



NOTES OF GUIDANCE FOR YOUR EXCHANGE DESTINATION

University of California, USA

Fast Facts:

Website:	Home University of California UCEAP Reciprocal Exchanges UCEAP Reciprocity System (universityofcalifornia.edu)
Language of instruction:	English
Semester dates:	Semester 1: August/September - December Semester 2: January - May/June (Exact semester dates depend on the campus, and at some campuses you will be required to complete 3 terms, not 2 semesters)
Number of students currently enrolled	286,000
Campus choices	<p>Students applying to go to the University of California must be willing to study at <u>any campus</u>. UC allocate students to campuses after applications and it is not possible to change your allocation. If you are allocated to UC and later drop out as you did not get assigned your preferred campus, the space cannot be allocated to someone else</p> <p>UC Berkeley Located near the San Francisco Bay, UC Berkeley is UC's oldest and second largest campus offers a rich intellectual environment and a vibrant student life. Discover UC Berkeley UCEAP Reciprocity System (universityofcalifornia.edu)</p> <p>UC Davis UC Davis has the third largest student population, and is located near the dynamic state capital, Sacramento. Subjects available range from agriculture and environmental sciences to arts, humanities and social sciences. It is home to one of the largest engineering programs of the UC system. Known for outstanding academics, research and internship opportunities, and</p>

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with an active student life in a welcoming college town environment, UC Davis is a great choice.

[Discover UC Davis | UCEAP Reciprocity System \(universityofcalifornia.edu\)](https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/uceap/reciprocity/uc-davis)

UC Irvine

UC Irvine has a modern campus, located south of Los Angeles. It is adjacent to the Pacific Ocean, the mountains and the desert of Southern California. Students can study arts and humanities, biology, social sciences and engineering. This campus is a large research university with a friendly small college feel.

[Discover UC Irvine | UCEAP Reciprocity System \(universityofcalifornia.edu\)](https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/uceap/reciprocity/uc-irvine)

UC Los Angeles

This campus is among the world's most ethnically diverse campuses, hosting the largest student body in the UC system. The campus has a full range of academic offerings, and a strong tradition of volunteerism. The campus is a short distance from the Pacific coast and the mountains,

[Discover UC Los Angeles | UCEAP Reciprocity System \(universityofcalifornia.edu\)](https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/uceap/reciprocity/uc-los-angeles)

UC Riverside

UC Riverside is 60 miles from Los Angeles and is widely recognized as one of the most ethnically diverse research universities in the United States. The campus has innovative professors who have earned national and international recognition for their teaching and research. Exceptional opportunities here include business administration, engineering and environmental sciences programs.

[Discover UC Riverside | UCEAP Reciprocity System \(universityofcalifornia.edu\)](https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/uceap/reciprocity/uc-riverside)

UC San Diego

UC San Diego is UC's southernmost campus, where students enjoy the influence of Mexican culture, the best weather in the US and outstanding academics. Multidisciplinary studies are at the forefront of this campus, which is known for innovation. The campus provides a supportive environment within the larger research university.

[Discover UC San Diego | UCEAP Reciprocity System \(universityofcalifornia.edu\)](https://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/uceap/reciprocity/uc-san-diego)

UC Santa Barbara

Santa Barbara benefits from both the Pacific Coast and the adjacent mountains. Students at this campus have all the resources of an internationally recognized research university. Home to one of the first programs in environmental sciences, the campus also has top

