

# **INTERNATIONAL STUDENT HANDBOOK**

**CSUN**<sup>®</sup>

**INTERNATIONAL  
AND EXCHANGE  
STUDENT CENTER**

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# WELCOME TO CSUN

## Words from the President

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Dear International Student,

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate you on your admission to California State University Northridge! Serving more than 40,000 students each year, CSUN is one of the largest universities in the United States with an international reputation for excellence. We are a vibrant and diverse university community that annually enrolls approximately three thousand international students from different countries around the world. Your unique perspective and experience will enrich our campus as you fulfill your own educational and career goals.

At CSUN, you will be surrounded by faculty and staff who are dedicated to your academic and personal success. Our beautiful campus in the heart of Los Angeles offers a wide range of services in a welcoming and supportive environment. Minutes from campus, all the best of Southern California is easily accessible.

During your studies here, we encourage you to become an active member of our dynamic university community, to get connected with campus resources, and to take advantage of the many outstanding opportunities that CSUN has to offer.

I wish you great success and look forward to seeing you soon here at CSUN!

Dianne F. Harrison, Ph.D.

President

## Words from the Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students

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WELCOME to Cal State Northridge! We are pleased that you have decided to become a CSUN Matador. I look forward to greeting you now, supporting you along the way and congratulating you when you receive your degree a few short years from now.

Choosing to attend Cal State Northridge was a great decision, and by reading this handbook you'll be off to a great start with the support of CSUN faculty and staff who are here to help you achieve your academic and personal goals.

Like most students, you will face many more decisions as you enter CSUN. For example, you will need to decide how best to balance the academic, social and personal aspects of your life. We want you to continue the pattern of good decision making that helped you gain admission to CSUN, but we realize that some decisions will be difficult to make on your own. That is why we provide a wide array of caring and concerned individuals to help you make choices that contribute to your success. I encourage you to reach out when help is needed.

Attending college and seeking higher education is a wonderful journey full of exciting opportunities and challenges that contribute to one's learning and development. I hope you will find your journey as a Matador rewarding and memorable. On behalf of the faculty and staff, and as a CSUN alum, I thank you for selecting

California State University, Northridge as your academic home. We look forward to assisting you as you work toward and achieve your goals.

Dr. William Watkins

Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students

## Meet the International Student Services Team

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### International & Exchange Student Center (IESC)

Ph.: 1 (818) 677-3053

[IESC Website](#)

### International Admissions

Ph.: 1 (818) 677-3760

[International Admissions Website](#)

### UGS-International Academic Advisement

Ph.: 1 (818) 677-6968

[www.csun.edu/undergraduate-studies/new-intlstudent-process](http://www.csun.edu/undergraduate-studies/new-intlstudent-process)

# ARRIVING TO THE U.S.

## Pre-Arrival

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1. Review your I-20 or DS-2019. If a correction is needed, contact your International Admissions Advisor from the International Admission Office immediately at 1 (818) 677-3760 or [International Admissions Website](#).
2. Pay the I-901 Student Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) fee at [Official Website of the Department of Homeland Security](#).
3. Contact the nearest U.S. Consular office and schedule a visa appointment. A list of consulates is available at [www.usembassy.gov](http://www.usembassy.gov).
4. Collect all documents needed for your visa interview. We suggest that you read Frequently Asked Questions on Student Visas at [U.S. Department of State - Bureau of Consular Affairs Website](#) in preparation for your interview.
5. Make travel and living arrangements after you receive your visa. Visit the Housing section of this handbook for more information.
6. Sign-up for the New Student Check-in appointment at [IESC website](#). We recommend that you arrive to the U.S. no later than a week prior to the program start date noted on your I-20 to make sure you take care of all your activities prior to the beginning of your classes. Note: J-1 students will receive an email from the J-1 advisor regarding their check-in information.



7. All international students are required to have Health Insurance coverage during their period of enrollment at CSUN. Please go to [Ascension Student Health Insurance](#) to purchase the pre-approved policy offered by [Ascension Student Health Insurance](#). This policy meets the health insurance requirements as mandated by the California State University Chancellor's Office.

8. In the plane, carry with you:

**F-1:** your I-20, valid passport, F-1 visa, admission letter, and financial documents.

**J-1:** your DS-2019, valid passport, F-1 visa, admission letter, and financial documents.

You will need to present these documents to a Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) Officer at the Port of Entry to the U.S.

## Temporary Accommodations

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Northridge and nearby cities have numerous temporary accommodation options. Make sure to contact hotels in advance to confirm rates, availability, and amenities. Make your reservations early. Here are some options:

### Extended Stay America LA-Northridge

19325 Londelius St.

Reseda, CA 91335

Tel.: 1 (818) 734-1787

Distance: 27 miles from LAX, 2 miles from CSUN

### Radisson Hotel-Chatsworth

9777 Topanga Canyon Blvd.

Chatsworth, CA 91311

Tel.: 1 (818) 709-7054

Distance: 32 miles from LAX, 5 miles from CSUN

### Howard Johnson Inn and Suites Reseda

7432 Reseda Blvd.

Northridge, CA 91324

Tel.: 1 (818) 344-0324

Distance: 24 miles from LAX, 2.4 mile from CSUN

### Ramada Inn-Chatsworth

21340 Devonshire St.

Chatsworth, CA 91311

Tel.: 1 (818) 998-5289

Distance: 34 miles from LAX, 5.5 miles from CSUN

## Transportation from LAX to CSUN

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Here we have some options for you!

1. The FLYAWAY bus, which can be boarded outside each terminal at LAX. It departs every half-hour (24hrs) and goes non-stop to the Flyway Bus Terminal at Van Nuys, California. Travel time is 50 minutes and there is a small fee for each way. Take a taxi from the Van Nuys Terminal to the CSUN campus. Please visit the [LAX FlyAway Bus](#) webpage for more information.
2. Taxis are available from LAX to CSUN and cost about \$35 to \$50. You may contact Authorized Taxicab Supervision (ATS) at 1 (323) 776-5324 or L.A. Taxi/United Checker Cab at 1 (213) 627-7000. You may also visit Los Angeles Yellow Cab for services and other information.
3. A shuttle van is also available outside each terminal at LAX. These vans carry several passengers and make several stops. Board the San Fernando Valley shuttle. The estimated cost is approximately \$15-\$45 and the estimated travel time is 1 hour to 1 1/2 hours. Advance reservations can be made at the [Super Shuttle website](#).
4. Uber and Lyft are new ride-share technologies that are used by downloading the appropriate app on your phone to locate available drivers in your area. Please see page 52 for more information.

## New Student Check-In Process

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All new F-1 students need to complete **all steps** in the Six-Step Immigration Requirements as soon as they are admitted to the university **AND** report to IESC **in person** upon arrival to the U.S. Please visit [IESC website](#) to select the semester of your admission and complete the online steps. *Note: J-1 students will receive an email from the J-1 advisor regarding their check-in information.*

## International Student Orientation

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As part of the New Student Check-in Process, all new CSUN international students need to attend the International Student Orientation. Please make sure to mark your calendar with the date and time. Go to [IESC website](#) to register and for more information.

## On-Campus Housing

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CSUN housing is conveniently located near the library and other university premises. The early move-in date is generally the Friday before classes begin. Should you choose to arrive earlier, please fill out the online Request for Check-In Extension form located in your [Student housing Portal](#). For any further information, please contact Housing Coordinator at 1 (818) 677-2160. Please see a [virtual tour](#) of CSUN Student Housing.

## **How to Apply**

The Student Housing application begins with an online process. Please go to [How to Apply](#) for the Steps to Apply for Student Housing. Students not able to access a computer to complete the application should contact the Student Housing office for assistance at [housing@csun.edu](mailto:housing@csun.edu) or 1 (818) 677-2160.

## **Safety**

Safety is a top priority for Student Housing and California State University, Northridge. We have multiple security programs in place for the protection and peace of mind of our residents including a Community Policing Team that provides police patrol and crime prevention activities within Student Housing. More details can be found on the [Student Housing website](#).

## **Off-Campus Housing**

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There are many options for off-campus housing near the CSUN campus. The CSUN Student Housing office maintains an off-campus housing database. You can search for off-campus housing options at [CSUN Student Housing](#). In addition, searching the internet for housing near CSUN will provide additional rental information.

### **Safety Tips When Living Off-Campus:**

1. Keep your doors locked at all times – even when you are at home during the day
2. Keep the blinds or drapes closed when you are gone
3. Use a peephole to determine who is knocking before you open the door. If you are still not sure, question the stranger through the door.
4. Have someone check on your place when you are out of town
5. Get to know your neighbors in case of an emergency
6. Never leave your key outside under a mat or in a place accessible to a stranger
7. Never leave notes on your door that indicate you are away

### **Legal Rights & Responsibilities**

Landlords and tenants have specific legal rights and responsibilities.

#### **Tenant Responsibilities**

1. Pay your rent on the date it is due
2. Keep the premises sanitary and undamaged
3. Dispose of garbage and trash properly
4. Use all appliances appropriately
5. Don't cause any intentional or careless damage to the premises
6. Upon moving out, restore the premises to the same condition as when you moved in

#### **Landlord Responsibilities**

1. Provide a safe dwelling
2. Make all repairs to keep the premises in a livable condition
3. Refrain from unlawful evictions, harassment, discrimination and retaliation. This includes turning off utilities and/or locking you out of your unit.
4. Prior notification before entering your unit

### **Tips for Finding and Moving Into Off-Campus Housing Units**

1. Bring up special needs, such as pets or smoking, at the beginning of the conversation.
2. Be prepared to pay an application fee, deposit and rent prior to moving in. If you pay by cash, don't forget to ask for a receipt. Some landlords ask for a holding deposit; if so, clarify that the deposit will count towards your first month's rent.
3. Landlord may ask for a holding deposit if you want to secure the place until you pay the first month's rent and security deposit. Confirm with the landlord if the holding deposit will be counted towards first month's rent.
4. Inspect the unit and let your landlord know if any part of the property is in poor condition.

