INTERNATIONAL STUDENT HANDBOOK
A PRACTICAL GUIDE

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The Office of Global Education would like to personally welcome you to Cal State San Marcos. Serving and supporting you is our priority. While our primary role is to guide you through the immigration procedures of your student visa, we are also here to assist with other campus and community situations you may encounter. Our hope is to offer you opportunities to connect with other students, both national and international, to form a good community for you while you study.

As a new International Student to Cal State San Marcos there are many things for you to learn and accomplish, especially during your first semester. We hope this handbook will offer you guidance towards getting settled as smoothly as possible. Be sure to check off the “Important things to do when you arrive” on the next page. If you have handbook suggestions that would be helpful for future new international students, please do let us know.

Again, Welcome to Cal State San Marcos, we are very glad you are here!

~Global Education Staff

The Office of Global Education - Extended Learning Building 588

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IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO WHEN YOU ARRIVE:

☐ Check in with your International Student Advisor. Give copies of passport, I-20, (Print or get copy of your I-94) etc.

☐ Complete the Online Emergency Contact Form

☐ Fill out the Change of Address Form and turn it into the Office of Global Education. (always within 10 days of ANY CHANGE OF ADDRESS)

☐ Attend International Student Orientation

☐ Pay your: State/Registration Fees and Non-resident Tuition. (refer to page 16)

☐ Get your CSUSM STUDENT ID Card: Library/Media Library (2nd floor)

☐ Activate and USE your CSUSM Cougar E-Mail Account.

☐ Sign-up for the health insurance (refer to page 15).

☐ Open a bank account with a local bank. (refer to page 5) Optional/IF NEEDED

☐ Apply for a California driver license or a California ID card. The ID will be helpful even if you do not purchase a car. (refer to pages 6 & 7)

☐ If you purchase a car, you must also purchase car insurance. It is not legal to drive without liability car insurance. (refer to page 8)
Social Security Number

What is a social security number? The government uses the social security number (SSN) to record earnings of anyone who works in the U.S.

Why apply for a social security number? You must apply for a number if you receive a job offer in the United States (example on-campus employment). The number may NOT be obtained simply for identification purposes.

How and Where to Apply: Bring Passport, I-94, I-20, and Letter from International Student Advisor describing location of job offer. You must have a job offer to apply for a SSN.

Social Security Office:
367 Via Vera Cruz, San Marcos, CA 92096
1-800-772-1213
(From San Marcos Blvd. Behind the CB Trust Bank)

Opening a bank account

It is common for students to open two accounts at a local bank: A savings account and a checking account. Generally, students will find that savings accounts will offer a small interest percentage (this amount varies per bank) if a certain amount of funds is kept in the account. Checking accounts will often have a monthly fee and allow for a lower daily minimum amount to be kept in the account.

Automated Teller Machines (ATM):
These money machines are located all around the city including directly on the CSUSM campus.
Students should ask for an ATM card so that they can access their checking and saving accounts when needed without having to go into the bank in person.

To open a checking and/or savings account at a local bank, students will need:
- Two forms of ID (one can be your passport/a second can be your Student ID)
- Social security number if you have it already (Not Required)
- USA Address
... continued on page 6
Local Banks Near CSUSM:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bank</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Website</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wells Fargo Bank</td>
<td>1000 W. San Marcos Blvd. San Marcos, CA 92069</td>
<td>(760) 891-0061</td>
<td><a href="http://www.wellsfargo.com">www.wellsfargo.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

United States Tax Regulations

All international students studying on the F-1 student visa status are required by U.S. tax regulations to file a federal tax form(s). Even if you do not earn U.S. income through work, you are still required to file.

The U.S. tax process can be very complicated, however, there are a few things you can know and do to be prepared:

1. U.S. tax forms are filed generally between January and April every year documenting information from the previous year.

2. Keep a record of all your income including scholarships and employment. If you get official forms from CSUSM or an employer: Save them!

3. The Office of Global Education sponsors a free international student tax workshop every spring semester to assist students with information to determine which forms they will need to use for their specific situation: Plan to attend the workshop!

Driving in California

If you decide to drive while living in California, the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) requires you to apply for a California driver license. Even if you have a valid driver's license from another state or country, you must apply for a California license if you are remaining here for a period of study.

