



NOTES OF GUIDANCE FOR YOUR EXCHANGE DESTINATION

Caltech, USA

Fast Facts:

Website:	https://www.caltech.edu/ https://international.caltech.edu/
Language of instruction:	English Caltech has a strict English language requirement if your first language is not English. You will need to submit either a TOEFL or Duolingo score of 110 (TOEFL) or 120 (Duolingo) for each component of the test, and overall. The report should be no more than 2 years old. If you do not have either of these, you will need to pay for a test yourself.
Semester dates:	Term 1 (Fall): September – December Term 2 (Winter): January – March Term 3 (Spring): April - June
Number of students currently enrolled	2,300
Academic restrictions at a glance <i>Please note: These are guidelines. It is your responsibility to research whether the partner provides appropriate courses for your degree programme.</i>	Students can only go to Caltech if their subject is in the <u>College of Science and Engineering</u> or is <u>Economics</u>.
General Costs	According to estimates provided by Caltech, students should expect to pay around \$25, 000 per academic year on housing, on-campus meals, books and supplies, additional campus fees and personal expenses. This does not include visa costs, flight costs or mandatory insurance costs. This is also subject to change and will depend on your personal preferences and lifestyle.

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About the University

The California Institute of Technology (Caltech) is a world-renowned science and engineering research and education institution, where extraordinary faculty and students seek answers to complex questions, discover new knowledge, lead innovation, and transform our future.

The mission of the California Institute of Technology is to expand human knowledge and benefit society through research integrated with education. We investigate the most challenging, fundamental problems in science and technology in a singularly collegial, interdisciplinary atmosphere, while educating outstanding students to become creative members of society.

Caltech is located in Pasadena, California, a residential community and is its own city, but lying in Los Angeles County. Pasadena is located just below the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains, which are a great location for hiking and walks. The city is about a 30 to 45 minute drive from the beach.

You can find out more [here](#).

What to expect

Application process

You apply for study exchanges through SWAY. You can find out more about our [study exchange routes here](#), and more about the [application process here](#).

After applying, if you are allocated an exchange place at Caltech, you will be officially nominated by the International Programmes Team. We will then provide you with your detailed application instructions. **You can ONLY apply to any exchange destination if you have been allocated a place there, and if you are officially nominated by us.**

Academics

For support with the academic side of your exchange, your best point of contact is your Exchange Coordinator, [found here](#). The Exchange Coordinator is a member of academic staff who will be a key contact throughout your exchange.

<p>Course Load and Credit Load</p>	<p>You are normally required to take whatever constitutes a full academic credit or course load at your host university.</p> <p>The page linked below contains a copy of the International Exchange Credit Requirements. This outlines the number of credits you are required to take at your host institution. There are also more answers to frequently asked questions about the academic side of your exchange.</p> <p>Academic matters The University of Edinburgh</p>
<p>Courses</p>	<p>Exchanges at Caltech are only open to students in the College of Science and Engineering, or in the School of Economics.</p> <p>The course catalogue can be found here. Please note that this is updated every year. Not all classes are taught every year, but this should be noted in the course catalogue. The catalogue can be used as an indication of the courses available.</p> <p>Classes marked 10 and under are only available to Freshmen. Classes over 200 level are for postgraduates only. You cannot take these classes as an exchange student.</p> <p>Certain courses at Caltech have a restricted enrolment and this is noted in the Caltech Course Catalogue. If you wish to take a course for which enrolment is restricted, note that preference is given to Caltech students if the course is required in their academic subject. You must also note the course requirements for each course to ensure you fulfil the pre-requisites of courses you would wish to take while on exchange.</p> <p>Students should pay special attention to the Caltech core courses. Caltech students all have to take these Core Courses in their first two years and include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Five terms of mathematics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st year covers Calculus of One and Several Variables and Linear Algebra • 2nd year covers Probability, Statistics and Differential Equations • Five to six terms of physics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st year covers Classical Mechanics and Electromagnetism • 2nd year covers Statistical Physics, Waves and Quantum Mechanics • Three terms of Chemistry: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 terms of General Chemistry • 1 term of Chemistry lab • One term of Introduction to Biological Sciences <p>All 3rd and 4th year classes are taught with the understanding that students have covered these topics and therefore have in-depth understanding of these areas. In cases where the Core is relevant to the class you wish to take, be certain you have the basic background in mathematics, physics, or chemistry covered in the Core as relevant to the course in addition to the specified prerequisites.</p>