### **Setting-Up Utilities**

Many off-campus housing properties require tenants to set up their own utilities, such as electric, gas, water, internet, television cable/satellite, and phone service. Request contact information for applicable utility services upon signing the lease agreement with your landlord.

Utility companies often require a deposit for turning on services. Confirm with the utility company that the deposit will be returned to you at the end of your service.

## **HEALTH INSURANCE & WELLNESS**

Healthcare and health insurance are important aspects of your life while attending CSUN and require careful thought and planning. International Students are required to have adequate health insurance throughout the duration of their F-1 or J-1 student status as mandated by the California State University Chancellor's office and the U.S. Department of State respectively.

Due to the high cost of health care in the U.S., International students' dependents are also strongly urged to have adequate medical insurance. Please note that J2 (dependents of J-1 exchange students) are required to have valid health insurance as mandated by the U.S. Department of State.

Please go to <http://4studenthealth.ascensionins.com/csun> to purchase the pre-approved policy offered by Ascension Student Health Insurance. This policy meets the Health Insurance Requirements as mandated by the California State University Chancellor's office.

### ***Proof of Health Insurance will clear your Foreign Hold***

All international students will have a foreign registration hold placed on their account at the beginning of each registration appointment period. This hold prevents them from registering for classes.

Once you purchase your insurance policy online from Ascension Student Health Insurance, the IESC will automatically receive proof of coverage directly from the health insurance provider, and your foreign hold will be removed.

Please note: if you are a government sponsored student, please scan and email your Financial Guarantee as proof of health insurance coverage to [insurance@csun.edu](mailto:insurance@csun.edu). Your Financial Guarantee must be valid for the entire semester/s that you are planning to attend. Please include your first name, last name and CSUN ID number in the subject line of the email.

For J-1 students ONLY, please email your proof of health insurance to [Jstudentadvisor@csun.edu](mailto:Jstudentadvisor@csun.edu).

To learn more about Health Insurance Requirements, please go to [IESC website](#).

## **Managing Your Health**

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### **Healthy Eating on Campus**

#### **Healthy Eating 101 Guide**

The new CSUN Dining **Healthy Eating 101 Guide** features information on the healthy options from several eateries throughout campus. The list includes symbols that indicate whether an item would serve as a great snack, is gluten free, kosher or vegan. The guide also features a section on ordering tips for different eateries and options available that would save calories. For more information, please read the [Healthy Eating 101 Guide](#).

#### **Peer Nutrition Counselors**

Private and free consultation with a peer nutrition counselor (PNC) is available for dietary analysis and to discuss general nutritional needs. PNCs are senior dietetics majors. The initial appointment is 60 minutes. Follow-up appointments are 30 minutes. Peer nutrition counseling is available at the Klotz Center and the Oasis.

### **Smoke- and Tobacco-Free Campus**

To promote a healthier environment in which students, faculty and staff can learn, work and live, CSUN has adopted a smoke- and tobacco-free policy across its campus. Klotz Student Health Center physicians can engage in smoking cessation counseling and treatment. For more information, go to [Clear The Air Website](#).

## **Immunizations**

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### **Immunization Requirements**

All students attending CSU campuses are required to show documentation for certain immunizations.

International students must provide documentation either readable in English or professionally translated when fulfilling this requirement. Go to [Klotz Student Health Center Website](#) for more information on these requirements and how to fulfill them.

## Health Care Service On-Campus and Off-Campus

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### Klotz Student Health Center (SHC)

**Klotz Student Health Center** [services](#) are provided at little or no cost to currently enrolled students. CSUN student fees include a health fee that pays for the services provided by the health center. Confidential services are provided by doctors, nurse practitioners, health educators, and specialists. **Also there is a pharmacy at SHC.** Go to [Klotz Student Health Center Website](#) for more information or to schedule an appointment.

### **After-Hours Care**

**Fonemed** is a free telephone nurse service that currently enrolled CSUN students can use on evenings, weekends, university holidays and after Klotz Student Health Center regular operating hours. Please call 1 (877) 678-3999; your current student ID number is required.

### **Klotz Student Health Center**

18111 Nordhoff Street  
Northridge, CA 91330-8270  
1 (818) 677-3666  
[shcinfo@csun.edu](mailto:shcinfo@csun.edu)

### **Appointment and Primary Care Hours**

Monday-Wednesday: 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Thursday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Friday: 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Check out the Campus Resources section from this handbook for more information on Health and Wellness resources!

### **Urgent Care**

Urgent Care centers provide medical services to treat injuries or illnesses which are not life threatening but also cannot wait for a scheduled doctor's appointment during regular doctor's office hours. The followings are local Urgent Care centers:

### **Exer Urgent Care**

19346 Nordhoff St.  
Northridge, CA 91324  
1 (818) 727-2040

### Facey Medical Foundation

9535 Reseda Boulevard, Suite 304  
Northridge, CA 91324  
1 (818) 886-3884

### Healthcare Partners

8349 Reseda Boulevard, Suite G  
Northridge, CA 91324  
1 (818) 886-7322

### Emergency Services

In a life threatening emergency, call 911 and/or go to the nearest hospital Emergency Room. A medical emergency is generally defined as a sudden, serious, and unexpected illness, injury or condition, including severe pain, requiring immediate medical attention.

The injured person will be taken to the nearest hospital emergency room. Services are available every day of the week, 24 hours a day. If you use it for non-emergency treatment, you will have extra charges to pay for including the ambulance fee.

The following are the Emergency Room Hospitals closest to CSUN:

#### Northridge Hospital Medical Center

18300 Roscoe Boulevard  
Northridge, CA  
1 (818) 885-8500  
<http://www.northridgehospital.org>

#### Olive View Medical Center

14445 Olive View Drive #2B101  
Sylmar, CA  
1 (818) 364-1555  
[Olive View Medical Center Website](#)

### Pharmacy

A pharmacy is the only place that sells doctor-prescribed medicines. If your doctor prescribes a medication, you may fill it using any pharmacy, including CVS, Rite Aid, Walgreens, and Walmart. You will have to pay for prescription in full at the time of pickup. Then, you will submit your claim and all receipts to your student health insurance company. Make sure to keep copies of all receipts for your records. Ascension Student Health Insurance will reimburse 50% of the cost after deductible.

Non-prescription drugs, often called “over-the-counter” medications – aspirin, cold tablets, vitamins, etc, are in plain view on drug store shelves.

#### Klotz Student Health Center Pharmacy

Located on-campus

1 (818) 677-3671

#### CVS Pharmacy

8530 Reseda Blvd, Northridge, CA 91324

1 (818) 341-7104

#### CVS Pharmacy

8999 Balboa Blvd, Northridge, CA 91325

1 (818) 924-9002

#### Rite Aid

18444 Plummer St. Northridge, CA 91325

1 (818) 349-6267

## ACADEMIC ADVISEMENT & STUDENT SUCCESS

### New Undergraduate Students Academic Advisement

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#### New F-1 Students Are Pre-Enrolled by an Advisor

After students are admitted to CSUN, the office of [International Academic Advisement](#) will contact students to complete the necessary steps for enrollment.

#### Enrollment Is NOT Automatic. What Must Students Do To Be Enrolled?

All newly admitted undergraduate F-1 international students (freshmen & transfers) must complete the following items to be enrolled. This tells CSUN that you plan to attend, and International Academic Advisors will begin to work on your file and place you in classes based on the indicated preferences on your Response Questionnaire.

1. Activate your CSUN Account & Complete the “Not Anymore” Training.
2. Complete the Online Pre-Enrollment Workshop.
3. Complete the Response Questionnaire.



## First Semester Schedule Change Request

Schedule change requests are allowed by the Friday of the first week of class.

After the first week of class, students must get approval from an International Academic Advisor. Approval for schedule change will only be made for ***extenuating circumstances***. Having permission numbers or approval from instructors does not guarantee approval for schedule change.

## **Continuing Undergraduate Students Academic Advisement**

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### For 2nd Semester and Onward, F-1 Undergraduate Students Must Enroll Themselves into Classes

Midway through your first semester, you will receive information about PreSSS: Pre-Second Semester Success workshops to help you prepare for the second semester and on. Check your CSUN email often, read announcements carefully, and plan to attend helpful workshops.

### For 2nd Semester and Onward, You Will Be Seen and Advised by Major Advisors at Your College's Student Services Center

Each college has its own advisement process, and students should contact their college's student services center to make an appointment to see their major advisor. Plan to meet with your major advisor 2-3 months before your registration date. (Don't leave the U.S. until you have seen your major advisor!) The complete list of advising centers is on the next page.

