SURF CHECK:
Coming to UC San Diego
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COMING SOON...
Surf Check:

WHAT TO PACK

Coming to

UC San Diego
General Temperatures

- Very Cold: below 50°F
- Cold: 50 – 65°F
- Warm: 65 – 72°F
- Hot: 72 – 80°F
- Very Hot: above 80°F

- Make sure to layer to easily adjust to the cold/hot changes!
- Always have a pair of sunglasses and sunscreen with you.

Weather Trends in San Diego

- Inland areas are warmer than coastal areas.
- Temperatures can decrease drastically during the night.
- Mornings, especially by the coast, can be foggy and cool, but the weather warms up as the day progresses.
- Rainy days can be very unpredictable, but usually wetter season lasts from November to March, sometimes May and early June.
- Hottest season is August – September.

Friendly Reminder: Celsius vs Fahrenheit

**Freezing:** 0 degrees Celsius or 32 degrees Fahrenheit

**Boiling:** 100 degrees C or 212 degrees F

1 degree Celsius is 1.8 times larger than one degree Fahrenheit

**TIP!** Temperature in Fahrenheit = Temperature in Celsius x 1.8 + 32
General Tips

• Sometimes feet can be expressed as ‘ and inches as “’. For example, if someone is 5 feet 4 inches tall, it may be written as 5’4”.
• If you want to order a beverage, the 12oz drink would usually be a small, 16oz is medium, and 20oz is large.
• Mattresses in the dorm are usually Twin XL or Extra Long Twin. The dimensions are 38in x 83in.
• Sizes for clothes and shoes are also different in the U.S.! Check-out this website for helpful conversions.

Conversions

• 1 mile (mi) = 1.6 kilometers (km)
• 1 foot (ft) = 12 inches (in) = 30 centimeters (cm)
• 1 inch (in) = 25 millimeters (mm) or 2.54 centimeters (cm)
• 3 feet (ft) is almost exactly 1 meter (m)
• 1 kilogram (kg) - just over 2 pounds (lbs)
• 1 pound (lb) = 454 grams (g)
• 1 ounce (oz) = 28 grams (g)
• 1 gallon (gal) = 3.79 liters (L)

A commonly used abbreviation, MPH, means miles per hour
Plugs and Sockets

US plugs and socket types are **Type A and Type B** as shown on the image on the left.

The standard voltage is **120 V**, but electric appliances that range from **110 – 127 V** will work too.

If you plan to live on campus, check out the [UCSD Housing and Residential Life Policies](#) for detailed requirements on appliances, extension cords, and more.

### Summary

- **Make sure you have a plug adaptor** if the plugs on your electronics are not **Type A or B**.
- If the voltage on electronic appliances from your home country exceeds **127V**, it may be easier to purchase some items in the U.S., or you will need to get a **voltage converter**.
- **Fun Fact**: The word "**outlet**" is also used to talk about shopping centers or malls that sell items for a reduced price.
What to Bring

- Clothes for all types of weather
- Comfortable shoes, the campus is quite large!
- Things that will help make this your new home!
- Personal hygiene items
- Headphones (highly recommended)
- Laptop and/or tablet/iPad
- Swimsuit. We do live across from the beach!
- 3MT Command Adhesive strips/hooks to hang things on your wall!
- A willingness to learn about yourself and your new community
- A positive attitude and excitement about starting your journey into college!

What NOT to Bring*

- Candles, incense, fireworks, or weapons
- Halogen lamps
- Multi-bulb light fixtures or “octopus lamps”
- Pets except fish
- Masking or cellophane tape, nails, and other products that damage paint or wall surfaces
- Two-pronged extension cords – only three-prong cords are allowed
- Hotplates or any electrical appliance with an open or exposed heating element
- Wireless routers or devices that might interfere with our network
- Toasters or toaster ovens
- Air conditioners
- Alcohol, drugs, or drug paraphernalia
- Waterbeds
- Self-built lofts of any kind

*as presented by UCSD Housing • Dining • Hospitality (HDH) and safety policies
...or buy after moving in!

ON CAMPUS

- Target @UCSD
- Amazon @UCSD
- UC San Diego Bookstore

You can also order things to be delivered to campus and can pick them up at Amazon Smart Lockers!

OFF CAMPUS

- Walmart
- IKEA
- Target
- Marshalls
- Bed, Bath & Beyond
- HomeGoods

Malls near UCSD:
- Westfield UTC
- Westfield Mission Valley
- Fashion Valley
When traveling
### Immigration Documents

- ISPO has created a **Welcome Guide** to help you prepare for arrival. Check it out to access easy checklists and valuable immigration information.
- We are very excited to see you at UC San Diego and hope these make your journey easier!
- Check out p.7 of our Welcome Guide to learn about immigration documents at a glance!