To apply for a California driver license:

- Study for the written part of the driving test: Look on the website for study materials and sample tests. Study materials available in different languages.
- Make an appointment by phone or on-line to take the written test.
• When you go to take the test, bring your passport, I-20 and I-94. You will turn in an application ($12.00 fee, Cash, Check or Money Order Only) and take a vision test. You will receive a permit to practice driving with a licensed adult (18 or older only) if you pass the test.

• Make an appointment by phone only to take the driving part of the test. You must bring a car to the DMV for this test. You may borrow a car from a friend as long as they have car insurance and up to date registration and your friend goes with you. (Don’t forget to learn the “hand signals” before the test day).

• If you pass both the written and driving tests you will receive a temporary license that allows you to drive on your own. You will receive the “real” license in the mail much later. Be sure to keep your temporary license valid/updated.

GETTING A CALIFORNIA ID

If you decide Not to Drive while living in California, you should apply for a California ID card at the DMV.

The card will assist with identification for check writing at local stores, and other places where your passport may not be accepted. There is no test when applying for the ID, only a $6.00 fee(Cash, Check, or Money Order Only). Simply make an appointment by phone or on-line to turn in the application. At that appointment you will have your photo and a fingerprint taken, and need to present your passport, I-94 and I-20.

Car Registration

California law requires that all car owners register their car with the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV).

If you purchase a new car, the dealership will process the paperwork for you with the DMV. You will receive the official registration card and certificate of title/ownership in the mail within approximately two weeks.

If you purchase a used (also called Pre-Owned) car from an individual, it is your responsibility to contact the DMV within ten days and register your new car. You will have to pay the sales tax and transfer and registration fees at that time.
What to bring with you to the DMV to register your car:
- The Pink Slip (proof of ownership) with proper signature of former owner.
- The Current smog clearance certificate (the previous owner should pay for this).
- The current registration materials.
- Your valid drivers license (or temporary valid drivers license).
- If you bring/purchase a car from another state in the U.S., you must register the car with the California DMV within 20 days.

Buying a Car

Where to look to purchase a car:
- Campus Approved Bulletin Boards.
- Auto Trader: Magazine of used cars for sale. You can find it at grocery stores. www.autotrader.com
- Car Dealerships: They sell new and used/pre-owned cars.
- Private advertisements and sources: Keep in mind you should have the car checked by a mechanic to check status prior to signing any agreements.
- Classified section of newspapers: www.northcountytimes.com & www.uniontribune.com
- Kelly Blue Book: You can look to Kelly Blue Book to see the current value of different types and years of cars: www.kbb.com

Car Insurance

California law requires that all drivers are covered by liability car insurance. While there are several other important (optional) types of car insurance, if you buy a car, you will be required to prove that you have liability coverage. If you cause an accident, liability insurance covers injuries to other people and damage to other people's property; it does not cover your damage or injury.

Students should call several different companies to compare monthly prices for car insurance. Possibilities:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AIS</td>
<td>1-888-772-4247</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Allstate</td>
<td>(760) 471-7545</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geico</td>
<td>1-800-861-8380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Farm</td>
<td>(760) 471-6111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AAA (Auto Club)</td>
<td>1-800-924-6141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Escondido AAA Office</td>
<td>(760) 745-2124</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Moving Into An Apartment

There are several things you will need to do in order to get settled in an apartment (or rented house). Please review all of the details located on the CSUSM Student Life & Leadership Office website: www.csusm.edu/sll

How to get Gas and Electricity:

1. As soon as you sign the contracts for your new apartment, call San Diego Gas and Electric Company (SDG&E) for new service and billing.

2. Information you will need to have ready when you call:
   - Your full name, be sure to spell it for clarity.
   - Your complete new address including apartment number and zip code.
   - Your social security number and/or your passport number.
   - The date you are moving in to your apartment.
   - Expect to pay $30-$50 per month plus an initial sign-up fee of $20.

San Diego Gas and Electric Company
1-800-411-7343 www.sdge.com

How to Get Cell Phone Service

International students can sign up for pre-paid cell phone service. If you have a cell phone that you purchased in your home country, it will likely not work with the cell phone providers in the U.S., so you will need to purchase a new phone (price ranges from $50-500 depending on the type of phone). Types of phones available vary depending on the service provider. You can choose from the following companies:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>Plan Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Verizon Wireless</td>
<td>$45/mo. Pre-paid unlimited plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AT&amp;T</td>
<td>$45/mo. Pre-paid unlimited plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cricket Wireless</td>
<td>$25/mo basic phone $35/mo smart phone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boost Mobile</td>
<td>$35-45 mo. Pre-paid unlimited + $10 int’l calls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T-mobile</td>
<td>$40/mo. Pre-paid unlimited + $10 Int’l calls</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Some stores sell plans from all major carriers in one location. Tell the sales person that you need PRE-PAID service. (Contracts generally require Social Security Number).