## **Student Services Center & Academic Advisement for 2nd Semester and Onward**

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\*Graduate Students should contact their Graduate Coordinator for Academic Advisement

### **Colleges & Advising Centers**

#### **Mike Curb College of Arts, Media, and Communication**

Nordhoff Hall (NH) 135

1 (818) 677-2024

Art

CTVA

Communication Studies

Journalism

Music

Theatre

#### **David Nazarian College of Business and Economics**

Juniper Hall (JH) 2113

1 (818) 677-3537

Accountancy

Economics

Finance

Information Systems

Management

Marketing

Business Administration (with options in Business Law, Real Estate, Global Supply Chain Management, or Systems and Operations Management)

### Michael D. Eisner College of Education

Education (ED) 1107

1 (818) 677-5116

Deaf Studies

### College of Engineering and Computer Science

Jacaranda (JD) 1501

1 (818) 677-2191

Civil Engineering

Computer Engineering

Computer Science

Construction Management

Electrical Engineering

Engineering Management

Manufacturing Systems Engineering

Mechanical Engineering

### College of Health and Human Development

Sequoia Hall (SQ) 111

1 (818) 677-2883

Athletic Training

Child Development

Communicative Disorders

Family & Consumer Sciences

Health Administration

Health Sciences

Kinesiology

Public Health

Radiologic Sciences

Recreation & Tourism Management

Recreation Therapy

**College of Humanities**

Jerome Richfield (JR) 240

1 (818) 677-4784

Asian-American Studies

Central American Studies

Chicano/a Studies

English

Gender & Women Studies

Languages

Liberal Studies

Linguistics

Modern Jewish Studies

Philosophy

Religious Studies

**College of Science and Mathematics**

Eucalyptus Hall (EH) 2126

1 (818) 677-4558

Biochemistry

Biology

Biomedical Physics

Chemistry

Earth Science

Mathematics

Physics

**College of Social and Behavioral Sciences**

Sierra Hall (SH) 204

1 (818) 677-2658

Africana Studies

Anthropology

Geography

History

Political Science

Psychology

Sociology

Urban Studies & Planning

## Do It Yourself Registration in Five Easy Steps

1. **Know your Registration-by-Appointment date and other deadlines.** Classes fill up quickly, so registering as soon as you're permitted can ensure getting the classes you want! Your Registration-by-appointment date is located under "MyChecklist" in the student portal.
2. **Register for your most important classes first.** These should be your major and general education classes recommended by your advisor.
3. **Waitlist** a class if it's closed/full. You cannot waitlist classes that have required labs. Waitlists also have a separate schedule for enrollment.
4. **Make sure you are enrolled in 12 units.** Even if you have courses waitlisted, there is no guarantee you'll get them. So enroll in 12 units first, and have your waitlisted courses as backups. You can swap courses later when waitlisted courses become open to you.
5. **Pay your fees on time!** You can be dropped from classes if fees are paid late or if you don't have a financial letter of support from your Cultural Center.

## **Graduate Students Academic Advisement**

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### For New and Continuing Graduate Students

For each of the graduate programs, there is a designated faculty advisor (the Graduate Coordinator) who can advise and assist you in constructing a graduate program. The Graduate Coordinators have program brochures which address specific degree requirements for particular programs. Detailed requirements for each graduate program are also outlined in the University Catalog. To find out the course requirements and advisement process, please use the following link to find your specific program: [Graduate Studies Website](#).

## **J-1 Students Academic Advisement**

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J-1 international students participating in an exchange program sponsored by the CSU Chancellor's Office should have already received information about course selections. For additional information, J-1 students may contact the Department Chair of their major.

## **Common Advisement or Registration Holds**

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Holds are system indicators on your account that prevent you from registering for classes or changing your schedule. Take care of your holds before you register for classes. See your holds under "MyChecklist" in your CSUN Student Portal.

### **Title IX (9) Training or Refresher Required Hold**

The “Not Anymore” online training or refresher course is required before enrolling in classes, and it is intended to educate all members of CSUN community about staying safe and preventing sexual violence, domestic/dating violence, and stalking. This training is required once a year.

### **Advisement Holds**

This hold will stay on all new undergraduate international students’ (freshmen and transfer) account for the first semester only and will be removed before students register for their 2nd semester. Enrollment and changes to schedule are done by an academic advisor.

### **2nd Semester Freshman & Major Advisement Holds**

Certain majors will require advisement before registering for second semester and onward. If you see a major advisement hold on your account, contact your college’s Student Services Center or faculty advisor to schedule an appointment. It is recommended to schedule your advisement appointments in advance of your registration date.

### **Foreign Hold**

The International and Exchange Student Center (IESC) is responsible for monitoring and lifting the foreign registration hold. All international students will have a foreign registration hold placed on their account at the beginning of each registration appointment period that prevents them from registering for classes. To remove the foreign hold, students must submit their proof of health insurance to [insurance@csun.edu](mailto:insurance@csun.edu). Go to [IESC’s website](#) for more information.

### **Rubella/Rubeola Hold**

All students must submit proof of immunization (vaccination) to the Klotz Student Health Center in order for this hold to be lifted. Other immunization holds include: Hepatitis B, Measles, and/or Meningococcal.

### **Library Hold**

Indicates that you have fees or materials (books, media, or equipment) that need to be returned to the library. Visit the library to resolve your hold.

### **Financial Hold**

Indicates you have a balance due with University Cash Services. This could be unpaid tuition and fees. Please visit Bayramian Hall Lobby to resolve this hold.

### Writing Proficiency Exam Hold

Indicates that you have reached 75 units and have not taken the Upper Division Writing Proficiency Exam. You must register and take the exam before this hold is removed. If you have missed the registration deadline, you may apply for an extension appeal. See [UDPWE website](#) for more information.

### Missing Transcript Hold

Indicates you have not submitted either high school or college transcripts to CSUN International Admissions. Please contact your [International Admissions Advisor](#) or go to Bayramian Hall, Room 160 for more information.

## Student Portal & Useful Sites/Links

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*MyNorthridge* Student Portal is one of your most important tools for success while at CSUN. The portal is where you can find your student schedule, course contents, unofficial transcript, register for classes, update and access personal and academic records. You are encouraged to become familiar with all the functions of your student portal. You are also expected to use your student portal regularly at CSUN.

Use the [How-to-Guides](#) to learn about the different resources in your student portal:

To get started, go to [CSUN Website](#) and login using your student ID and password. Through the *MyNorthridge* Student Portal, you'll have access to:

**Email:** the main form of communication at CSUN. Your official CSUN email account is served through Gmail. All official communications with professors and CSUN staff must be done with your CSUN email account. No personal email address will be accepted as this is to protect your online privacy and security. Do not share your username/password with anyone.

**Solar Center:** where you'll go to enroll in classes, view and take care of your student finances, and update personal information every time you move. Remember, your F-1 regulation requires you to update your address within 10 days of moving. You should also update your contact information in case of emergency.

**Moodle/Canvas:** the online classroom management system used at CSUN. Many of your classes will also have a Moodle/Canvas class where professors will post readings, handouts, grades, assignments, quizzes. It is also where you can submit your assignments and papers electronically if required to do so.

**Class Search:** allows students to view courses offered in the current, past, and future terms at CSUN. The class search provides times, locations, and course requirements such as co-requisites, prerequisites, and departmental restrictions.

**Degree Planning Tools:** include the Degree Road Map, Degree Progress Report/Planner (DPR), and Registration Planner. The Degree Road Map provides recommended semester-by-semester sequence of classes for your major. The Degree Progress Report (DPR) lists all courses you have taken and need to take in general education and major requirements in order to graduate. It is a useful tool for all students to reach their graduation goal on time. The Registration Planner allows you to generate preferred schedules each semester.

## Tutoring & Academic Help

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The Learning Resource Center (LRC) is a great resource for students seeking help in all subjects as well as improving study skills. Learning Resource Center (LRC) is located on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the library. The LRC includes a SMART Lab for science and math subjects, Writing Labs, & Conversation Swap.

**For major specific tutoring**, see the full list of tutoring resources here: [Tutoring Resources](#)

## Academic Success Skills

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Below are some recommended academic success skills keeping international student in mind. Review them to help you adjust to U.S. academic settings.

### What Is Expected from Students?

Being an international student is challenging. Expectations are different, and classroom and cultural practices can be confusing. However, the university still holds you accountable to meeting these expectations. Below is a helpful guide for you to successfully carry out your role as a university student.

1. attend all classes, stay motivated, and participate
2. communicate and ask for help when needed
3. take responsibility for your learning and decisions

### How to Read a Syllabus

In each class, you will receive a syllabus. A syllabus is a document that outlines the course, rules and policies, and your responsibilities in the class. It is a teaching/learning contract between you and the professor. It is your responsibility to read it carefully and pay attention to the course schedule for assignment deadlines and due dates.

A syllabus has the following components:

1. **Class Information:** meeting times, location, and dates.
2. **Instructor's Information:** contacts & office hours.
3. **Course Description:** outlines the content of the class.
4. **Methodology:** how the class will be conducted.
5. **Class Assignments:** types and details of assignments & exams.
6. **Text & Materials:** required textbooks and materials for class.
7. **Course/Grading Policies:** rules for the class & how students will be graded.
8. **Schedule:** detailed outline of instructions, assignments, and exam dates.

## Note-taking Skills

There are many methods and strategies to note-taking. It is important that students develop their own note-taking skills that best fit their learning styles. However, the **Five Rs** to note-taking below is a good and general start.

**Record** main ideas & meaningful facts.

**Reduce** notes by summarizing ideas and concepts, clarifying meanings and relationships between ideas, lectures, and readings.

**Recite** facts and ideas to commit them to memory. It's helpful to discuss ideas with others.

**Reflect** by connecting lectures with readings, real world events, past and personal experiences.

**Review** your notes for short periods every week to retain information better. Don't wait to only review notes before tests.

Credit: Walter Pauk

## Test-Taking Skills

There are different types of exams: multiple choice, short answers, essays, online quizzes, midterms and final exams. Different exam formats and expectations can be confusing and anxiety inducing. Here are some tips to prepare for exams:

1. Find out in advance the format of your exams.
2. Prepare in advance! Use your syllabus and plan ahead to review materials.
3. Learn to make connections, analyze, think critically, and develop writing skills for short answers and essays. The LRC has writing workshops that can help you improve your writing skills.
4. Pace yourself when taking a test. Preview the test first and develop a strategy.
5. If you have test-anxiety, consult with the [University Counseling Services](#) for ways to manage your anxiety and improve test-taking skills.

## How to Read a Textbook

College textbooks are great learning resources, but with long reading assignments, it's difficult to read everything word-for-word. Developing reading strategies allow you to read faster and understand and grasp concepts better when you read.

Consider the **P2R Reading Strategy** below.

### **Preview**

1. Determine what you intend to read, then break up large reading into smaller segments.
2. Preview the chapter and focus on: headings, introductions, section and paragraph headings, bold prints, pictures, tables, graphs, chapter summaries, and questions at the end of the section/chapter.



## Read

1. Actively & strategically read what you think is important based on your preview of the text.
2. Question what you are reading while you are reading. What are the important points? What are the supporting details?
3. Mark your text when you come across idea you don't understand. Make notations and write questions in the margin so you can discuss in class.