### Emergency Contacts & Urgent Requests

- For **immediate** health and safety emergencies when in the U.S., call **911**
- For immigration and U.S. Port of Entry issues **after business hours**, call **(858) 534-4357**
- For all other matters during business hours (Monday-Friday 9am-4pm PT), call **(858) 534-3730**
- For all other **urgent** matters after business hours, call **(858) 534-4357**
- Finally, we recommend taking a screenshot or saving the **International Student Emergency Contact Card** to your phone when traveling!
VISA SUPPORT RESOURCES

iNewStudent.ucsd.edu

This page provides a comprehensive guide for newly admitted international students based on their educational level and type. The guides outline the procedures for requesting documents, preparing for arrival, and upon arrival. You can also find useful information about F vs J Visa Options and answers to frequently asked questions!

Ask Triton

Ask Triton is a chatbot designed to help you with all your UC San Diego questions about admissions, visas, enrollment, financial aid, and billing in English, Chinese, Vietnamese, and Spanish! You can find it on our website at ispo.ucsd.edu

ISPO Advising

ISPO's team of expert staff provides the highest levels of knowledge and expertise in advising and immigration services to international students at UC San Diego. Advising is provided through virtual Zoom Advising, email, and our online advising guides.
Surf Check:

TRANSPORTATION

Coming to

UC San Diego
Chinese Union has been hosting an airport pick-up program for several years. “In order to help more students arrive to campus more smoothly, we will host pick-up services at LAX and SAN from September 11th-19th. This service starts at $12 for San Diego (SAN) pick-up and $35 for LA (LAX) pick-up, paid through Venmo or Chase/Zelle. According to the COVID-19 health and safety protocol, we have also upgraded our services in terms of health protection. We hope all students can arrive to campus and enjoy UC San Diego community safely through our pick-up program.”

Airport Pick-up Service by Chinese Union

from the San Diego International Airport (SAN)

**Bus**
- route 992 stops at the airport — you will need to transfer to/from your home or campus
- search the [bus schedule](#)
- ride free with your Triton U-Pass or there is a $5 one-day MTS pass

**Ride share** (take advantage of our [campus partnership with Lyft](#))

**Taxi** (allow about $50+ from airport to UCSD La Jolla campus)

**Private shuttle service** (about $20 each way between SAN airport and UCSD La Jolla campus)
Other traveling options for LAX airport

AMTRAK

- Departes from LA Union Station
- Find schedules on Amtrak's website
- The closest station to the La Jolla campus is Solana Beach
- Hop on the 101 Breeze bus between the station and campus, or use another bus line or taxi to/from the Amtrak station
- Amtrak offers students 15% off the best-available rail fares for travel on Pacific Surfliner and other California Amtrak routes. Read the terms and conditions, then place your reservation.

GREYHOUND BUS

- Find schedules on the Greyhound Bus website
- The closest station to the La Jolla campus is downtown San Diego
- Use a nearby bus line or taxi to/from the Greyhound station
Surf Check:

OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING

UC San Diego

Coming to UC San Diego
As of July 2021, every undergraduate bed on-campus has been filled. Housing, Dining and Hospitality (HDH) typically receives cancellations throughout the summer and Fall Quarter. As spaces become available, they will be offered to students on the housing waitlist. Since HDH are not able to predict how many cancellations it will receive throughout the summer, students are strongly encouraged to consider off-campus housing options.

Off-Campus Housing—Trends & Considerations

- Vacancy rates are very low in San Diego, and it may take some time to find an apartment. The largest number of vacancies come up in June-September. It is recommended that you join the apartment complex's waitlist.
- Living in San Diego, especially in La Jolla, is very expensive, and it is important to set a realistic budget before beginning to look for a place to live.
- Be prepared to pay a security deposit equal to one month's rent (which may be refunded upon leaving) in addition to the first month's rent.
Continuing Students Options

• **The Village at Pepper Canyon**: A community of apartments and residence halls designed especially for continuing students. The neighborhood consists of Camp Snoopy Residence Halls, Matthews Apartments, Pepper Canyon Apartments, and the Rita Apartments. This unique community is conveniently located near the new mass-transit trolley that is currently under construction. The Rita Apartments are located within walking distance of shopping and restaurants.

