Welcome!
from the International Programs Office at California State University, Monterey Bay

Congratulations on being accepted!
We look forward to assisting you with a smooth transition to our campus.

We are here to help

Getting adjusted to any study abroad/study away experience can be a challenge. But don’t worry, we are here to help!

Please use this guide as your preparation checklist, and if you have questions, feel free to contact us:

Mahshid Bozorgnia: mbozorgnia@csumb.edu
Contact for questions about housing, orientation, and arrival

Sugeyth Ronquillo: sronquillo@csumb.edu
Contact for questions about academics and course enrollment

Kasey Shay kshay@csumb.edu
Contact for questions about immigration, payments, and health insurance

Get Excited!

facebook.com/CSUMBInternational
@CSUMBinternational
@csumbIP

1. REVIEW IMPORTANT DATES*

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*Dates are subject to change

Next Steps
Accepted Non-Degree Student Welcome Letter
Fall 2023

NON-DEGREE STUDENTS CHECKLIST

1. Review Important Dates
2. Set Up Your CSUMB Account
3. Upload Your Photo
4. Apply For Your Student Visa (international students only)
5. Apply For Housing
6. Select Your Courses
7. Plan Your Finances
8. Review Health Information
9. Plan Your Arrival

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INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ONLY

If you are not a U.S. citizen or do not hold a U.S. passport, you will need to obtain an F-1 or J-1 student visa to study at CSUMB. Acquiring a student visa can be a lengthy and time-consuming process. The wait times vary by embassy so we recommend that you start the process as early as possible. The U.S. Department of State maintains a list of the current wait times.

You can check current Visa Appointment & Processing wait times at [travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/visa-information-resources/wait-times.html](http://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/visa-information-resources/wait-times.html).

1. After you receive your immigration document, pay the SEVIS Fee

Pay the SEVIS fee (I-901) and make sure to bring a copy of the receipt to the U.S. embassy or consulate for your visa appointment. The SEVIS fee must be paid online at [fmjfee.com](http://fmjfee.com).

2. Complete your DS-160 Online Nonimmigrant Visa Application

If you received a Form I-20 from CSUMB, you will apply for an F-1 visa and will use the campus code listed on your I-20.

If you received a Form DS-2019 from CSUMB, you will apply for a J-1 visa and will use the program number listed on your DS-2019.

The application can be found at [ceac.state.gov/genniv](http://ceac.state.gov/genniv).

3. Schedule an Interview with your local U.S. Consulate

A list of all U.S. Consulates can be found online at: [usembassy.gov](http://usembassy.gov) Take your I-20 or DS-2019 and all other required documents to your visa interview.

*Canadian citizens do NOT need to obtain a visa to enter the U.S.*

For other conditions and restrictions regarding maintaining your immigration status as a student including, but not limited to, 212(e) home residency requirement, employment, travel, and more, visit [csumb.edu/international/student-resources/immigration](http://csumb.edu/international/student-resources/immigration).

Entering the U.S.

Once your student visa is approved, you can enter the United States up to 30 days prior to the start of classes. At the port of entry, present your passport with the visa and the valid Form I-20 or DS-2019. You must also carry the financial documents you presented during your visa interview and your official CSUMB Admission Letter.

A United States Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) official will review your documents. You will be given instructions about how to access your record of admissions (known as an I-94 number) online.

The CBP official will stamp your passport with an admission stamp. This stamp is annotated with the date, the class of admission and your duration of status. The CBP official will then return your documents to you and you are free to enter the United States.

Your TO-DO LIST:

- Set up your CSUMB account
- Upload your photo
- Pay SEVIS Fee
- Complete your DS-160 Online Nonimmigrant Visa Application
- Schedule an interview with your U.S. Consulate
International and NSE students must apply for campus housing to reserve their space.

Please be aware that we will try to place you according to your housing preference, but we cannot guarantee that space will be available in all housing options. Housing options and rates can be compared at csumb.edu/housing.

You may choose to live off-campus. If you choose to live off-campus, you will not be provided housing assistance. Please notify the International Programs Office if you do not require on-campus housing.

Housing Options
» Residence Halls (on main campus)
» North Quad (on main campus)
» Promontory (~ .5 miles/.8 km from main campus)
» East Campus (~ 2 miles/3.2 km from main campus): Priority given to students with families (proof of dependents required) or Degree students with 60 or more transferable units completed (Junior, Senior & Graduate Students). Other students may be considered on a space-available basis.