## Review

1. After reading, summarize the main points in your own words.
2. Make a list of key terms, definition, concepts, and ideas.
3. Make a review sheet for each chapter or major concept to help you study for exams. Include your chapter summaries, concept maps, key words, and your answers to end-of-chapter questions.
4. Review what you have read by discussing the reading with a classmate to confirm understanding, challenge ideas, fill-in gaps, and improve overall retention of learning.

Credit: Van Blerkom

## Group Work

Group work is an important element of learning in U.S. schools. While group work can be challenging, it teaches innovation through collaboration, problem solving, and leadership skills that are important to both academic and career development. In group work, remember to work together, communicate, have clear expectations, be fair and helpful, commit to the work, and share group responsibilities.

## Academic Writing

Writing is important for all majors at CSUN! Academic writing; however, has different formats and expectations that you might not be familiar with. It is important to be serious and spend time in your first year to improve your English and writing skills through your GE writing classes.

Academic writing goes beyond reporting what you have read and know. It requires you to analyze information, develop a thesis, make arguments, support your arguments with evidence, and cite your evidence using standard formats such as MLA or APA, etc.

Work with your instructors, major department, and utilize the University Writing Center at the LRC to get help and feedback on your writing. The University Writing Center also provides workshops and tutoring to familiarize you with academic writing.

## Communication Etiquette

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Emails are the most common form of communication in the U.S. Emails should not be treated like text messages, and don't expect an immediate response. Emails are formal communication. Therefore, it's important to learn how to write professional emails. Email etiquettes will be useful even after graduating from

CSUN!

### Some Important Reminders:

1. Always use your **CSUN email account** with professors and staff.
2. **Subject Line:** always include a short and clear subject line.
3. **Personal Information:** include your full name and student ID number.
4. **Salutations:** start and end your email with a greeting. It's good formality.
5. **Body:** keep it short and to the point while always keeping a polite tone.
6. End your email with your **full name as your signature**.
7. **Wait.** Give recipients up to 48 hours to respond before following up.

## **Academic Integrity**

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Academic integrity is important to the maintenance of standards and quality of education at CSUN. Acceptable practices in your home country might not be acceptable in the U.S. It is your responsibility to know and avoid academic dishonesty at CSUN, as discipline for dishonesty is strictly enforced. Not knowing does not excuse a student from academic dishonesty offenses. For the complete policy, *see Academic Dishonesty* below. You can generally avoid academic dishonesty by doing the following:

**Do your own work** - Don't buy essays or have others do your work

**Don't copy** - Don't falsify (make up) information

**Don't cheat** - Remember to give credit/cite your sources

**Don't help others cheat** - Don't do work together unless authorized

### Academic Dishonesty Policy

The maintenance of academic integrity and quality education is the responsibility of each student within this university. Cheating or plagiarism in connection with an academic program at a CSU campus is listed in Section 41301, Title 5, and California Code of Regulations as an offense for which a student may be expelled, suspended or given a less severe disciplinary sanction. Academic dishonesty is an especially serious offense and diminishes the quality of scholarship and defrauds those who depend on the integrity of the University's programs.

Academic dishonesty might be treated differently in other countries; however, **discipline is fully enforced in the U.S. and at CSUN.** Such dishonesty includes:

**Cheating:** Intentionally using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information, or study aids in any academic exercise.

**Fabrication:** Intentional falsification or invention of any information or citation in an academic exercise.

**Facilitating Academic Dishonesty:** Intentionally or knowingly helping or attempting to help another to commit an act of academic dishonesty.

**Plagiarism:** Intentionally or knowingly representing the words, ideas or work of another as one's own in any academic exercise.

For examples and complete details on Academic Dishonesty Policy, see: [CSUN Academic Dishonesty](#).

## **Academic Policies & Links**

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### **Executive Order 1100:**

Effective Fall 2016, all entering undergraduate students are required to complete their General Education Basic Skills requirements (Freshman Writing, Critical Thinking, Math, and Oral Communication) with a grade of "C-" or higher in order to graduate. Students will be required to repeat Basic Skills courses if they obtain grades lower than "C-."

All continuing students who have any remaining Basic Skills requirements must also pass their Basic Skills courses with grade of "C-" or higher starting Fall 2016.

### **Executive Order 665:**

All undergraduate students are required to complete their MATH 092/093 and AAS/AFRS/CAS/CHS/ENGL/QS/LING 113A or 114A within their first year of enrollment. Students who do not meet EO 665 will be required to temporarily leave CSUN and complete their Math and English requirements at another institution before they can enroll again at CSUN. Please see an advisor early if you experience difficulties meeting this requirement. Students should be aware that passing the MPT does not exempt students from EO 665. Students who have met EO 665 should complete their General Education Basic Skills requirements as soon as possible.

### **Upper Division Writing Proficiency Exam (UDWPE)**

Students must attempt the Upper Division Writing Proficiency Exam before reaching 75 units. For transfer students with 60 or more units, this typically means attempting the UDWPE in the first semester at CSUN. Registration holds will be placed on students who have not attempted the exam on time. The TOEFL does not exempt students from the exam.

### What do you need to know for your UDWPE?

1. At around 50 units and after passing your Lower Division Writing requirement (ENGL 113B, ENGL 114B, ENGL 115, or equivalent), you should start thinking about attempting the UDWPE.
2. Visit the [UDWPE website](#) for more information including registration and test dates.
3. Prepare for the UDWPE by attending [Workshops, Boot Campus, and Consultations](#) at the LRC.
4. [Sample Essays and Scoring Guides](#) are available at the UDWPE Website.
5. If you don't pass the UDWPE, speak with your academic advisor for additional resources.

### GWAR for Graduate Students

All CSUN graduate students earning a degree are required by the CSU to satisfy the Graduate Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR) prior to full classification. There are three paths to satisfy the GWAR requirement.

Students can complete this requirement in one of the following ways:

1. Demonstrate that they earned an undergraduate degree at a CSU since 1982.
2. Take the UDWPE and earn a score of 8 or higher.
3. Take the GRE-Analytical and earn a score of 3 or higher.

### Part-Time & Concurrent Enrollment

**Part-time:** Under special extenuating circumstances, F-1 international students may be approved to take less than 12 units for undergraduate students or less than 8 units for graduate students during their program of study at CSUN. Approval for part-time enrollment must be under one of these conditions: health/medical, academic difficulty, or final semester. Please visit the IESC to discuss your case with a foreign student advisor.

**Concurrent Enrollment:** Students may be approved to take a class or classes at another school while enrolled at CSUN. To be eligible for concurrent enrollment, undergraduate students must be enrolled in minimum 6 units at CSUN and the combined units from concurrent enrollment must be at least 12 units each semester. Graduate students must be enrolled in minimum 4 units at CSUN and the combined units from concurrent enrollment must be at least 8 units each semester.

Part-time and Concurrent Enrollment are not available to all students. Students must visit IESC for more information and prior authorization.

### Late Add/Drop Deadlines & Procedures

For F-1 international students, your first semester class add/drop deadline is outlined under "First Semester Change of Schedule Request." Additionally, the "Late Add-Drop Classes policy" is university-wide and applies to all new and continuing students. Please see the [Late Add-Drop Classes](#) site for add/drop/grade change dates, instructions, and forms needed for late changes to your schedule.

## Withdrawals, Refunds, & Visa Issues

Before the start of the first semester, if you decide to withdraw or defer enrollment, please inform an [International Academic Advisor](#) or [International Admissions](#). Once the semester has started, if students need to completely withdraw from CSUN, make sure to follow withdrawals [Undergraduate Policy](#) or [Graduate Policy](#).

Depending on when students withdraw from classes, their refund will vary. For refund information visit the [Student Finance website](#).

F-1 international students are required to enroll full time each semester. Withdrawing from classes will affect F-1/J-1 visa status. If students withdraw completely without prior authorization from IESC, their SEVIS record will be terminated and students will no longer be eligible to stay in the U.S. Please consult with a Foreign Student Advisor at the [IESC](#) before making complete withdrawals from CSUN.

Withdrawing from classes that results in less than full time enrollment can also negatively affect a student's legal F-1/J-1 status. See "Part-Time & Concurrent Enrollment" above.

## Student Conduct

The university is committed to maintaining a safe and healthy living and learning environment for students, faculty, and staff. Students are expected to be good members and to engage in responsible behaviors that reflect well upon their university, to be civil to one another in the campus community, and to contribute positively to student and university life. For more information go to [Student Conduct Code](#).

## English, Math, and Other Placement Exams

New students are typically required to take a writing placement and Math Selection Assessment (MSA) to be placed into the proper Writing and Math classes. Other placement tests might apply depending on your major. See your major advisor for details, and see the [Testing Center](#) for all the placement tests offered.

## **Academic Records**

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### **Unofficial Transcript**

Currently registered CSUN students, as well as former students with a myNorthridge account, may obtain an UNOFFICIAL transcript on SOLAR as follows:

Log into myNorthridge from the [CSUN home page](#) with your CSUN User ID and Password. On the Home tab in the Quick Links box, select "SOLAR Student Center" and then click "Unofficial Transcript." At that point, you will need to click on the "Regular University" button on the page. Once the page has loaded, verify that the information regarding your classes and GPA is up-to-date.

### **Official Transcript**

Official Transcript can be ordered online, by mail, or in person. Official transcripts must be ordered and paid for. Please see [Admissions & Records - order transcripts](#) for more information.

For other services provided by the office of Admissions & Records, such as course description request, CSUN Photo ID, transfer course information, updating your personal information, enrollment verification, please go to [Admissions & Records website](#).

### **Letter Request**

If you require any letter of verification from CSUN to your embassy, cultural offices, or scholarship, please complete and submit the [Letter Request Form](#) to International Admissions.

## **ADJUSTING TO A NEW CULTURE**

Moving to a new country is a life-changing experience. When you first arrive in the U.S. you will probably feel excited about all the new things happening around you. This period of your life can also feel overwhelming and will require a period of adjustment to adapt to the many changes taking place. The period of adjustment is commonly referred to as “culture shock.”