Best Buy
567 Grand Ave, San Marcos, CA
(760) 891-0755
A Variety of Shopping in the Area

Food:
In the U.S., people use a few different terms for the stores where they buy food. Generally they will say grocery store, or supermarket. These stores will have fresh meat, vegetables, fruit, bread, dairy, and most basic food items. However, most have only small amounts of international foods. A few choices in the area are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Store</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ralphs</td>
<td>306 Twin Oaks Valley Rd.</td>
<td>San Marcos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vons</td>
<td>671 S. Rancho Santa Fe Rd.</td>
<td>San Marcos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stater Bros</td>
<td>1330 Mission Ave.</td>
<td>San Marcos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sprouts</td>
<td>149 South Las Posas Rd.</td>
<td>San Marcos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trader Joe’s</td>
<td>1885 S Centre City Pkwy</td>
<td>Escondido</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Drug Stores:
These stores are also known as pharmacies because most drug stores have a licensed pharmacist who can distribute prescription medication. Drug stores also have a variety of other personal hygiene items. The nearest drug stores:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pharmacy</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CVS Pharmacy</td>
<td>320 Twin Oaks Valley Rd.</td>
<td>San Marcos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Drugs</td>
<td>191 Woodland Pkwy</td>
<td>San Marcos</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The CSUSM Health Center also has a pharmacy.

Apartment/Household items:
There are three well known stores that carry many of the items students need for their apartments at relatively inexpensive prices. Items include; kitchen appliances, dishes, towels, telephones, bathroom items, and much more!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Store</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Target</td>
<td>1751 University Dr.</td>
<td>Vista</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wal-Mart</td>
<td>732 Center Dr.</td>
<td>San Marcos</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Furniture Rental:
Although this can be a very expensive monthly charge, these companies will deliver.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Furniture Rental</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Website</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brook Furniture Rental</td>
<td>San Diego</td>
<td><a href="http://www.bfr.com">www.bfr.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cort Furniture Rental</td>
<td>San Diego</td>
<td><a href="http://www.cort1.com">www.cort1.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Discount/Thrift Stores:
There are many stores in the U.S. who sell used (pre-owned) items that are in good condition. These stores are great for students who are looking for a good price for furniture, etc.

Salvation Army
183 E. Washington
Escondido
(760)746-8321

Yard Sales:
A regular event in the U.S. for people who are trying to sell their used items (furniture, kitchen utensils, etc) is to have a yard sale on the weekends. They are also called garage sales. Yard sales are held early on Saturday and Sunday mornings. Prices are usually negotiable. You will see location signs posted on trees and posts in neighborhoods.

The San Marcos Post Office
420 Twin Oaks Valley Road
(Just North of the 78 highway on the left side)

- Buy stamps
- Mail letters and packages
- Purchase money orders

Breeze Bus & Sprinter Train Information

- The bus system in this area is called the North County Transit District (NCTD).
- Buses 341/441/347 drop off and pick up at CSUSM campus, in front of Craven Hall.
- One of the main transit centers is at Palomar Community College: Palomar Transit Center.
- Students can purchase $29.00 Monthly Passes at CSUSM Parking Office:
  Public Safety Building, Corner of Campus View Drive and La Moree Road (Near Sprinter Stop)

North County Transit District (NCTD)
1-800-266-6883
www.gonctd.com
ABOUT CAL STATE SAN MARCOS

Campus Information

• **Adding and Dropping Classes**: (adding is often called: Crashing):
  All students may add and drop classes during the first two weeks of each semester without financial penalty. If students Drop (Withdraw) a class after add/drop period there is NO REFUND. Therefore, you should try to do all of your adding/dropping during the first week of the semester. HOWEVER, All international students must always have permission from the International Student Advisor prior to dropping below full-time. STUDENTS NEED TO USE THE ELECTRONIC WAIT LIST SYSTEM for ADDING at CSUSM.

