Overview – by year

What year are you?

189 responses

- Undergraduate: First year: 37%
- Undergraduate: Second year: 11.1%
- Undergraduate: Third year: 16.4%
- Undergraduate: Fourth year or above: 10.6%
- Graduate: 24.3%
- Non-Degree
- VGS
What is your current form of learning/working?

189 responses

- 82% Remote only
- 16.4% Hybrid (combination of both in-person and remote)
- 1.6% In-person only
Overview – Location

Where have you spent most of your time living during this academic year?
189 responses

- On campus: 34.9%
- Off campus in San Diego: 31.7%
- In California but outside of San Diego: 21.2%
- In the U.S. but outside of California: 5.4%
- Outside of the U.S.: 1.6%

Locations:
- China - 14
- Indonesia - 5
- Taiwan - 5
- India - 5
- Brazil - 4
- Mexico - 2
- Spain - 2
- Japan - 2
- Sweden - 2
- Chile - 2
- Canada - 2
- Kazakhstan - 1
- Saudi Arabia - 1
- Thailand - 1
- South Korea - 1
- Vietnam - 1
- France - 1
- Switzerland - 1
- Guatemala - 1
- Malaysia - 1
- Sri Lanka - 1
- Greece - 1
- Austria - 1
- Singapore - 1
- Russia - 1
- Hong Kong - 1
- Slovakia - 1
- Slovenia - 1
### Major Events & Challenges

Have there been any major events or challenges happening in your country that have affected you? Please share.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenges</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Many NOs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COVID-19 and lockdowns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Mental health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Seeing family and friends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Economic crises</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Discrimination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protests, social unrest, political changes, war</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Hong Kong, Chile, India, Mexico, Slovakia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Safety concerns, fear</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closures of US embassies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International travel restrictions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time Difference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mass Flooding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Power outages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earthquake in Japan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial issues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Family members losing jobs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Cost of attending UCSD &amp; plane tickets</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
If you are an undergraduate student, which college are you from?

118 responses

- Revelle: 20.3%
- Muir: 22.9%
- Marshall: 23.7%
- Warren: 7.6%
- Roosevelt: 14.4%
- Sixth: N/A
- Seventh: N/A
- N/A: N/A
If you are a graduate student, what is your department or academic program?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mechanical &amp; Aerospace engineering (MAE)</th>
<th>Rady School of Management</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scripps Institute of Oceanography</td>
<td>Visual Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School of Global Policy and Strategy</td>
<td>Biology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biological Sciences</td>
<td>Anthropology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry and Biochemistry</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nanoengineering</td>
<td>Structural Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Science and Engineering (CSE)</td>
<td>Music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Materials Science and Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communication</td>
<td>Biomedical Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>Theater and Dance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cognitive Science</td>
<td>Literature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political Science</td>
<td>Sociology</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Graduate Student Experience

Did you experience any issues or concerns related to research progress this year? If so, please share.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Some NOs</th>
<th>Delays --&gt; complications with visas and future planning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Difficulties with development of new research skills</td>
<td>Pushing qualifying to another quarter/year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• More difficult to ask lab partners/ not being in physical space</td>
<td>Slowdown in research output / reduced productivity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not enough guidance on research &amp; progress towards degree</td>
<td>Can't work/conduct research where worked previously or in person</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Online advising is less effective/ expectations have not changed while research accessibility did</td>
<td>• Capacity limitations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Workload increase</td>
<td>• Had to switch labs / difficulty finding rotation labs / fieldwork</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Lack of information sharing about regulations</td>
<td>• Fewer hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wellbeing</td>
<td>• Faculty not having authorization paperwork prepared</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Lack of motivation, burnout</td>
<td>• Data collecting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Isolation, mental health impacts, sleep, time zones</td>
<td>• Access to library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Difficulty learning in remote environment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Faculty not having authorization paperwork prepared
- Data collecting
- Access to library
- Delays --> complications with visas and future planning
- Pushing qualifying to another quarter/year
- Slowdown in research output / reduced productivity
- Can't work/conduct research where worked previously or in person
- Capacity limitations
- Had to switch labs / difficulty finding rotation labs / fieldwork
- Fewer hours
- Faculty not having authorization paperwork prepared
- Data collecting
- Access to library
Did you experience any issues or concerns related to TAing this year? If so, please share.