It includes the shock of a new environment, language, education and political system, meeting lots of new people, and learning the ways of a different country. Culture shock is entirely normal, and it usually affects everyone who moves to a new country for the first time. Actually, there are benefits to experiencing culture shock. It can be a significant learning experience because it increases your awareness of your own culture while also giving you a better understanding of the new culture. Experiencing a new culture will give you valuable skills such as cultural awareness and sensitivity among others, which will serve you in many ways in your personal and professional future.

### **Understanding Culture Shock and the Stages of Adjustment**

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Being able to adjust to the new environment and culture is perhaps one of the most important [ways] of your experience abroad. Nearly everybody goes through an adjustment when starting a new job or moving to new city, so in some ways, adjusting to the host country is like other transitions. Except that when you start your life in a foreign country for the first time you can encounter many cultural and language differences that you didn't need to contend with when you started a new school or job.

Many people who have been abroad discuss their experience in terms of stages. Take a minute to learn about the four stages of culture shock.

#### **Stage 1: Cultural Euphoria**

At the start of your [experience] there is an initial excitement about being in a new culture. This is often called the "honeymoon stage." Everything is new and wonderful, and you are eager to explore it all. This phase seems pleasant enough, but there are some drawbacks involved. You tend to see the culture through rose-colored glasses, and your interpretations aren't necessarily realistic.

## Stage 2: Cultural Confrontation

In the next stage, the initial excitement you felt when you arrived diminishes and the process of cultural adjustment begins. This stage is typically characterized by confusion and frustration and, as such, is the most difficult stage. Your feelings can shift from very positive to extremely negative. You may view both the home and host Cultures in unrealistic terms; one is superior while the other is lacking. This is because everything that you used to do with relative ease in your home country appears much more difficult due to the culture and/or the language. Homesickness may also contribute to your feelings of discomfort. You feel discouraged and begin to doubt whether you can learn the language or adjust to the culture. Despite these feelings, you are making critical progress in expanding your cross-cultural awareness and, whether or not you are aware of it, you are developing your own strategies for coping with cultural differences.

## Stage 3: Cultural Adjustment

This stage represents the transition out of culture shock into significant cultural adjustment. You feel increasingly comfortable and competent in the culture, and these feelings prevail over the times you have felt frustrated or out of place. Homesickness may still be an issue for you, but you are interacting more effectively with host nationals, leading to an increase in self-confidence.

## Stage 4: Cultural Adaptation

In this stage, you have reached a point at which you have a great deal of confidence in your ability to communicate and interact effectively. You have a deeper understanding of the influence culture has in peoples' lives. You have acquired considerable cultural knowledge, but you also recognize that there is much you still don't know or understand.

**Our advice? Go get a bit of culture shock. Explore and challenge yourself to really learn about the cultures surrounding you.**

Credit: Maximizing Study Abroad by Paige, Cohen, Kappler, Chi, and Lassgard

## **Tips to Help You Adjust**

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### Keep an Open Mind and Be Patient

Try not to make judgments about the way people in the U.S. do things, instead try to remain positive and accept people for who they are. Don't try to understand everything immediately. The process of adjusting to a new culture requires time. It may also require a different amount of time for different areas of adjustment. Try to remind yourself to be patient with this experience and not be overly critical of yourself.

### Utilize On-Campus Resources at CSUN

The IESC staff consists of former international students and people from the U.S. who have studied abroad. We

understand cultural adjustment because we have experienced it ourselves. If you are having a difficult time, please stop by the IESC office and speak with an advisor. You can also make an appointment with the counselors at University Counseling Services to discuss cultural adjustment. Remember that you are not alone and we are always here to help!

### **Talk to Other Students and Do Not Isolate Yourself**

The more people you know and activities you take part in, the more you will feel part of your new environment. In general, Californians are very accepting of people from other cultures and will be helpful if you approach them. Join clubs on campus, attend campus talks, meet as many people as you can, and really make yourself part of the community. Also, talk to other international students and share your experiences with them. It is most likely that they are having similar experiences and could offer advice on how to adjust. The IESC also hosts coffee hours every Friday from 2pm – 4pm during the spring and fall semesters. These are great opportunities to meet and talk with your fellow students.

### **Stay Active and Eat Healthy**

Physical and mental health are fundamentally linked. Be mindful of keeping a healthy diet and getting enough exercise and rest. Try to find an activity that you enjoy and make it part of your routine. Being physically active can help reduce your stress level and make it easier to cope with the difficulties of adjusting to a new culture.

### **Keep in Contact With Friends and Family Back Home**

Technology like video chats, phone and email are great resources for keeping in contact with your friends and family back home. Your friends and family understand you, and will be able to provide you with encouragement and support to help you through difficult times. They'll also be there to help you celebrate the good times.

## **CAMPUS RESOURCES & SUPPORT SERVICES**

### **Career Center**

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The Career Center helps students explore majors and careers, clarify life and career goals, and prepare for the transition from graduation to employment or graduate school. They assist students in finding a direction for their studies by connecting academic and career plans. They are also a resource for employment and work-based learning opportunities.

Go to [Career Center Website](#) to learn more.

1 (818) 677-2878

**Hours:** Monday-Thursday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. and Friday: 9 a.m.-4 p.m.



## Department of Police Services

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The Department of Police Services provides law enforcement services to the University community, and is open 24 hours a day/seven days a week. The department is staffed with sworn peace officers that have full police powers and are trained and equipped to handle emergencies on campus and all state laws, codes and regulations are enforced. In addition, the department is the answering point for the 911 system on campus. Dialing 911 on any campus phone connects you to the police department, which has the capability of summoning the appropriate aid to help you.

Go to [CSUN Department of Police Services Website](#) to learn more.

General Information/Receptionist: 1 (818) 677-2266

Administration Office: 1 (818) 677-2201

## Disability Resources and Educational Services (DRES)

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Each semester, Disability Resources and Educational Services serves more than 750 students with disabilities enrolled at CSUN. DRES staff consists of professionals and specialists who work collaboratively with individual students diagnosed with learning, mobility, visual, communication, psychological and other functional disabilities. Go to [Disability Resources and Educational Services Website](#) to learn more.

1 (818) 677-2684

**Hours:** Monday-Friday: 8 a.m.-4:45 p.m.

## Learning Resource Center (LRC)

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Students may visit the LRC to improve their academic performance through a variety of learning programs including workshops, one-on-one and group tutoring, and supplemental instruction classes. Go to [Learning Resource Center Website](#) to learn more.

1 (818) 677-2033

**Hours:** Monday-Friday: 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

## Library

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The Oviatt Library (OV) is located in the center of campus. Librarians and other library personnel are dedicated to helping students achieve their educational goals. The Library has extensive collections and services, both in-house and online. Reading, study, and collaborative areas, as well as computers, are located throughout the building.

Go to [Oviatt Library Website](#) to learn more.

1 (818) 677-2271

**Hours:** Library hours change throughout the academic year. Please check their website for Library Hours information.

## Matador Involvement Center (MIC)

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The MIC is the place to learn more about getting involved on campus and meeting people with similar interests. Whether you are a new or returning student, make your mark at CSUN by discovering clubs and organizations, volunteer projects, fraternities and sororities, and resources for leadership development. Go to [Matador Involvement Center Website](#) to learn more.

1 (818) 677-5111

**Hours:** Monday-Friday: 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

## National Center on Deafness (NCOD)

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NCOD has long been recognized as a pioneer in the provision of services to students who are deaf or hard of hearing in a mainstream environment. NCOD provides students with communication access to all of the university's programs and services through interpreting, note-taking and captioning services. Go to [National Center on Deafness Website](#) to learn more.

1 (818) 677-2054

**Hours:** Monday-Friday: 8 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

## Oasis Wellness Center

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The Oasis is a welcoming destination where CSUN students can find serenity and relaxation amid the rush and activity of campus life. It offers nutrition counseling, meditation, massages, acupuncture, nap pods and workshops focused on wellness and managing stress — all intended to promote student academic success. Go to [Oasis Wellness Center Website](#) to learn more.

1 (818) 677-7373

**Fall and Spring Hours:** Monday –Thursday: 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Friday: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**Summer Hours:** Monday – Thursday: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Friday: 9 a.m. -2 p.m.

## Student Recreation Center (SRC)

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The Student Recreation Center is a 138,000 square-foot facility for exercise and leisure activity that promotes lifelong health and wellness. The eco-friendly facility has the most up-to-date equipment, a friendly and welcoming staff and tons of school spirit! Go to <http://src.csun.edu/> to learn more.

1 (818) 677-5434

#### **Fall and Spring Building Hours:**

Monday–Thursday: 6 a.m. – Midnight

Friday: 6 a.m. – 10 p.m.

Saturday–Sunday: 9 a.m. – 10 p.m.

### **Tutoring Centers**

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Please go to [Tutoring Centers](#) for a list of various tutoring resources available on campus.

### **University Counseling Services (UCS)**

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University Counseling Services (UCS) wants you to fulfill your personal and professional dreams and get the most out of your experience at CSUN. We have a remarkable team of psychologists, marriage and family therapists, social workers, psychiatrists, doctoral interns, postdoctoral fellows, psychiatric residents and administrative staff. Each team member promises you ethical, respectful and professional care. Go to [University Counseling Services Website](#) to learn more.

1 (818) 677-2366

**Hours:** Monday-Friday: 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

#### **After Hours Care**

Students who are in crisis or have an urgent concern after regular business hours, can call 1 (818) 677-2366 and select option “3” to be immediately transferred to a live crisis counselor with whom you can discuss your concerns. Go to [University Counseling Services urgent-care](#) to learn more.

## **IMMIGRATION AND TRAVEL**

### **Important Immigration Documents: Know the Difference!**

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#### **Passport**

You must maintain a valid passport at all times. Make sure to renew your passport at least six months prior to the expiration date. Your passport can be renewed within the United States at your country's consulate or

embassy. Please contact your country's consulate or embassy at [U.S. Embassy Website](#).

