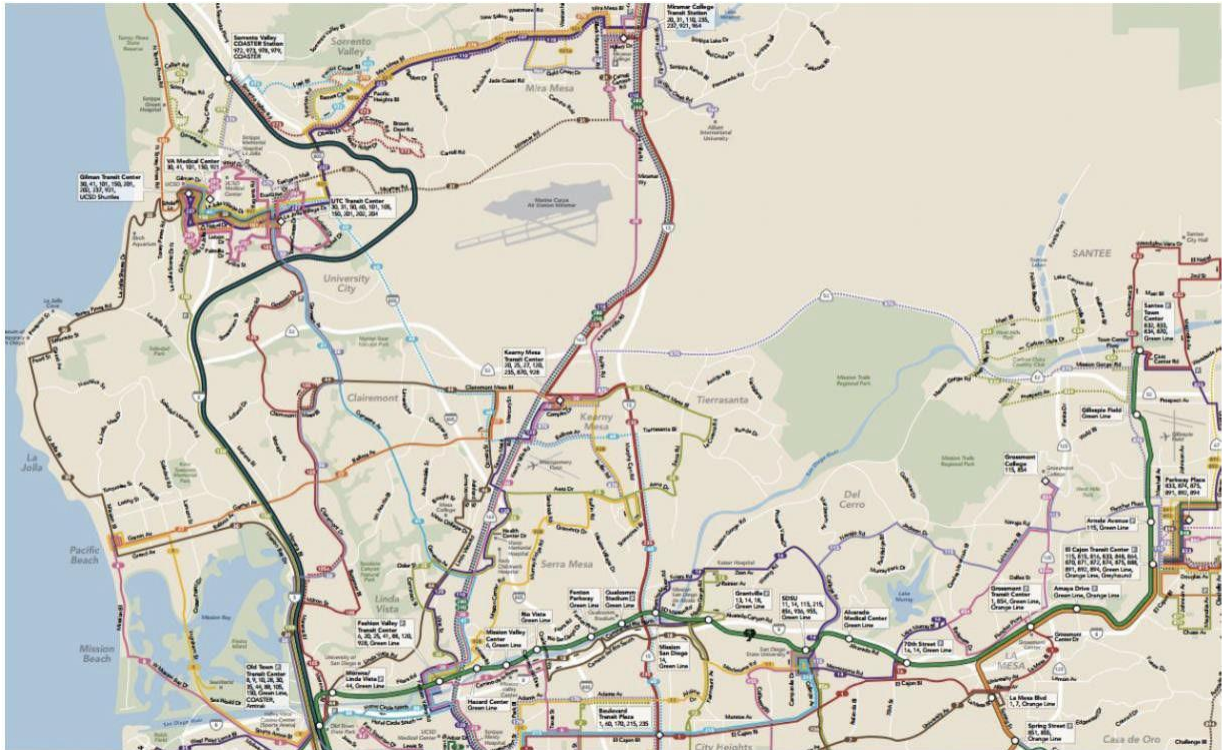


UCSD Shuttles

Several of the further routes are not shown, track shuttles using the TRANSLOC APP.

Find a live map at <https://tritontransit.ridesystems.net/routes>

San Diego Regional Transit



UCSD Parking Lot Location Map

<https://maps.ucsd.edu/map/default.htm>