	<p>rankings in physics, geography and religious studies. This green campus makes environmental awareness a priority. Discover UC Santa Barbara UCEAP Reciprocity System (universityofcalifornia.edu)</p> <p>UC Santa Cruz Sana Cruz is home to one of UC's most beautiful campuses, nestled in a pine forest with a view of the Pacific Ocean. A tradition of creative thinking and innovation fuels both a vibrant arts community and the renowned high-technology industry of the Silicon Valley. With majors from computer sciences to the arts, you can participate in the creation of new technologies, new works in human expression and new understandings. Discover UC Santa Cruz UCEAP Reciprocity System (universityofcalifornia.edu)</p>																		
<p>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></p>	<p>Business Administration (MBA programmes); Design; Medicine, Nursing, Veterinary Medicine and Law are not open to exchange students.</p> <p>'Impacted majors' are majors that are oversubscribed at UC and the competition for places is very high. Be prepared for more work on your application, and more flexibility with campus choices.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arts (all types), • Communications, • Engineering and Computer Science, • Psychology <p>You can find out more information here.</p>																		
<p>General Costs (In USD\$)</p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Visa application</td> <td>\$160 + applicable reciprocity fees</td> </tr> <tr> <td>SEVIS Fee</td> <td>\$220</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Orientation Fee</td> <td>\$20 - \$320</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Document Fee</td> <td>\$65</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Technologies Fee</td> <td>\$35-\$60</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Materials Fees</td> <td>(varied depending on course requirements)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Books and supplies</td> <td>\$1300</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Personal/Transportation</td> <td>\$2500</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cost of living</td> <td>\$13000 - \$19000 (varies depending on campus)</td> </tr> </table> <p>Important information: You will be asked to provide proof of sufficient finances in order to receive your visa. Your host will provide more information on this if you are allocated an exchange place.</p>	Visa application	\$160 + applicable reciprocity fees	SEVIS Fee	\$220	Orientation Fee	\$20 - \$320	Document Fee	\$65	Technologies Fee	\$35-\$60	Materials Fees	(varied depending on course requirements)	Books and supplies	\$1300	Personal/Transportation	\$2500	Cost of living	\$13000 - \$19000 (varies depending on campus)
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<p>About the University</p>	<p>The University of California (UC) is the major public research university in the state of California, serving undergraduate and graduate students. There are ten campus locations: Berkeley, Davis, Irvine, Los Angeles,</p>																		

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Merced, Riverside, San Diego, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, and San Francisco. (Both San Francisco and Merced do not participate in the exchange). The campuses of the UC system are located throughout California and encompass the state's cultural and geographic diversity.

UC campuses rank highly among the top public universities in the U.S. Each campus offers attractive and distinct facilities, specialized schools, and creative and challenging learning opportunities.

If selected to study at the University of California, Edinburgh students have to nominate three of these eight campuses during their application, and identify the courses they wish to take at each. **The University of California will allocate students to a campus. Student applying to UC must be prepared to study at any campus as once allocated, it is not possible to change campus.**

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 the University of California 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>Course listings in the campus catalogues give a broad outline of availability, but many students find on arrival in California that a number of their preferred courses are not offered. Please be well prepared for this.</p> <p>You can explore the courses available at the University of California here. You will need to select your 'major' to view the courses available. Generally, this is the same as your degree in Edinburgh. For those that study joint honours, your major would be either the first subject in your degree title or the subject that is most competitive to sign up to courses e.g. computer science.</p> <p>Courses are numbered according to their level, 1-99 being lower division, 100- 199 upper division and 200-299 graduate courses. Upper division courses are considered equivalent to honours level at Edinburgh.</p> <p>Be sure to look into the appropriate preparation for popular majors at the University of California, and the pre-requisites required to have access to certain courses.</p> <p>The Academic Resources page gives more information about navigating the information about courses, as well as information about course enrolment, grades and progression information. You can also read more about the academic experience at UC here.</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>Find out more about academic restrictions here.</p> <p>Business Administration (MBA programmes); Design; Medicine, Nursing, Veterinary Medicine and Law are not open to exchange students.</p> <p>Certain subjects are highly competitive and students must be willing to attend any host campus. Joint honour students who are specialised in two of the following majors should be aware that UC cannot guarantee access to more than one major and you must be</p>

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	<p>prepared to select coursework in only one of your majors. Restrictions apply to the following subjects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Architecture, • Arts, • Drama, • Dance, • Music, • Business / Management, • Business / Economics, • Communication, • Computer Science, • Economics, • Education, • Engineering, • Film / Film Studies, • Journalism / Writing, • Legal Studies (not the same as law) • Medicine, • Nursing, • Veterinary Science, • Psychology. <p>Students in these subjects will need to be enrolled in the same field at the University of Edinburgh, and will need to prove they meet the prerequisites for the courses. It is important that you are flexible with course choice, and that you have a good list of back up courses.</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>
<p>Orientation</p>	<p>Before the start of term, you must attend a mandatory on-campus orientation where you will learn about enrolment, the benefits and responsibilities of your J-1 visa, safety and the services available on campus. Your host college or department may also hold an orientation.</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!