- Some NOs
- Being available to students / Time difference
- Shortage of TA positions/ Difficulty finding one in one's department
- Students not turning their cameras on
  - Hard reaching out to students
- Time management
  - A lot of work
- Technology issues
  - Helping faculty with Zoom and Canvas
  - Learning new software and programming languages hard w/o in-person support
  - Lack of necessary tools
- Cost
  - Setting up to teach online effectively
- Zoom fatigue
- Professors treating TAs bad / CAT being rude
# Graduate Student Experience

What is one thing that your advisor/ department/ university could do to help with your progress towards your degree?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Support student needs</th>
<th>More study spaces</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Financial aid / paying better wages / fees</td>
<td>Have a psychologist for every department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More investment in helping students graduate on time</td>
<td>Housing accommodations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jobs/ internships / research</td>
<td>Check-ins/meetings (quarterly, biweekly or weekly)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More flexibility / clarity on course selection</td>
<td>Clarify vacation statuses (max/min days off)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More seminars on Imposter Syndrome</td>
<td>Better communication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asynchronous class accommodations / hold classes at earlier time</td>
<td>Research accommodation/delays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>More office hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Help build community</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Please identify if you experienced any difficulty in paying your tuition and fees.

189 responses

- 40.2% Never
- 29.1% Rarely
- 18% Occasionally
- 4% Often
- 3.2% Very Often
- 1.6% Always
Please identify if you experienced any basic needs (food and housing) challenges.

189 responses

- 51.3% Never
- 27.5% Rarely
- 13.2% Occasionally
- Other categories with less than 5% each:
  - Often
  - Very Often
  - Always
Are you aware of the iTABLE basic needs program for international students? (itable.ucsd.edu)

180 responses

- Yes: 78.9%
- No: 21.1%
Please indicate the level of overall financial stress you/your family have experienced during the pandemic.

189 responses
Would you like to elaborate on any of your choices or provide additional information about your situation?

- Working a lot more to cover monthly rent/utilities
- Concerns about paying for summer / securing a job
- Having to pay for campus housing (when living at home) because of personal stuff remaining in the room
- Health-related expenses
- iTable funding / Basic Needs services alleviating some financial concerns
- Difficulties finding off-campus housing
- Heavy reliance on stipends
- Family losing income sources/ facing economic hardships
  - Foreign exchange rate
- Tuition remaining the same
  - Instructions for making tuition payment are unclear
How was your academic performance for Fall 2020 compared to a normal in-person quarter?

189 responses

- 41.8% Better
- 38.1% About the same
- 9% Worse
- 9% Considerably Worse
Academics

Please rate the degree to which the following events affected your academic performance during this academic year.

- Time zone differences
- Internet issues
- Inability to reach professors and TAs
- Physical health
- COVID-19 related stress
- Family obligations
- Financial obligations
- Inability to find study partners
Would you like to elaborate on any of your choices or provide additional information about your situation?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Home environment</strong> – more distractions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• More worries about family obligations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• School closure impacted parent students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Professors and TAs</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Some found it easier to reach out while others found it more difficult</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Some classes didn't offer asynchronous options</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Exam times</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Health implications</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Being in front of a screen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>COVID-19-related stress</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Physical and mental health (always-on culture)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Harder to be productive</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Zoom fatigue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Technology issues</strong> (unstable internet, etc.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Class registration issues</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Time difference</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Missing out on social events – feeling isolated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Difficulties finding study partners</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Sleep schedules/ assignments get published later their domestic time</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Time Zone/Time Change

Please rate the degree to which time zone differences have affected your ability to perform the following activities.

- Not at all
- A little bit
- Somewhat
- Considerably
- Extremely
- N/A

Activities:
- Attend synchronous lectures and office hours
- Attend office hours and tutor hours
- Write exams
- Keep your normal sleep schedule
- Keep your normal eating schedule
- Attend school events (webinars and workshops)
- Participate in student organizations and councils
- Attend to your mental health
Have you ever missed a quiz, an exam, or a deadline because of the time difference?