### U.S. Visa

A visa is a stamp or sticker placed in your passport at a U.S. consulate or embassy outside the U.S. You must make sure that your visa is valid for your re-entry. An expired visa must be renewed at a U.S. consulate or embassy outside of the U.S. prior to re-entry. This visa is only a permit to enter the United States. Canadian citizens do not need to obtain a U.S. F-1 or J-1 visa.

### I-20 for F-1 Students and DS-2019 for J-1 Students

Once a student is admitted to California State University, Northridge (CSUN), an I-20 Form (for F-1 students)/DS-2019 Form (for J-1 students) is created in SEVIS, Student and Exchange Visitor Information System--an online database that allows United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to track all F-1 and J-1 students. The I-20/DS-2019 is the official admission document that students will need for their visa interview at the U.S. Embassy. Once you are in the U.S., your I-20/DS-2019 becomes the relevant document that keeps you in status. Your I-20/DS-2019 form expires on the date you complete your studies. This cannot be extended once you have graduated. If you lose your I-20/DS-2019 or it gets stolen or damaged, you must inform the International and Exchange Student Center (IESC) immediately and request a replacement. Students must submit a completed [Request for New I-20/DS-2019](#) to the [iescrequest@csun.edu](mailto:iescrequest@csun.edu).

### Automatic Form I-94 Arrival/Departure-Record

Form I-94 is the Department of Homeland Security's arrival and departure record. The immigration officer at the port of entry enters your arrival/departure information in their database.

The Port of Entry Officer will place an admission stamp in your passport marked with the visa status (F-1, J-1, etc.) and the letters "D/S" to indicate you have properly entered the U.S. D/S stands for "Duration of Status." It covers the period of time for the completion of your course of study plus any periods of authorized practical training, plus 60 days for your preparation to exit the United States. J-1 students will have only 30 days to exit the U.S. upon completion of their study program. Your arrival and departure information will be recorded electronically in the U.S. Customs and Border Protection's database. If you are traveling by land, you will be issued a paper Form I-94.

International students may access their electronic Form I-94 at [U.S. Customs and Border Protection](#) within approximately 24 hours of their arrival to the U.S. All students should keep a printed Form I-94 with their passport in case they apply for future benefits such as work authorizations, social security numbers, or driver's licenses.

## **Maintaining Your Student Status**

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As an F-1/J-1 student, you must comply with certain immigration laws governing your stay in this country. If you

do not abide by these laws, the U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) will consider you "out-of-status" and therefore in violation of the conditions of your immigration status.

### F-1 Students

1. Maintain a valid U.S address at all times and update your CSUN Student Portal account. It is important that you update your personal information (such as U.S address, email, phone number etc.) via the CSUN portal within 10 days of the change. The U.S. address is required to keep your SEVIS immigration record in good standing.
2. Maintain a full course of study during each semester (**12 credit hours for undergraduate students; 8 credit hours for graduate students**) at the school listed on the currently valid I-20 Form.
3. Attend classes regularly and make satisfactory progress toward completion of your degree program.
4. Enroll in no more than the equivalent of one online class or three online credits per semester to count towards your full-time enrollment. Note that if you have one class left to take to graduate, this class must be an in-class traditional course to be in compliance with legal guidelines governing your F-1 status.
5. Make sure that any changes are appropriately listed on your I-20 (name, major, educational level, sources of funding).
6. Do not transfer schools without authorization. If you do transfer schools, make sure that your International Student Advisor transfers your Student and Exchange Visitor Information System record prior to the start of classes at your current school.
7. Complete transfer-in process when you change institutions. This process must be completed within 15 days of starting classes at your new school. The transfer is not complete until you have registered for classes at the new school and received an I-20 confirming the completion of your transfer.
8. Do not accept unauthorized employment. All off-campus employment must be pre-authorized by the USCIS or an international student advisor in the International and Exchange Student Center (IESC).
9. If you work on campus, you may work up to 20 hours per week while school is in session (fall and spring), and 21 hours or more during all breaks (summer and winter). USCIS considers every employment under 20 hours as part time and every employment over 20 hours as full time.
10. Maintain a valid passport at all times. Make sure to renew your passport six months prior to the expiration date.
11. Never travel outside the United States without the proper documents. Remember to obtain a travel signature on your I-20 from the IESC.
12. Apply for an extension of your program if you cannot complete the degree requirements by the 'end date' listed on your I-20.
13. Always maintain medical, repatriation and medical evacuation insurance.

### J-1 Students

As soon as you arrive in the United States, you **must** attend a mandatory J-1 orientation meeting. This meeting will be held at the International and Exchange Student Center (IESC).

At this appointment, you will be meeting your advisor, who will review your immigration documents, give you

important information on how to maintain legal student status in the U.S., help you become acquainted with the structure of your new campus, and make you aware of the campus offices and services you can use and answer any questions regarding the registration process. Please note that you are expected to be enrolled in full course of study before attending this meeting.

***Please report to the IESC within 30 days of arrival and provide required documents in order to avoid automatic termination of your SEVIS record by immigration.***

## **Travel and Re-Entry**

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Please plan ahead if you are planning to travel outside the U.S. during your studies. Students will need to [obtain a travel signature](#) on their I-20/DS2019 from the IESC when traveling outside the borders of the U.S. Travel signatures are granted to students who meet all eligibility requirements. Travel signatures for continuing students will be valid for one year provided the student continues to maintain correct student status. Students who need to travel during the semester will have to demonstrate eligibility in addition to obtaining permission from all professors to miss classes.

Students who have applied for Optional Practical Training (OPT) must show a Notice of Action receipt from USCIS to request a travel signature.

Students who have received an Employment Authorization Document (EAD) or approval for OPT must submit a copy of the EAD in order to request a travel signature. USCIS recommends that students on OPT show a letter from their employer at the port of entry when returning to the U.S. All students who have either applied for or are currently on OPT should communicate with their foreign student advisor for current information on appropriate documents and immigration regulations.

### **Traveling Inside the United States**

If you are traveling inside the U.S., you do not need to have a valid visa or travel signature on your I-20. It is recommended that you carry your passport and I-20 with you.

### **Required Documents When Traveling Outside the United States**

1. Valid **Passport** with at least six months into the future.
2. Valid **U.S. F-1 or J-1 Visa** for your re-entry.
3. **Form I-20/DS-2019** with travel signature valid for your re-entry. The travel signature is valid for one year. Those on OPT must have travel signature, and it will be valid for 6 months.
4. **I-94 (Arrival and Departure Record)**. When you return to the U.S., you will access your electronic form I-94 at [U.S. Customs and Border Protection Website](#) within approximately 24 hours of your arrival to the U.S. Keep a copy for your records and submit a copy to the IESC by email to [iescrequest@csun.edu](mailto:iescrequest@csun.edu).

## **Transfer Process**

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## Transferring In

The Office of International Admissions will issue an I-20 to students transferring in to CSUN. Students who change their minds about attending CSUN and intend to transfer out to another school must request and process their transfer out no later than the first day of classes of their first semester at CSUN.

## Transferring Out

All students planning to transfer to another school need to submit a completed [Transfer Release Form](#) and an Acceptance Letter from the new school. Please contact your Foreign Student Advisor at the International and Exchange Student Center (IESC) of your intent to transfer out so that you learn about applicable timelines.

# EMPLOYMENT

Always consult with a [foreign student advisor](#) before starting any employment or paid practical training. It is extremely important to keep in mind that it is your responsibility to engage only in employment or practical training authorized as permissible for F-1 or J-1 students. Any unauthorized employment or paid practical training, even if it is for a few hours and/or you did not know it was unauthorized, places you out of status and possibly terminates your status in the United States. All references to employment in this document refer to paid employment.

## **Working in the U.S.**

1. **Employment**
  - a. On Campus
  - b. Off Campus (Economic Hardship)
2. **Practical Training**
  - a. CPT
  - b. OPT
    - i. PRE
    - ii. POST
    - iii. STEM Extension

## **F-1 Student Employment**

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Employment and practical training are benefits of the F-1 student status, but are not guaranteed.

### Employment

**On-Campus Employment** generally includes student assistant positions, and teaching and graduate assistantships. International students are eligible to work on-campus on a part-time basis, which is 20 hours or

less per week when school is in session (Fall/Spring). During vacation periods (summer and winter), continuing students may work on-campus up to 40 hours per week, which is defined as full-time employment. To work on campus, you will need an International Student Verification Form and a Social Security number (SSN).

**Off-Campus Employment (Economic Hardship)** - An eligible F-1 or J-1 student may request off-campus employment based upon severe economic hardship caused by unforeseen circumstances beyond his or her control. F-1 students must have been in student status for at least one academic year and must be able to clearly document the circumstances causing economic need. Approval is subject to adjudication by United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). J-1 students may request employment authorization from the Responsible Official (RO).

### Practical Training

F-1 students must have been in legal F-1 status for a minimum of one academic year (two semesters). Your F-1 status begins on your first date of entry into the United States. Always consult with a Foreign Student Advisor before starting any practical training.

**Curricular Practical Training (CPT)** refers to required paid internship, cooperative education, or practicum which is related to an F-1 student's field of study. The student must be registered for a course where the student will receive unit credit for the CPT training towards his/her degree. CPT approval will be granted for one semester at a time and for the semester the student is registered. Unpaid internships do not require CPT approval.

**Optional Practical Training (OPT)** is the opportunity to apply knowledge gained in your program of study to a job in your major field.

1. **Pre-Completion OPT** is Optional Practical Training authorized before the completion of a student's program of study. It permits F-1 students to gain work experience in their major field of study while pursuing their academic program.
2. **Post-completion Optional Practical Training (OPT)** is a type of work authorization for F-1 students. It provides F-1 students with the opportunity to gain work experience in their major field of study upon completion of their program. An F-1 student is eligible for a maximum of 12 months of OPT per educational level. OPT is a benefit of an F-1 student status. It is NOT a type of visa. Please note that students with certain science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) degrees may be eligible for a 24-month extension of their OPT.
3. **24 Month STEM OPT Extension** is a type of work authorization for F-1 students who receive certain science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) degrees, and who meet other specified requirements applicable to a 24-month extension of their post-completion OPT.