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	<p>Students take at least 36 units each term. A maximum of 45 units can be taken in the first term. A maximum of 51 units can be taken in the 2nd term if your GPA is 3.3 or above (for reference: a 3.6 GPA (grade point average) is the median GPA at Caltech).</p> <p>Students cannot select subjects as their major subject that are minor options, nor can they choose graduate only subjects such as Civil Engineering or Aerospace. All options (major subject) must come from fields in the sciences, engineering, or mathematics.</p> <p>Caltech is also one of the most rigorous universities in the world. Students spend at least 40 hours a week on coursework and preparation. Students interested in Caltech must be very hardworking and willing to stretch themselves to their intellectual limits.</p> <p>**Please be aware, there may not be an up-to-date course catalogue available at this exchange destination. Please use the information available to get an idea about what you can study while on exchange**</p>
<p>Academic Restrictions</p>	<p>Exchanges at Caltech are only open to students in the College of Science and Engineering, or in the School of Economics.</p> <p>Certain courses at Caltech have a restricted enrolment and this is noted in the Caltech Course Catalogue.</p> <p>Please note: These are guidelines. It is your responsibility to research whether the partner provides appropriate courses for your degree programme. Even if there are not restrictions on your degree subject, it does not mean that there are appropriate courses for you. Please check.</p>

Accommodation

Finding accommodation that you are happy with on your year abroad is very important and there are often many aspects to consider when looking for somewhere to live. Many host institutions do offer university accommodation but please do note, **this is not always guaranteed.** You may also need to pay for things like agent or administrative fees that is not always the case here in Edinburgh. It is a good idea to do your research so you do not have any surprises!

<p>University Accommodation</p>	<p>All exchange students must live in Caltech undergraduate housing. There are no facilities for married or engaged students.</p>

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	<p>You can find out more about the On-Campus Accommodation online. Exchange students will live in one of the 8 undergraduate houses, or in the Bechtel Residence.</p> <p>There is a mixture of single and double rooms available, with kitchen facilities, lounge or living areas and laundry facilities.</p> <p>Room and board rates for the current academic year are available here. Rates will usually increase on an average of 4 to 7% yearly.</p> <p>Students are also required to be on the Caltech board (meal) plan.</p> <p>Students attempting to change housing assignments or who attempt to move off campus will be removed from exchange and required to exit the US immediately.</p>
Private Accommodation	Exchange students at Caltech are not allowed to live in private accommodation.

Costs

It is important to budget for different expenses while on exchange. Your exchange destination may be more expensive than Edinburgh, and different expenses may be required. For example, rent may be higher; you might need to take public transport more; essentials may be more expensive or different, like sun cream in warmer climates or woolly socks in colder climates! These costs will add up so it is good to have an estimate of how much money you might need.