189 responses

- Yes: 69.8%
- No: 30.2%
Were you negatively impacted by the daylight saving time change in November 2020?

189 responses

- 65.6% Yes
- 34.4% No
Would you like to elaborate on any of your choices or provide additional information about your situation?

- Daylight savings
  - Time difference increases/decreases
  - Mistakes with conversions
- Difficulty attending seminars/workshops/social events
- Exams during nighttime
- Not doing as well academically
- Mental health impacts
Health and Wellness

How often do you feel stressed in a typical week during the quarter?
189 responses

- 37% Not stressed at all
- 20.6% A little stressed
- 20.1% Stressed
- 22.2% Very Stressed
- Purple (Extremely Stressed) is not visible in the diagram.
Health and Wellness

How much do you think the pandemic contributed to your stress?

189 responses

1. 9 (4.8%)
2. 22 (11.6%)
3. 39 (20.6%)
4. 61 (32.3%)
5. 58 (30.7%)
How do you feel about the lack of in-person social interaction during the pandemic? If it has affected you, how so?

• Avoiding virtual activities because of burnout
• Difficulty practicing English
• Harder to make friends
• Feelings of isolation
  • Not interacting with anyone outside family members/ rarely leaving home
• Loneliness/ no sense of community
• Low motivation/morale
  • Mental health impacts
# Health and Wellness

How do you feel about the lack of in-person social interaction during the pandemic?
If it has affected you, how so?

| • Being at home most of the time  
  • Balancing school and home life  
  • Schoolwork/research  
  • Increased workload  
  • High expectations  
  • Quater pace  
  • Wanting to return to campus before graduating  
  • Not having in-person campus life  
  • Lack of social interactions  
  • Time difference  
  • Lack of accommodations by professors  
  • Financial issues | • Boundaries between work and personal life  
  • Not enough time for self-care  
  • Health issues  
  • Lack of sleep  
  • Constantly being online  
  • Mental and physical health  
  • Job search  
  • Uncertainty  
  • Settling in a new country  
  • Traveling  
  • Wanting to return home  
  • Visa issues |
Virtual Private Networks (VPN)

Please rate the degree to which using UCSD's VPN has affected your ability to perform the following activities.
Virtual Private Networks (VPN)

How was the internet speed with UCSD's VPN?

107 responses

- 10 (9.3%)
- 9 (8.4%)
- 48 (44.9%)
- 28 (26.2%)
- 12 (11.2%)
Virtual Private Networks (VPN)

- Did you use a VPN other than the one provided by UCSD?
  - Yes: 37.6%
  - No: 41.8%
  - N/A: 20.8%
  (189 responses)

- If so, is it free or paid?
  - Free: 53.8%
  - Paid: 46.2%
  (52 responses)
Would you like to elaborate on any of your choices or provide additional information about your situation?

- VPN --> slower, more unsteady internet connections
  - Difficulty attending lectures
  - Very slow at night China time
- Missing events because can't connect to VPN
- Entering password every time – non-user friendly
- Dissatisfaction with school WiFi
- Mobile version only works on iPhones
- Works inconsistently
Visa and Immigration Policies

What type of non-immigrant visa will you need to study at UC San Diego?

189 responses

- 72% F-1
- 21.7% None (I am a U.S. citizen or have an immigrant visa)
- 6.3% J-1
Visa and Immigration Policies

If you are outside of the U.S. right now, when do you plan to return?

67 responses

- 34.3% Spring 2021
- 37.3% Summer 2021
- 17.9% Fall 2021
- 10.4% I don't know
Visa and Immigration Policies

Were you able to find sufficient information about visa and immigration policy information from the International Student and Programs Office (ISPO)'s website or newsletters?

189 responses

- Yes: 55%
- No: 12.2%
- N/A (if you currently don't need to apply for a new VISA): 32.8%
Visa and Immigration Policies

Rate your level of satisfaction with the International Students and Programs Office (ISPO) visa and immigration information?