Please note: East Campus is very sparsely furnished. If you choose this option, expect to purchase more household necessities than if you were to live on Main Campus (kitchen supplies, cleaning supplies, Internet router & modem, etc.).

Apply for housing from csumb.edu/dashboard. Once logged in to the dashboard, click on MYHOUSING which will take you to your housing dashboard. Tutorials are available at csumb.edu/housing. Select APPLICATION from the menu bar at the top of the page.

Roommate Requests
If you would like to request a roommate or a housing assignment change, you can do so in your MYHOUSING application. Requests will be considered on a space-available basis.

Housing Application Fee & Reservation Fee
If you intend to live on campus, you must pay a non-refundable $50 housing application fee and a $150 reservation fee when you submit your application. The housing reservation fee will be applied to your housing fee.

Housing Assignment Notification
If you have submitted your application on time, your housing placement will be finalized approximately one month prior to the start of the semester, and you will be notified of your assignment via email from Student Housing & Residential Life.

TIP: Be sure to consider all aspects of housing when making your request – cost, distance to classes, how many roommates you want, and whether or not you want a meal plan.

Dining Options
Compare meal plan options to decide what's right for you at csumb.edu/dining. If you live on campus, you will automatically be assigned a meal plan, but you may select your preferred plan when you apply for housing.

Meal Plan Required (no kitchen in accommodation):
» Residence Halls – Cypress, Asilomar, Willet, Manzanita, Avocet, Tortuga, Yarrow and Sanderling
» North Quad – Pinnacles and Vineyard Suites

Meal Plan Not Required (kitchen in accommodation):
» North Quad – Strawberry Apartments
» Promontory
» East Campus Apartments

YOUR TO-DO LIST:
» Apply and pay housing application and reservation fees by posted housing application deadline
6. SELECT YOUR COURSES

CATALOG VS. CURRENT COURSE SCHEDULE:
You will need to check the current course schedule for your semester to make sure the classes you intend to take are available. Do not use the course catalog to choose your courses.

CLASS LEVEL:
» Courses numbered 100-299 are considered “lower division” (for 1st & 2nd year university students) and are usually introductory in nature and have fewer prerequisites.
» Courses numbered 300-499 are considered “upper division” (for 3rd and 4th year university students) and generally have more prerequisites.
» Courses numbered 500-699 are considered graduate-level courses and are restricted from exchange students.
» Check the course description to see if your courses have prerequisites. Be sure that you have met equivalent prerequisites with prior coursework before requesting these courses.

Semester/Year Students:
(Exchange, Semester@CSUMB or NSE)
The International Programs office will assist you with enrolling in your classes prior to your arrival on campus. Please read the following to prepare yourself for enrollment:

COURSE ENROLLMENT REQUEST FORM: You will request your preferred courses by completing an online form available at csumb.edu/international/student-resources/admitted/nondegree/course-enroll. Students from partner universities, be sure to have your home university advisor/coordinator approve your course enrollment form once submitted.

Class Schedule
Search for available classes by subject, course number, GE/UIR attributes, times, days, and instructors.

Search for Classes
Select at least 2 search criteria. Select Search to view your search results.

Advice for Choosing Classes:

COURSE LOAD:
» Students usually take between 12-16 units (3-5 courses) per semester.
» For each unit of class time, you should plan to spend at least 2-3 hours per week studying outside of class.
» Undergraduate F-1 and J-1 visa students are required to register for a minimum of 12 units (8 units for Graduate students) to maintain immigration status.

YOUR TO-DO LIST: (Semester/Year students)
- Review course schedule & choose courses
- Submit the Course Enrollment Request Form
- Students from a partner university: get advisor approval on courses
7. PLAN YOUR FINANCES

HOW TO SEE YOUR ITEMIZED CHARGES DUE

Go to csumb.edu/dashboard and click on “OASIS” (in the navigation bar) to view your Student Center.
1. Look at the Finance Section of your Student Center.
2. Click on the “Other Financial” drop-down menu, select “Charges Due,” and select the arrow to continue. Here you will see a breakdown of the charges you owe. Make a note of these charges, as you will need to enter them into Flywire when paying.