## **J-1 Student Employment**

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### On-Campus Employment

International students seeking on-campus employment are responsible for securing employment on their own



merit. Students are advised to visit campus departments, service areas, such as food courts, and apply in person. On-campus employment generally includes student assistant positions and teaching and graduate assistantships. On-campus employment must either be performed on the school's premises (including on-location commercial firms which provide services for students on campus, such as the school bookstore or cafeteria), or at an off-campus location that is educationally affiliated with the school. Employment with on-site commercial firms, such as a construction company working on a school building, without providing direct student services, is not deemed on-campus employment.

International students are eligible to work on-campus on a part-time basis, which is 20 hours or less per week when school is in session. During vacation periods (summer and winter), if you are eligible and intend to register for the next semester, you may work on-campus for 21 or more hours, which is defined as full-time employment. To work on campus, you will need an International Student Verification Form and a Social Security number (SSN).

## How to Apply for Your Social Security Number (SSN)

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Students are advised to wait a minimum of 10 days after arrival in the United States before applying for a SSN. This gives USCIS and the Department of Homeland Security sufficient time to record your arrival and status in their databases.

**In order to apply for a SSN, you must have the following documents:**

1. Employment offer letter
2. Letter from IESC verifying enrollment and job offer
3. Letter from IESC/ARO authorizing employment (for J-1 students only)
4. A valid passport
5. Current I-20 form
6. I-94 form
7. EAD card (for OPT & Economic Hardship *ONLY*)

**You must present these documents to the Social Security Administration together with your SSN application.**

## Taxes

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Students in F-1 status are generally subject to federal and state income taxes. Students must file a tax return on or before April 15 each year for both California State Income Tax and Federal Income Tax. Students are strongly encouraged to consult with a tax professional to ensure compliance with IRS regulations.

For more information regarding Federal incoming taxes visit the Internal Revenue Service website and the Franchise Tax Board website for California State taxes.

# FINANCES

It is very important that you carefully plan your budget to meet all your anticipated educational and living expenses. Please keep in mind that during your first few weeks, your expenses may be higher due to new purchases and one-time deposits at the start of the academic year.

## Tuition Payment and Deadlines

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International students pay non-resident fees in addition to their total tuition and fees which is \$396 for each unit. Your payment deadline depends on your registration date. Registration alerts are posted on the web portal. Please make sure to mark your calendar with your [payment deadline](#) and refer to [University Cash Services](#) for more information on current costs. They are located in: Bayramian Hall, Lobby.

Their contact information is as follows:

Phone: 1 (818) 677-8000, Option 3

Fax: 1 (818) 677-4911

Email: [ucs@csun.edu](mailto:ucs@csun.edu)

## Scholarships

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If you need to obtain financial aid or an international scholarship, the best place is to look in your home country. Student loans and scholarships may be available from your government, local businesses, organizations and foundations.

### On-Campus:

Most CSUN colleges and departments offer scholarships to students in their program. Go to [Financial Aid and Scholarship Department Website](#) for a list of available scholarships by department.

### Off-Campus:

Other resources may be international humanitarian organizations that want to promote international education and cultural exchange with the U.S. Included in these organizations are the United Nations, the World Health Organization, the League of Red Cross Societies and the World Council of Churches. Financial aid and scholarships from these organizations are very competitive, so start the search early. Please exercise caution in your search as CSUN will not be held liable for the contents of the below websites and does not endorse scholarship search engines for which there is a fee.

Below are some links for websites that may provide some additional information:

1. [InternationalScholarships.com](http://InternationalScholarships.com) is an online financial aid resource for international students wishing to study in a foreign country.
2. [InternationalStudentLoan.com](http://InternationalStudentLoan.com) provides access to loans for non-U.S. students wishing to study in the USA, U.S. citizens studying abroad, and Canadian citizens studying abroad.
3. [The International Education Financial Aid Website](http://The International Education Financial Aid Website) features a searchable list of grants, scholarships and loan programs for international students.
4. [eduPASS](http://eduPASS) is The Smart Student Guide to Studying in the USA- provides excellent articles, charts and links about financing college.
5. Funding for U.S. Study is a database of scholarships, fellowships and grants organized and maintained by the Institute of International Education (IIE).
6. [The Fulbright Program Website](http://The Fulbright Program Website) provides funds for students, scholars and professionals to undertake graduate study, advanced research, university teaching, and teaching in elementary and secondary schools. Established in 1946, Fulbright aims to increase mutual understanding between the peoples of the United States and other countries, through the exchange of persons, knowledge and skills.
7. [Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation](http://Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation) administer a broad range of humanitarian and educational programs designed to improve the human condition, world understanding and peace. Learn more about Rotary's Ambassadorial Scholarships, Grants for University teachers and World Peace Scholarships for study at their Centers for International Studies in Peace and Conflict Resolution.
8. [GrantsNet](http://GrantsNet) features a database of funding opportunities in biomedical research and science education. Post-graduate status is necessary for most awards without U.S. citizenship requirements.
9. [The Foundation Center](http://The Foundation Center) is an online resource devoted to foundations that fund individuals. The site also features a section for international grant seekers!
10. [The Open Society Foundation](http://The Open Society Foundation) supports the development of an open society through funding specific educational opportunities around the world.
11. [Mobility International USA](http://Mobility International USA) offers a top-notch Financial Aid Resource Sheet for people with disabilities. The organization empowers disabled people around the world through international exchange, information, technical assistance and training.

## GET INVOLVED

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The International and Exchange Student Center (IESC) organizes and supports programming and special events for international students and scholars. The IESC offers a wide variety of unique and entertaining social, academic and cultural activities throughout the year. It also offers social support through programming to aid international students and scholars as they settle into the Northridge community and adjust to living in the United States.

If you would like to participate in any of these programs or activities, please visit the IESC.

## Student Panels for an International Curriculum and Education (SPICE)

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SPICE is a program sponsored by the International and Exchange Student Center (IESC) at CSUN. The SPICE Program consists of a diverse group of international students who are available to present information on the topics that professors teach in their classes. For each panel presentation, there are typically three international students, each representing a different country. Panelists present information from the perspective of their home country and culture.

SPICE provides international students with the opportunity to present information and share experiences from their home country in CSUN classrooms. Students will need to apply and be accepted to the program as a presenter.

Do you want to SPICE up your academic experience by helping students learn about different cultural points of view? Apply to be a SPICE panelist! If you are interested in becoming a panelist, please visit the IESC.

## **Phi Beta Delta**

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PBD is an academic and professional International Honor Society. Membership includes international students, local students with international experience, faculty and staff involved in international activities.

For more information, please visit: [Phi Beta Delta Website](#).

## **International Education Week**

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International Education Week is an opportunity to celebrate the benefits of international education and exchange worldwide. This is a joint initiative by the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Education as a part of their efforts to promote programs that prepare Americans for a global environment and attract future leaders from abroad to study, learn and exchange experiences in the United States. To be a part of the celebrations and activities, please visit the IESC.

## **International Students Association (ISA)**

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The International Students Association (ISA) is a registered student organization at CSUN. The main aim of ISA is to provide International students with the opportunity to experience and appreciate different cultures and promote international friendship. They encourage everyone, including American students interested in world culture, to join.

They organize a number of cultural, social and recreational events that give students the opportunity to interact with a variety of cultures, further enriching their college experience. The events include international movie nights, dance nights, soccer, barbecues and more.

If you're interested in joining the International Student Association, please visit the [CSUN ISA Facebook](#) page.

## **Coffee Hour**

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The IESC believes that cross-cultural understanding is an important part of being a citizen of the world. Coffee Hour is a time to learn about different cultures from around the world. It is one of the opportunities where international, local and exchange students gather to highlight and share their cultures. Come join us for Coffee Hour every Friday from 2 p.m. — 4 p.m. at the IESC.

## LIFE IN NORTHRIDGE

### Local Transportation

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#### CSUN Tram

CSUN operates several complimentary shuttles to assist the campus community. Among them are the Housing Shuttle, the Metrolink Shuttle, and the special shuttle that operates for selected events at the Valley Performing Arts Center (VPAC).

#### **CSUN Housing Shuttle**

The Housing Shuttle Bus operates Monday through Thursday from 7:00am to 10:00pm, and on Friday from 7:00am to 4:30pm. At 5:30pm, Monday through Thursday, the route is adjusted to accommodate the Housing gate closure.

#### Location of Stops

For convenience, the Daytime Housing Shuttle stops are located at the following places:

1. On the south side of Redwood Hall
2. East of the soccer field (near the restrooms)
3. On the south side of the F8 parking lot near UPA Building 9--NORTHBOUND ONLY
4. At the F8 parking lot on Lindley Avenue (at the shelter)--NORTHBOUND ONLY
5. Inside the F10 parking lot on Lindley at Lassen

Please note that the shuttle will stop at the F8 location only while traveling NORTHBOUND. For safety reasons the shuttles will not stop at these locations while traveling southbound (toward the main campus).

The Evening Housing Shuttle stops avoid the interior of the CSUN Housing area. Beginning at 5:30pm, Monday through Thursday, the evening shuttle stops for the Housing Shuttle are at the following locations:

1. On the south side of Redwood Hall
2. At the F8 parking lot on Lindley Avenue (at the shelter)--NORTHBOUND ONLY
3. Inside the F10 parking lot on Lindley at Lassen

The [Housing Shuttle Map](#) indicates where the shuttle stops are located.

## **Metrolink Shuttle**

There is a Free Shuttle between the CSUN Campus and the Northridge Metrolink Station. There are no other shuttle services operating between any Metrolink Train Station and the CSUN campus.