• **Student University Photo ID**: All students should get a school ID after they register for their first semester. Please bring proof of registration. You can also access your student ID on the CSUSM App.
  * Library/Media Center (2nd Floor)

• **Campus E-mail**: All students will receive a campus e-mail address after they register for their first semester. It is VERY IMPORTANT that you read your campus e-mail EVERYDAY!!!
  NOTE: If you do not wish to check both your campus e-mail and your personal (hotmail, gmail, etc) account: PLEASE forward your campus e-mail to your personal account.

  Bring student photo ID to activate your E-mail Account!
  * Library/Media Center (2nd Floor)  http://webmail.csusm.edu

• **Student Computer Helpdesk**: Library/Media Center (2nd Floor) www.csusm.edu/iits

• **Student Use Computer Labs**: ACD 202/204 & KEL 2000

• **Writing Center**: The Writing Center offers one-on-one tutoring for students at all stages of the writing process: brainstorming, drafting, revising, editing. You can make appointments online.
  * ELB 2nd Floor  www.csusm.edu/writing_center

• **Academic Advising**: Make Appts on-line at: [http://www.csusm.edu/Academic_Advising](http://www.csusm.edu/Academic_Advising)
  College of Arts and Sciences (CHABSS & CSM) : Craven Hall 1st Floor
  College of Business Administration (COBA) : Markstein Hall Room 126
  College of Education, Health & Human Services (CEHHS): University Hall Suite 222

• **Global Connections Student Organization**: Weekly Meeting, monthly International Coffee Hours, other campus activities.
  www.facebook.com/gc.sanmarcos
You will use **MyCSUSM Student Center** to perform several tasks relevant to your academic experience at CSU San Marcos! It is important to check your Student Center several times per semester.

You will be able to:

- Search for and enroll in classes;
- View your **Academic Requirements Report (ARR)**
  
  *(grades and academic history)*
- View and pay charges;
- View personal information;
- Change your address;
- View Holds information;
- View “to do” items;
- Apply for graduation.

**How do I log-in to MyCSUSM Student Center?**

1. Go to the CSUSM campus website: [www.csusm.edu](http://www.csusm.edu)
2. Click on the top right where it says: **myCSUSM**
3. Log-in using your network username and password. The same one used for your campus email.

**What is the ARR?**

- The **Academic Requirements Report** is a report that tracks the completion of ALL degree requirements in one document
- The ARR lists all courses completed at CSUSM, courses in-progress, as well as any courses or test credit completed off-campus which you have submitted on official documents
**STUDENT CENTER layout**

Access your ARR from the drop down menu to view classes needed.

Make sure to check your HOLDS box a few weeks before your registration time.

**HOLDS BOX**

**NOT HOLDS:**
- Global Education Student - Identifies you as an international student
- Course Drop Protection - First semester students & Government funding
- Third Party Contract Student - Government sponsored (SACM, Oman, Qatar)

**YES HOLDS:**
- Not Anymore Training
- Foreign Stdnt Health Insurance: Need to purchase health insurance for following semester

*If you have other items in your HOLDS box and don’t know what they mean, make sure it is not a hold that will block you from registering into classes.
Health Insurance Requirements

CSUSM requires all non-immigrant students to maintain adequate health insurance all year. Even if you do not register for classes in the summer, health insurance is required. You must purchase the CSU-sponsored health insurance which meets the Health Insurance Requirements listed below.

Purchase the CSU-sponsored health insurance using the below link and instructions:

1. Go to https://4studenthealth.relationinsurance.com/
2. Click on “School/Organization”
3. Select Cal State San Marcos
4. Select the International Student Insurance Plan
5. View Your Plan
6. Plan year: Select year/term
7. Click on Enroll
8. Select term: Either Fall only, Spring & Summer, or Annual
9. Fill out enrollment information and follow instructions to pay with your credit card or ATM Debit Card.

Coverage Dates and Costs: (estimated ...costs change slightly each year)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Plan Start Date</th>
<th>Plan End Date</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual</td>
<td>8/10/xx – 8/09/xx</td>
<td></td>
<td>$1738.00 (save $15.00 by purchasing annual)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/Months</td>
<td>8/10/xx – 1/09/xx</td>
<td></td>
<td>$733.00 (Fall only)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/Months</td>
<td>1/10/xx – 8/09/xx</td>
<td></td>
<td>$1020.00 (Spring &amp; Summer)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The CSU international student health insurance requirements are specific and strict. There are no exceptions.