HOW TO MAKE PAYMENTS

CSUMB has contracted with Flywire to offer an innovative and streamlined way to make a payment from your home country.
1. Log in to your CSUMB Dashboard/OASIS to make your payment.
2. From the main menu select, Self-Service, Student Center and then Finances.
3. Under the finance tab, select the “Make a Payment” link.
4. In CashNet, Click “Make a Payment” on the left side column.
5. Select the type of payment you would like to make.
6. Enter the payment amount and click “Add to payment.”
7. Either click “Add more” if you have additional items to pay or “Pay Now” if that is the only item. Click “Continue.”
8. You will then be given four payment options. For FlyWire, select “International Payment.” Click “Continue.”
9. Click International Payment. This will take you to the Flywire page to begin the payment process.
10. Enter the country you will be sending funds from and the amount you will be sending to CSUMB in USD.
11. Then select your preferred payment method from the options provided. Options may include bank transfer, debit/credit card in your home currency, electronic payment, or other local options.
12. Enter some basic information to initiate your payment booking.
13. Follow the instructions provided to send funds to Flywire. For bank transfers, follow the instructions provided to send your funds. Depending on your bank, payment may be made online, in person, or over the phone. For debit/credit card payments, enter your card details online to complete your payment in your home currency.
   **Note:** Additional local payment options may be available depending on the country you are paying from.
14. Track your payment by logging into your Flywire account at any time. Receive text and email status updates each step of the way, including a confirmation when your payment has been delivered to your institution.

Flywire customer support
Phone: +1 (617) 207-7076
US Toll-Free: 1-800-346-9252
Email: support@Flywire.com
Web: Flywire.com/help

AMERICAN STUDENTS ONLY

Financial Aid

NSE (Home Pay and Host Pay) students who come to CSUMB pay tuition and housing on the same schedule as international students. If you need charges to be delayed until you receive your financial aid, you need to ask your HOME financial aid office to request a deferment by sending an email to CSUMB’s financial aid office before the semester begins. They can send an email to financial_aid@csumb.edu stating your full name, your CSUMB Student ID number, the semester(s) that you will be at CSUMB, the amount of financial aid you will be receiving, and when you expect to receive it.

ADVICE FOR ALL STUDENTS

Financial planning is an integral part of a successful study abroad experience. You’ll want to have enough U.S. currency to cover initial expenses like meals, taxi/bus fare, etc. but not so much that you feel uncomfortable. We recommend having some U.S. dollars, but please be sure to carry it safely.

If you are unable to obtain U.S. currency prior to arrival, you may try to exchange your own country’s currency at the airport or use an ATM (bank withdrawal machine). Be aware that both of these methods are less reliable than bringing U.S. cash with you.

Prior to leaving, inform your bank that you are traveling for an extensive period and ensure that:
- Your banking activities will not be mistaken as fraudulent
- You will be able to access your funds and use your bank card in the U.S.
- Your daily withdrawal limits are high enough to accommodate your needs
- There are alternate methods of accessing funds available to you (traveler’s checks, etc.)

Many students find it easiest and most convenient to open a bank account in the U.S.

YOUR TO-DO LIST:

- Review Financial Aid information (American students only)
- See charges due and make payments by posted deadline

Note: Additional local payment options may be available depending on the country you are paying from.
Federal and state laws require that international students maintain adequate health insurance while attending CSUMB. A single day of hospitalization can cost thousands of dollars. A good insurance policy gives you access to medical facilities and provides protection against the enormous costs of health care.

International students will be automatically enrolled in the CSUMB healthcare plan prior to arrival, extending through the last day of final exams. The cost will be billed to your student account approximately one month prior to the semester (see previous page for how to view/pay).

Supplemental/Travel Insurance
If you arrive in the U.S. before the effective date of the CSUMB insurance plan or depart after the expiry date, you are encouraged to purchase your own supplemental insurance for this uninsured period, including grace periods. In the U.S. health insurance does not include dental or vision coverage. If you need these, please purchase your own dental and/or vision insurance plan.

Your Insurance Plan
For international students your healthcare is provided by Relation. The online Coverage Brochure available at www.4studenthealth.com, will help you understand what is covered, current plan costs, and how to file a claim.

You will receive an email to set up your health insurance account approximately one month prior to the semester. We strongly recommend printing your insurance card and bringing it with you in your carry-on luggage. It will be available for download on the insurance start date.

If you are staying for more than one semester, you will have to download and print a new card each semester.

INSURANCE COVERAGE DATES:
Fall: August 1 – December 31
Spring: January 1 – May 31
Summer: June 1 – July 31

ALL STUDENTS

Campus Health Center
CSUMB provides healthcare to students at the Campus Health Center (Building 80). Students enrolled in CSUMB health insurance must first visit the Campus Health Center before visiting an outside doctor or medical facility to avoid paying a copay unless it’s an emergency or the Campus Health Center is closed.