### **Shuttle Stops**

In the morning, the CSUN Metrolink Shuttle will bring passengers to the CSUN Transit Station (located on Vincennes just north of University Hall). In the afternoon, the CSUN Metrolink Shuttle will return to the CSUN Transit Station to pick-up passengers and take them back to the Northridge Metrolink Station.

### **Which Trains Are Served by the Free Shuttle?**

In the morning, the CSUN Metrolink Shuttle picks up passengers from all trains that are scheduled to arrive at the Northridge Metrolink Station between the hours of 7:00am and 9:00am.

In the afternoon, the CSUN Metrolink Shuttle will return passengers to trains that are scheduled to depart from the Northridge Metrolink Station between the hours of 2:50pm and 5:30pm.

The current train schedule is available on the [Metrolink](#) website. CSUN is served by the Ventura County Line. The closest Metrolink station to CSUN is the Northridge Metrolink Station.

## **Local Buses**

The three bus lines that use the CSUN Transit Station offer easy travel solutions from 4 directions (north, south, east, and west). The bus lines that serve the CSUN Transit Station are:

1. Metro Bus Line 167 (accessing Plummer Street)
2. Metro Bus Line 744 (Rapid) (accessing Reseda, Ventura, and Van Nuys Boulevards)
3. AVTA Express Line 787 (accessing Palmdale/Lancaster)
4. CSUN Metrolink Shuttle (accessing the Northridge Metrolink Station)

All bus services operating at the CSUN Transit Station run Monday through Friday, except Metro Line 167). The CSUN Transit Station is not open on weekends. Metro Line 167 stops at Reseda/Plummer, 7 days a week.

Use Metro's "Next Trip to Determine Bus Arrival Time" to find out when the next Metro bus is arriving at the CSUN Transit Station. It's very easy to use Metro's Next Trip feature, and it can be found here: [Metro Website](#)

1. 30018 is the CSUN Transit Station stop number
2. Select the route number (167 for the east- westbound bus; or 744 for the north- southbound bus)
3. Select the direction of travel you need for the bus line you have selected
4. The Next Trip feature will display the number of minutes until the next arrival of the bus, and show a few subsequent arrival intervals so that you can plan your trip as efficiently as possible.

## **Uber or Lyft**

Uber and Lyft are new ride-share technologies that are used by downloading the appropriate app on your phone to locate available drivers in your area. Many students at CSUN use these companies for transportation. As

always, when using either of these apps please exercise caution. Do not get into any vehicle that makes you feel uneasy and if a driver makes you feel uncomfortable, ask to stop and get out of the car. It is always best to have friends with you when using Uber or Lyft.

## Safety

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While Northridge is considered a very safe area, it is important to take proper precautions to make sure that your safety is maintained while studying in Northridge. Use the following tips to make sure you stay safe:

### On-Campus

1. Don't leave laptops, books, and bags unattended while on campus. CSUN is a public campus which means that anyone can walk through the area.
2. Utilize the [Matador Patrol](#). The Matador Patrol is a student-operated public service organization that provides free personal safety escorts for students, faculty, staff, and visitors on campus. Remember, you don't have to walk alone!
3. If you encounter a situation where you need help from the police, look for one of the many [Blue Light Phones](#) on campus. These phones will put you directly in contact with police or medical personnel that can assist you.
4. If you ride a bike or skateboard to school, make sure you lock it to one of the bike/skateboard racks on campus. Do not leave these items unattended for any reason.
5. CSUN Campus Police contact information: General Information/Receptionist: 1 (818) 677-2266  
Administration Office: 1 (818) 677-2201.

### Off-Campus

1. Use common sense. If a person or situation does not feel right or comfortable to you, it is usually best to leave.
2. Don't open your door for strangers, let unknown people in your home, or let unknown people into your apartment/condo community. If you encounter a situation where you feel uncomfortable, you can always call 911 and ask for police assistance.
3. Keep your doors and windows locked when you leave your house/apartment, and always make sure your car doors are locked when you park your car. Do not keep valuable items out in your car because they will attract unwanted attention.
4. When going out at night, it is best to travel with at least one friend. Let people know where you will be and what time you expect to be home. Also, let trusted friends and family members know who you will be spending your time with when you go out.
5. Be extremely cautious about using craigslist or other online marketplaces to buy and sell items. Criminals use ads on these websites to lure people into dangerous situations, steal from people, and even hurt them physically. Check with locals, your advisors, and friends for advice before entering into any type of business transaction that originated on these websites.

6. Be aware of your surroundings. If you look lost, you could become a target of unwanted attention. Know where you are going and remain vigilant along the way.
7. The legal drinking age in the U.S. is 21. If you are caught drinking underage, you could be arrested by the police.

## Driving in the U.S.

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To apply for a California Driver's License, please visit the California [Department of Motor Vehicles \(DMV\)](#) website to set up an appointment. Showing up at the DMV without an appointment is not a good idea, and will require you to possibly spend hours of wait time. International students seeking a California driver's license will need to present their immigration documents, including their passport, I-94, and Form I-20 or DS-2019. You may also need a social security number to apply. It is advisable to contact the DMV before you go because you may find that each office has different operating procedures and may require additional documentation from international students applying for a driver's license. Please note that the State of California does not recognize an International Driving Permit (IDP) as a valid driver license.

The closest DMV locations to Northridge are:

### Winnetka DMV Office

20725 Sherman Way  
Winnetka, CA 91306

### Granada Hills Office (Driver's License Only)

16201 San Fernando Mission Blvd.  
Granada Hills, CA 91344

### Arleta DMV Office

1440 Van Nuys Blvd.  
Arleta, CA 91331

## Banking

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We recommend that you open an account in a local bank. Speak with a bank representative about your banking needs, and they will assist you in selecting the best bank account option for you. Automatic Teller Machines (ATMs) are located on campus and throughout the community. You may also be able to use your own bank card from your home country in these ATMs, but we recommend that you check with your home bank, and ask if additional charges will apply.

The banks nearest to CSUN are:

### Matadors Community Credit Union

9401 Reseda Blvd.  
Northridge, CA 91324  
1 (818) 993-6328



### Chase Bank

9055 Reseda Blvd, Northridge, CA 91324  
1 (818) 773-5265

### Bank of America

10200 Reseda Blvd, Northridge, CA 91324  
1 (818) 366-0214

### Wells Fargo Bank

University Student Union  
18111 Nordhoff St, Northridge, CA 91330  
1 (818) 407-3850

## Restaurants

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### Pita Pockets

(Shawarma, kabobs, gyros, and other Middle Eastern cuisine)  
9127 Reseda Blvd.

### Kickin KAsian

(Cajun-style seafood with an Asian twist)  
9545 Reseda Blvd. #20

### Senõr Sol

(Mexican)  
9233 Reseda Blvd.

### Fresh Potato Factory

(Vegetarian)  
9420 Reseda Blvd #6

### California Chicken Café

(American)  
18445 Nordhoff St

### Lum-Ka-Naad

(Thai)  
8910 Reseda Blvd

## Groceries

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### Super King

(Affordable groceries with many international options)  
19500 Plummer St.

### Von's

(Standard U.S. grocery store)

9119 Reseda Blvd.

### Albertson's

(Standard U.S. grocery store)

9022 Balboa Blvd.

### Galleria Market

(Grocery store specializing in Korean and Asian foods)

10201 Reseda Blvd

### Whole Foods Market

(Upscale market featuring organic and high-quality groceries)

19340 Rinaldi St.

### Sprouts Farmers Market

(Market focusing on organic products)

10821 Zelzah Ave.

### Trader Joe's

(Standard U.S. grocery store)

11114 Balboa Blvd.

### Ralph's

(Standard U.S. grocery store)

108010 Chatsworth St.

## Stores

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### Northridge Fashion Center

(Large shopping mall)

9301 Tampa Ave

### Target

8999 Balboa Blvd.

### Bed, Bath, & Beyond

8959 Tampa Ave.

### Kohl's

8800 Corbin Ave.

### CVS Pharmacy

8840 Corbin Ave.

### Ross Dress for Less

19330 Plummer St

## Attractions in Southern California

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CSUN is centrally located between three major freeways, making it easy to get wherever you need to go in Los Angeles. Because of Southern California's diverse geography, you can travel between urban cityscape, beaches, parks and mountains in a matter of minutes, allowing for a bounty of indoor activities and outdoor excursions.

Remember to stop by the Associated Students Ticket Office located in the University Student Union to find out information about available student discounted Theme Park tickets. Go to [Associated Students Ticket Office Website](#) to learn more.

### Movie Theaters

#### Pacific Northridge Fashion Center All Stadium 10

9400 Shirley Ave., Northridge, CA 91324

#### Pacific Winnetka All Stadium 21

9201 Winnetka Ave., Chatsworth, CA 91311

#### AMC Theatres Promenade 16

21801 Oxnard St., Woodland Hills, CA 91367

#### Regency Granada Hills 9

16830 Devonshire St., Granada Hills, CA 91344

### Day Trips

#### The Getty Center

1200 Getty Center Dr., Los Angeles, CA 90049

#### The Getty Villa

17985 Pacific Coast Highway, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272

#### La Brea Tar Pits

5801 Wilshire Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90036

#### Griffith Park and Observatory

4400 Crystal Springs Dr., Los Angeles, CA 90027

#### Natural History Museum of Los Angeles

900 Exposition Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90007

#### Santa Monica Pier

200 Santa Monica Pier, Santa Monica, CA 90401

#### Los Angeles Zoo

5333 Zoo Dr., Los Angeles, CA 90027

**Universal CityWalk**

100 Universal City Plaza, Universal City, CA 91608

**Theme Parks**

**Universal Studios Hollywood**

1000 Universal Center Dr., Universal City, CA 91608

**Six Flags Magic Mountain**

26101 Magic Mountain Parkway, Valencia, CA 91355

**Disneyland Park and Resort**

1313 S. Harbor Blvd., Anaheim, CA 92802

**Knott's Berry Farm**

8039 Beach Blvd., Buena Park, CA 90620