• **UC San Diego Graduate and Family Housing**: Consists of seven apartment complexes: Mesa Nueva, Nuevo West and Nuevo East, Coast Apartments, La Jolla Del Sol, Mesa Residential Apartments and One Miramar Street. Students eligible to live in a Graduate and Family Housing community are Full-time Graduate and Professional Students (i.e. enrolled in 12 units or more throughout the lease term), Graduate, Professional, and Undergrad Students with Children and Full-time Undergraduate Student Couples.

Resources

UC San Diego Off-Campus Housing Directory

• A rental referral and housing information resource center with listings of apartment, house, and condominium rentals, available in a variety of areas around campus and the San Diego community. Roommates and room rentals are listed online.

Alternative housing websites

- Uloop.com
- UCSD Guardian
- Craigslist San Diego
- Penny Saver
- San Diego Reader Newspaper
- For Rent.com
- Apartment List
Short-Term Housing Options

Homestay Programs
Live with an American host family. Private and shared rooms available. **Apply at least 4-6 weeks before arrival.** Homestays are a great way for students to experience American culture and customs!

**Solana Beach Homestay Program:** Would you like to be matched with an American family who volunteers to help newly-arriving international students at no cost? The Solana Beach Host Family Program has been making this possible for 16 years. Please visit our website using [this link](#).

Temporary Housing Providers
These companies own and manage apartments in the local area and can help place you in their temporary or extended-stay accommodation. Additional costs for these services may apply. See websites for more information.

Hotels
There are many hotels with special **UCSD-affiliate discounts** near UC San Diego. Some are within walking distance of UC San Diego. When calling for reservations, ask for the UCSD rate for a discount.

Youth Hostels
Youth hostels in the San Diego area are far from UC San Diego but offer dormitory-style housing at a **lower rate than hotels.** Some have kitchen facilities.

Short-Stay Rentals
Please note you can also use popular sites such as [AirBnB](https://airbnb.com) and [Vrbo](https://vrbo.com) to find short-stay rentals. Please keep in mind that in addition to the rent fee you would have to pay other fees like cleaning.
AVOID HOUSING SCAMS

Be aware of housing scams, particularly on websites like Craigslist! Signs of a scam targeting renters can include the following:

1. The advertised price of the rental property is much lower than that of similar properties.
2. The person trying to rent you the property claims to be an agent for the property owner who is too busy, out of the country, or otherwise unavailable to handle the rental.
3. The owner or agent requires you to sign the lease before you see the rental property.
4. The owner or agent isn’t able to let you enter the home or apartment or charges you a fee to view it.
5. You’re asked to wire money as a deposit or payment of first and last month’s rent. Remember wiring money is the same as giving cash. You can’t get a refund, even if you find out the offer was a fraud.
6. The owner or agent uses high pressure sales tactics, urging you to rent quickly, before someone else gets the property.
7. The person preparing the lease writes in a higher monthly rent or additional fees that you hadn’t agreed upon.
8. The landlord directs you to a website to get a free credit check. This can be a tactic for harvesting your identity. Only disclose this information on a written application after you have seen the property.

Consult with UCSD Student Legal Services if have any questions about a property you are renting/would like to rent.
List of San Diego Neighborhoods
30 minutes or less by car / 15 miles or less away from campus*

Here are a list of San Diego neighborhoods and bus routes available for your reference during your housing search (listed in order of closest to furthest):

• Torrey Pines
• University City [MTS 41 or 105]
• La Jolla [MTS 30]
• Sorrento Valley [MTS 237 or 921]
• Mira Mesa [MTS 237, 921 or 31]
• Miramar [MTS 31]
• Del Mar [MTS 101, 202 or 41]
• Clairemont [MTS 41]
• Kearny Mesa [MTS 27, 41, 44, 50 or 201]
• Pacific Beach [MTS 27, 30, 41, 50, 150 or 201]
• Carmel Valley
• Linda Vista [MTS 41]
• Mission Valley [MTS 41]
• Mission Beach [MTS 8, 30, 105 or 202]
• Ocean Beach [MTS 35 or 150]

Metropolitan Transit System allows you to plan your trips via their website. It’s a great tool for checking which bus you need to take, duration of the trip, and more.

Check for traffic during certain hours of the day as it may impact the time needed to get to campus.

Check out the next page for a map visualizing the neighborhoods’ distance from campus!

Download the Compass Cloud App to access the Triton U-Pass for Students and to get UNLIMITED rides on all regional MTS and NCTD mass transit!

*time estimates do not account for traffic or using public transportation; distance may vary depending on the route or the exact location.