189 responses

- 8 (4.2%)
- 5 (2.6%)
- 70 (37%)
- 55 (29.1%)
- 51 (27%)
Is there anything you find specifically challenging when applying for a visa?

- Embassies
  - Completely closed in some regions
  - Rescheduling
  - Getting a visa through a 3rd country
- Visa renewal process
- Interviews

- I-20 processing time
- Applying with an expiring passport
- Need more guidance with the process
- Travel ban
- Uncertainty
- US politics
If you're currently outside of the U.S., are you worried about any challenges in traveling back to or upon your arrival to the U.S.? (e.g. delays due to travel restrictions, quarantine, housing in San Diego, etc.)

143 responses

- 60.1% Yes
- 35% No
- Not applicable (NA)
If you answered 'Yes' to the previous question, please elaborate.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Travel</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Quarantining</td>
<td>Not knowing when to return</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• In another country and in the U.S.</td>
<td>• Travel restrictions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Financial costs</td>
<td>• Being able to go home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Figuring out banking, getting SSN, etc.</td>
<td>• COVID-19 (general and situation in the U.S.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Housing</td>
<td>• Internships eligibility</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Getting denied entry</td>
<td>• U.S. political climate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
If you've already travelled to the U.S., did you experience any challenges during travel or upon arrival? (e.g. delays due to travel restrictions, quarantine, housing in San Diego, etc.)
189 responses

- Yes: 65.1%
- No: 14.3%
- Not Applicable (NA): 20.6%
If you answered 'Yes' to the previous question, please elaborate.

- Testing on time
- Unclear quarantine policies
- Delays
- Transportation from the airport to campus
- Difficulty getting a flight
- Better arrangements/ process for students moving in on campus
Please identify the biggest challenges you experienced during the pandemic (select up to 3 items).

188 responses

- Academic: 150 (79.8%)
- Health & Wellness: 139 (73.9%)
- Financial: 63 (33.5%)
- VPN & Technology: 19 (10.1%)
- Time Zone: 64 (34%)
- Visa: 47 (25%)
- Travel: 60 (31.9%)
- Social: 1 (0.5%)
- Social: 1 (0.5%)
- Social: 1 (0.5%)
- Children's health: 1 (0.5%)
How effective do you think that UC San Diego has been in supporting international students during the pandemic?

188 responses
How interested would you be in continuing your studies online?

178 responses

- Extremely interested: 30.9%
- Very interested: 24.2%
- Somewhat interested: 27.5%
- Slightly interested: 12.9%
- Not at all interested: 3.9%
### Closing

How effective do you think that UC San Diego has been in supporting international students during the pandemic?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Catering better to the needs of different groups</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>More opportunities to apply to COVID relief/discounting some fees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Funding for students who can't find employment (especially in the summer)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Reducing international tuition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advocate more (on a state and federal level)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Articulate difficulties faced by int'l students to departments and administrators</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More social events</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Better sense of community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Encourage domestic students to help out international students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Mentorship for first-year students (someone from their country)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More guidance on campus and U.S. processes (off-campus housing, documents, taxes)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clearer communication</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Housing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Allowing graduate students to live in iHouse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- 4-year housing guarantee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Housing for J-1 students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More job opportunities on campus that support OPT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- More resources to find internships/jobs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How to use health insurance off-campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allowing document renewal inside the country</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More food options</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Better accommodations for live classes/exams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Make classes asynchronous</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Explicitly mentioning if class is asynchronous or not during enrollment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guaranteeing an online option</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Allowing TAs to work remotely after pandemic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuing PNP policy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Do you have any questions or comments for the International Student Advisory Council?

- "I highly appreciate that you are listening to students' voices!"
  - "Good job and thank you for helping us."
  - "Thank you for all your effort!"
- Concerns about finding off-campus housing
- "If I plan to come back in June 2021, do I have to request for a new I-20 form? If yes, how is it going to be sent to me, whether through email (virtually) or mail (physically)?"
- Letting TAs working remote