Tuition Fees	<p>While on exchange, you will continue to pay fees to the University of Edinburgh, as appropriate, and your fee status will determine how much you pay.</p> <p>Consult our webpage here and follow the link to consult the university's information on tuition fees for students studying abroad.</p>								
Estimated Cost of Living (All costs in USD\$)	<p>These costs below are an estimate for the full academic year based on information found here. Please note this does not include visa costs, flight costs or mandatory insurance costs. The amount is subject to change and will depend on your personal preferences and lifestyle.</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Accommodation</td> <td>From \$10, 815</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mandatory Fees (not tuition)</td> <td>\$2, 385</td> </tr> <tr> <td>On-campus Board/Meals</td> <td>\$7, 791</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Books and supplies</td> <td>\$1, 428</td> </tr> </table>	Accommodation	From \$10, 815	Mandatory Fees (not tuition)	\$2, 385	On-campus Board/Meals	\$7, 791	Books and supplies	\$1, 428
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Insurance	<p>Please note that no financial aid or grants are available for exchange students from Caltech themselves.</p> <p>Caltech have provided more information about budgeting and finance.</p> <p>You may also be required to pay for additional administrative fees at your host institution. This can include paying for your transcript to be sent to us at the end of your exchange.</p> <p>Exchange students are required purchase their own health insurance, and provide proof of the coverage provided to their host.</p> <p>The insurance must cover emergency, urgent, and routine care while you are in the United States. You will receive more information and directions on this requirement in the summer. Students are allowed to use the Caltech Wellness (Health) & Counselling Center. Office visits are free, but medications or injections usually have a small charge.</p> <p>You can opt to purchase Caltech Health insurance if your own insurance does not meet waiver requirements. The cost per term is approximately \$1050 and all terms of an exchange student's stay at Caltech must be paid in advance in full by the August deadline.</p> <p>If you purchase your own policy, this must not just be emergency or traveller's insurance and will be vetted by the Caltech Benefits Office to see if the plan meets Caltech requirements.</p> <p>Exchange students cannot enrol in Caltech dental or vision insurance.</p>		
Student Loans and Grants	<p>Consult our funding webpages for more information about the Funding available to you through SWAY while on your year abroad.</p> <p>If you receive a student loan or grant, you may still be eligible to receive them during your exchange. Contact your funding providers for more information on the availability and eligibility of funding during your exchange, as well as any additional support they may offer. For example: some loan providers offer travel grants to students.</p>		

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Other

Passports	<p>Make sure that your passport will be in date for the entirety of your stay, and for any additional required time after the end of your exchange for entry requirements and visa purposes.</p> <p>If you need to apply for a new passport during the application process to your host institution, this may delay the application and visa processes.</p>
Visas	<p>The visa process will vary from country to country, and your own citizenship will influence the visa process you need to undertake. You must make sure to enter your host country on the appropriate visa.</p> <p>According to the current information we have from Caltech, students are required to get an F1 visa for their time on exchange. This may be subject to change, and different depending on your situation, so please do verify this if you are allocated a place at Caltech.</p> <p>Note that Caltech is requiring that ALL students be vaccinated in full for Covid and they will need to show proof of this. Depending on the most up-to-date advice from Caltech, those not vaccinated may have to quarantine or be restricted from moving into their Caltech residence halls until or from participating in sport or student clubs/activities until quarantine is completed and possibly until immunity is established.</p> <p>The exchange student pays all visa fees and the SEVIS fee. Neither Caltech nor your home university pays for your SEVIS or visa fee. The SEVIS fee is currently \$350, but this is subject to change..</p> <p>Here in SWAY we cannot give specific visa advice. Please research using the relevant embassy and government websites for more information. There is more information on our webpage about things to consider regarding visas here.</p> <p>Once you have received an offer from a host institution, you will be given more advice from them about the visa processes.</p>
Employment	<p>Exchange students are not allowed to work in any capacity during their first term at Caltech. If staying for a full year, an exchange student who earns at least a cumulative 3.3 GPA may, with the permission of the Director of Study Abroad, accept paid employment ONLY on campus for the 2nd term. Bear in mind that it is difficult to find positions.</p> <p>Students must maintain a 3.3 GPA average in order to continue employment into the third term. Students not eligible to work</p>

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	second term will be eligible to work third term if they meet the 3.3 GPA requirement
Disability Statement and Accessibility	<p>Some destinations may be more accessible than others for disabled students. If you require any adjustments due to disability or specific learning difficulties or disabilities and you wish to study abroad please contact The International Programmes Team via email: international.outgoing@ed.ac.uk.</p> <p>We will work together with you to explore the help available at your host institution. It may also be helpful if you discuss this with your Personal Tutor and The Disability & Learning Support Service as well.</p>