Website: csumb.edu/health
Phone: (831) 582-3965

In addition to the Campus Health Center, our Health & Wellness Services include the Personal Growth & Counseling Center, a Campus Chaplaincy, Sexual Assault Advocacy, and Student Disability Resources.

Online Trainings
All new CSUMB students are required to complete online trainings for Title IX and Alcohol Awareness. You will receive an invitation to your CSUMB email to complete these trainings. Please complete these before your arrival to campus to avoid having a hold placed on your account.

Student Disability Resources
Student Disability Resources (SDR) are appropriate for students who have:
- a physical condition for which accessible, on-campus housing or classroom accommodation might be needed
- a documented disability which may require academic accommodation (e.g. note takers, taped texts)
- a medical condition which might require immediate attention during exchange
- a condition which might affect emotional or mental well-being during exchange

If any of these apply to you, you must contact student_disability_resources@csumb.edu prior to coming to campus. More information is available at csumb.edu/sdr

Immunizations
International students must provide proof of immunization to the Campus Health Center. For more information about the immunization requirement and about how to submit your proof of immunization online please visit csumb.edu/health/immunization.

Required Immunizations & Screenings:
- Hepatitis B (for students 18 and younger)

YOUR TO-DO LIST:
- Review insurance & immunization information
- If you have a medical condition or disability, contact SDR and buy a Medical ID if applicable
- International students: print your insurance card and pack in your carry-on
- Complete Title IX & Alcohol Awareness Training
9. PLAN YOUR ARRIVAL

Booking travel arrangements is both a stressful and exciting process. When looking at flights, be sure to compare all of your options in terms of price, layover length, backup transportation to campus, and whether you want to arrive early to explore the sights prior to move-in. If your flight arrives after 3 pm, we recommend you to arrive a day earlier and stay at a hotel. This will prevent you from missing the official check-in and move-in process as well as any orientation activities.

WHAT TO PACK

Documents
» COVID Vaccination Proof
» Form I-20 or DS-2019
» Your passport, valid for at least six months beyond the date of admission
» Your valid F-1 or J-1 visa in your passport
» Copy of SEVIS fee receipt
» Copy of Admission Letter and financial documents
» Address and phone number of the international office (Gavilan Hall 201, Room 207, Seaside CA 93955 USA; +1 831-582-4778)
» Health insurance card
» Copy of class schedule
» This acceptance packet to help during your first days

Linens/Towels
If you want to save some money, you may consider packing towels, twin XL sheets, a pillow, and a duvet cover from home. Please note, linen sizes are different in the U.S. You will also have an opportunity to buy linens during orientation.

Medication
Don’t forget your medication and bring enough for your entire stay. This will save you the time, cost, and inconvenience of seeing a doctor in Monterey.

Planning to Ship a Package Ahead of Time?
If you would like to ship some things ahead of time, send them to the following address no earlier three weeks before you arrive:
Student’s First Name and Last Name
3116 Inter-Garrison Rd
100 Campus Center
Seaside, CA 93955, USA

Also, email international@csumb.edu your tracking information so we can assist you in receiving your items upon your arrival.

YOUR TO-DO LIST:

☑ Gather your documents
☑ Book your flight
☑ Arrange transportation to campus to arrive for housing check-in
☑ Start packing!
☑ Check your @csumb.edu email at least weekly for important updates & arrival registration information

AIRPORT ARRIVAL

There are three recommended airports within a reasonable distance to campus:

Monterey Regional Airport (MRV): The closest airport to CSUMB; 20 minute taxi ride to campus.
San Jose International Airport (SJC): About an hour from CSUMB.
San Francisco International Airport (SFO): About 2 hours away from CSUMB.

*Oakland International Airport (OAK): We do NOT recommend flying into Oakland International due to the difficulties of transportation to Monterey. Keep in mind that while flights to OAK may be less expensive, transportation costs to get to campus may negate these savings.

TRANSPORTATION TO CSUMB

Monterey Airbus
The Monterey Airbus provides transportation to campus from SFO and SJC. When booking, ensure that you have at least 1-2 hours to deplane, go through U.S. Customs & Border Control, collect your baggage, and walk to the Airbus pickup location with time to spare. 7:00 pm is the latest arrival time into Monterey that will accommodate housing check-in. Please note, if you have more than one piece of luggage and one carry-on, you will be charged for a second seat. Book your reservation at www.montereyairbus.com/reservations immediately after booking your flight to ensure a spot.