*If you have personal coverage that meets the below requirements, you may submit a petition to the Office of Global Education to approve an alternative Health Insurance.

Health Insurance Requirement:

- The policy is valid as long as you are enrolled;
- The medical benefit is unlimited per condition with a deductible of no more than $100;
- The repatriation benefit is at least $7,500;
- The medical evacuation benefit is at least $100,000;
- The policy provides equal benefits for each gender;
- The policy includes prenatal and maternity coverage at no extra costs;
- The policy pays for pre-existing conditions after 6 months of continuous coverage.

As a means of guaranteeing compliance with this policy, you will be prevented from registering for classes until you show proof of health insurance that complies with these guidelines each semester.
Important Registration and Payment Information

All Non-Resident students need to pay two different charges when they register for classes:

State/Registration (Campus) Fees and Non-Resident Tuition Fall 2019 and Spring 2020 semester charges break down as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State/Tuition &amp; Fees (6 or more units)</th>
<th>Undergraduate</th>
<th>Graduate/ 2nd BA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Non-Resident Tuition ($396.00 per unit)</td>
<td>$3,856.00</td>
<td>* Varies by program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$4,752.00 (12 units)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Estimated Total Each Semester:** $8,609.00

**Due Dates:**
State/Tuition & Fees + Non-Resident Tuition: Date depends on when you register for classes.

*PLEASE BE AWARE: As a new student to the University, you are offered a few extra days if needed!*

**What type of payment methods are accepted?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In Person/Cashier’s Office (Cougar Central):</th>
<th>Cash, Check, Money Order, and ATM/Debit Cards. No Extra Convenience Fees</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>By Mail &amp; Drop Box:</td>
<td>Check, and Money Order, No Cash, No Extra Convenience Fees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Online/MyCSUSM</td>
<td>MasterCard, American Express, Discover: Interest Charge of approximately 2.9% - Expensive Option. E-check (debit) (No extra charge for e-check)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wire Transfer through:</td>
<td>FlyWire <a href="http://www.flywire.com/pay/csusm">www.flywire.com/pay/csusm</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuition Payment Plan</td>
<td>All Credit Cards, Check, Auto Withdrawal, E-Check. Set Up Charge: $25.00 (4 monthly payments) Interest Charge ONLY w/Credit Card for monthly payments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Cost to sign up: $25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• The Sign up process is ON-LINE through your Student Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• For questions contact Student Financial Services at <a href="mailto:sfs@csusm.edu">sfs@csusm.edu</a> or visit their website <a href="http://www.csusm.edu/sfs">www.csusm.edu/sfs</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MAINTAINING YOUR VISA STATUS AS AN INTERNATIONAL STUDENT

How to Maintain Your F-1 Status

1. Keep passport valid at all times. You should find your Country Consulate Website with all the Details.

2. Do not let your I-20 expire. You must see the International Student Advisor at the beginning of the semester before the I-20 expiration!

3. Do not work without authorization.

4. Register and complete full-time units Fall and Spring semesters.

5. Inform Global Education EVERY TIME you change your addresses.

Full-Time Registration Requirement:

Undergraduates: 12 units Fall and Spring Semesters.
Graduates: 9 units Fall and Spring Semesters.

Reasons students may request authorization for not registering full-time:

- Serious medical problem; bring medical note to International Advisor.
- Summer Vacation Period.
- Students who are in their last semester and completing their program.
- Graduate students who are done with courses, and working on thesis.
- Academic problem, Advisor approval required (one semester per degree program only)

All of these exceptions to full-time enrollment must be approved by the international student advisor before the semester begins!

F-1 Employment Options

1. On-Campus:
   - Part-time, (up to 20 hours per week) during the Fall and Spring. You may work full-time during Summer and break periods.
   - You are already authorized for this category. You may want to see the Career and Assessment Center for guidance on seeking student employment.
2. Off-Campus: Students Must Have an Official Work Permit!
Students must be in F-1 full-time status for 9 months before applying.

Two Categories for Off-campus:
• Unexpected Economic Need: You will be asked to document how your financial situation has changed since you arrived.
• Practical Training: work directly related to your field of studies. This may be used before graduation on a part-time basis or full-time after graduation.