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<p>University Accommodation</p>	<p>The University of California has a variety of accommodation options available.</p> <p>The University of California guarantees housing to all first-year students. After they have been assigned housing, the remaining spaces are opened up, and you would be eligible to apply for housing from the remaining places.</p> <p>University housing contracts require a commitment through the end of the academic year (May/June) or through the end of your UC studies (early termination fees may apply).</p> <p>Some campus housing facilities may close or have limited meal service during term breaks. Read your contract carefully and plan accordingly.</p> <p>Residence Halls</p> <p>The majority of students in these halls are first or second years, but there are also options for more advanced undergraduates called “transfer” or junior/senior year level. The residences have resident assistants (RA) who support residents of the halls.</p> <p>Please note the legal drinking age is 21, and alcohol is prohibited in most residence halls.</p> <p>Residence rooms usually include basic furnishings (bed, desk, dresser or closet) and may have a furnished common living area. but you must provide your own linens. You can choose a meal plan that suits your needs.</p> <p>University owned apartments -</p> <p>Many UC campuses offer on or off-campus furnished apartments. Apartment living allows you to prepare and share your favourite foods but you can purchase a campus meal plan if you prefer. You must provide your own linens.</p> <p>There is also international housing where you can live in an internationally themed residence.</p>
<p>Private Accommodation</p>	<p>Some popular non-University housing options include living in Cooperative housing (Co-ops) or Community housing.</p> <p>Co-op housing is a good option for students who need to keep housing costs low and are interested in being part of a community. Resident members contribute to the daily operations of the house by performing work-shifts. Smaller co-op houses may be quieter and cleaner, while larger co-ops provide opportunities for meeting more students.</p>

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Community housing is good for students looking for an independent living situation can share the financial responsibility and daily chores by teaming up to rent off-campus housing. Kitchens in rental housing are typically equipped with appliances (stove, cook-top, and refrigerator). Rentals near campus may or may not be furnished. Shared, off-campus housing can be a cost effective option. Plan for higher costs in the first month since you may need to pay the equivalent of the first month's rent, the last month's rent, and a security deposit. Utilities may or may not be included in your monthly rent.

Finding an off-campus rental can be challenging. Your campus' community housing office can provide rental resources and advice about your rights and obligations as a renter. This service cannot find housing for you but they can offer advice and provide resources for your housing search.

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.

<p>Tuition Fees</p>	<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>
<p>Estimated Cost of Living</p>	<p>The University of California has created a budget to outline expected costs.</p> <p>Please also bear in mind that different campuses will have very varied costs attached to them. According to the information provided by UC, the most expensive campus is Berkley costing \$19, 174(estimated) for rent and meals and health insurance combined for the academic year. The cheapest exchange campus is Riverside at \$14,317(estimated) for the same costs over the same period.</p> <p>As you may not receive a place at your chosen campus, and as you cannot change your campus allocation as decided by</p>

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	<p>the University of California, please bear in mind the consequences applying to this institution may have on your budget and finances.</p> <p>Additional costs will depend on your housing and lifestyle choices. Each individual campus may have more information about the estimated cost of living in their various towns. Be sure to check the campus websites for this.</p> <p>You may also be required to pay for 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>
Insurance	<p>All students attending the University of California are required to have health insurance, and are automatically enrolled in the health plan chosen by their campus. This also ensures students meet the J-1 visa insurance requirements.</p> <p>As each campus has different health insurance coverage and costs, consult the campus specific instructions to find out the costs. As with the accommodation costs, insurance costs for campuses can range from \$1,800-\$3,500, so please do bear this in mind.</p> <p>Students already covered by health insurance can request a waiver (exemption) if your current insurance meets the requirements and waiver criteria. A campus-specific waiver request along with proof of enrolment in the alternative insurance plan must be submitted for review to the campus</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>

Other

Passports	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.

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	<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>
<p>Visas</p>	<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>The University of California has advice about applying for your visa on their website. You must not enter the USA on a tourist visa.</p> <p>You will need to fulfil the financial requirements set out in order to get your visa documentation. This includes proving access to funds through personal funds, or family or sponsorship funds. The amount to show is often over \$20,000 in total. This can be across multiple sources. You will need to provide sponsorship letters from personal funds/family members/sponsor funds/Sponsor organisations etc. Please bear this in mind. If you cannot prove this, you will not be able to get a visa and therefore not be able to go on exchange.</p> <p>You can find a list of US Embassies and Consulates for your visa applications.</p> <p>You must check visa and immigration laws, as well as rules about entering and leaving the USA, and required vaccinations.</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>
<p>Employment</p>	<p>Please verify whether you are able to work while abroad as per the parameters of your visa. Reciprocal exchange students are not encouraged to work while on UCEAP and must plan to have sufficient funds to cover living expenses for the full period of study.</p>
<p>Disability Statement and Accessibility</p>	<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 and Learning Support Service as well.</p>

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