Taxi
If you would like to take a car from the Monterey Airport, there are many options available. The ride to campus takes about 20 minutes.
Yellow Cab +1 (831) 646-1234
Central Coast Cab Co. +1 (831) 626-3333
Monterey Yellow Cab +1 (831) 333-1234

Ride Sharing Services
You can use Uber and Lyft apps on your phone to arrange transportation from any of the airports to get to campus. This is likely only a cost effective option if you are traveling with two or more individuals. Be aware that pricing can fluctuate greatly.

CAMPUS ARRIVAL

Arrival to Campus: August 18, 9:00 AM – 7:00 PM
Housing Move-In: 1:00 PM – 7:00 PM
More information will be provided prior to move-in.

If you plan to arrive to CSUMB outside of the housing check-in times, you will not be able to check in to your on-campus housing and must arrange accommodations at your own cost.

If you experience delays on your day of travel, please call us to let us know. You will be responsible for arranging your own accommodations and transportation:
8 AM – 5 PM: +1 831-582-4778
After 5 PM: +1 831-760-5101
Your CSUMB Email
Email is the primary and official means of communication from CSUMB to students. Students are required to check CSUMB email on a regular basis to avoid missing important information. You can access your email by logging into csumb.edu/dashboard with your Otter ID and password.

Activities and Organizations
CSUMB proudly recognizes 80+ student clubs and organizations representing interests from anime to men’s volleyball. There are clubs devoted to culture, politics, art, sports, leadership, academics, religion, and more. There’s even a thriving International Club! Plus, new clubs form every year, so if you don’t see a group you want to join, you can always start your own. Learn more at csumb.edu/clubs

Events
A wide range of events happen on campus every day - athletic events, guest lectures, concerts, cultural celebrations, even group camping trips. MyRaft is CSUMB’s student engagement platform which you will use to register for events, join CSUMB’s many student organizations, connect with departmental resources and services, and interact socially with other students on the feed and through chat. The International Programs office will also send you regular updates through MyRaft. Access MyRaft through your dashboard or myraft.csumb.edu/home_login

CSUMB International Programs also organizes excursions and cultural events specifically designed for International/NSE students to explore California and understand U.S. culture! csumb.edu/recreationalfacilities/otter-sports-center/

Fitness & Recreation
The Otter Sports Center
The Otter Sports Center hosts various events, including open fitness training and recreation, intramural sports, health & wellness classes, intercollegiate athletics competitions, and more. csumb.edu/recreationalfacilities/otter-sports-center

Outdoor Recreation
With Outdoor Recreation, you are able to sign up for kayaking, hiking, skiing/snow boarding, rock climbing, stand up paddling, backpacking, challenge courses, and camping trips for a very low cost. This is an excellent opportunity to explore California and make lots of friends quickly! csumb.edu/recreation/get-involved/

For more tips, download the New Student Orientation Handbook at csumb.edu/international/internationalnse-move-orientation/

Transportation
All CSUMB students can use the Wave shuttle free of charge. See this link for more info https://csumb.edu/thewave. You can use Monterey Salians transport to go around the town. see this link for more inf on the routes www.mst.org

Students also have the opportunity to rent bicycles through the Otter Cycle Center for quick getaways, or for the whole semester! The CSUMB campus and surrounding areas are very bike-friendly, and we highly recommend this mode of transportation. Biking is a great way to get to the beach and back on a sunny afternoon. csumb.edu/transportation/bicycling

You may wish to rent or buy a car while at CSUMB. For rentals, we recommend you check out the on-campus option, ZipCar. You will be required to purchase a parking permit to park on campus and a separate permit for your housing accommodation. csumb.edu/transportation/zipcar

Safety
CSUMB cares about the safety of our entire university community. Our Student Affairs staff and campus police work closely with the community to ensure a safe and secure campus. csumb.edu/life/safety-conduct

Internet Access
Internet and cable service are included in your tuition.

If you live on main campus, North Quad, or The Promontory, you can access wifi and cable television in your dorm. Wifi can be accessed by logging in with your Otter ID and password.

If you live off-campus or in East Campus apartments, you will need to purchase a modem and router to access the internet. These can be bought at Best Buy (near campus) or through an online vendor like Amazon. For a complete list of recommended/not recommended modems, visit IT SUPPORT.

We can’t wait to meet you!

We hope your preparations go smoothly and that you are just as excited about coming to CSUMB as we are to have you here. Your presence on our campus is incredibly valuable to the entire CSUMB community, and we look forward to welcoming you in person. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact our office at international@csumb.edu or visit us at csumb.edu/international. See you soon!