Concurrent Enrollment Registration at Another School

• If students are registered full-time at CSUSM, they may add courses from another institution.
• See International Student Advisor for authorization form.
• See International Student Advisor for rare exceptions to this policy.

Travel

Dates to Remember:
• Date of passport expiration: Must be valid at all times.
• Date of I-20 expiration: Must be valid at all times.
• Date of visa (stamp) expiration.

If your visa stamp is expired, you MUST apply for a new visa before you can re-enter the U.S.

If you Visa stamp is not expired, you only need a signature on the back of your most current I-20 for re-entry. A signature is valid for 12 months. However, if you plan to be out of the country for 5 months: See the Int Std Adv

EVERY TIME YOU PLAN TO LEAVE THE U.S. PLEASE SEE THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ADVISOR TO MAKE SURE YOUR TRAVEL WILL BE SMOOTH!

What is SEVIS?

• Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS)
• SEVIS is the DHS web based tracking system which all schools must use for all F-1 and J-1 students.
• Schools report information regarding your full-time educational activities, address and I-20 information through SEVIS

What is the I-94 Form?

The I-94 is the Arrival/Departure Record issued by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) when you enter the United States. Your I-94 record confirms that you have been legally admitted to the United States in a specific visa status, and for what duration of time.
Where can I access my I-94?

After arriving in the U.S. you should access and print your arrival information by visiting the CBP website: https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov. Review all information and ensure that it is correct. Make sure you keep your I-94 in a safe place with all of your immigration documents.

If you enter the U.S. by land, you will receive a paper version of this form, called the I-94 card.

Visiting Tijuana, Mexico

- Travel to Tijuana Mexico is not encouraged at this time due to violence in the region.
- REMEMBER you are on an F-1 Visa! Travel out of the U.S. is different for you.
- Students must carry their: Passport, I-94 and I-20.
- Students must have a travel signature on their I-20 that is less than 12 months old.
- NEVER claim to be a U.S. Citizen: This is a deportable crime, and you may not be able to come back to the U.S.
- REMEMBER: Mexico is not the U.S., and CSUSM has no legal right to assist you…and your country may not have a consulate in Tijuana to assist you either!

Please remember this is only a brief outline of the F-1 Immigration Regulations. For complete details, see the International Student Advisor.
ABOUT GLOBAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

The primary mission of Global Programs and Services is to internationalize the CSU San Marcos educational experience. The ultimate objective of this process is to prepare “students to take leadership roles in areas of work and society in the international community of the 21st Century.” [Founding Mission Statement] In pursuit of its mission Global Programs and Services promotes and supports efforts to internationalize the curriculum, affords students the opportunity to study abroad, increases the number and diversity of international students on campus, supports international faculty collaboration, and fosters links with higher education institutions around the world.

Global Programs and Services Divisions:

• **THE OFFICE OF GLOBAL EDUCATION:**
  
  **International Student Services:** International Students will find advising and support on matters such as visa regulations, work authorization, orientation, and other campus and community connections. International students should contact the International Student Advisor upon their arrival and maintain regular contact as long as they are students at CSUSM.

  **Study Abroad:** There are hundreds of options for students to study overseas. They range in duration from a few weeks to an entire academic year. The study abroad advisor will assist students in choosing the right study abroad program for their academic needs.

  Extended Learning Building 588  
  **Ph:** (760)750-4090  
  **Fax:** (760) 750-3284

• **AMERICAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE INSTITUTE (ALCI):**
  
  This program offers English Language education for students who want to improve their English language skills and prepare for the TOEFL exam. Students will also have the opportunity to experience and study American culture.

  Extended Learning Building 588  
  **Ph:** (760)750-3200  
  **Fax:** (760) 750-3779
IMPORTANT CAMPUS CONTACT INFORMATION

University Police Department
(760) 750-4567

Police, Fire & Medical Emergencies
911 or (760) 750-4567

Student Health & Counseling Services
(760) 750-4915

Campus Operator
(760) 750-4000
When called, an operator will assist and direct you to the appropriate person or department

Housing - UVA
(760) 750-3711

Housing - TheQuad
(760) 750-3730

Office of Global Education
(760) 750-4090

Office of Global Education Emergency Phone - After work hours
(760) 750-3206
Leave a message after work hours. Staff will respond as soon as possible.