The International Education Office (IEO) supports UCSC’s teaching, research and service missions. We aim to inspire the university community to strengthen global understanding by transcending borders and transforming international partnerships. IEO is UCSC’s intellectual portal to the world and your guide to international resources at UCSC.
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The International Education Office welcomes you to the University of California, Santa Cruz! UCSC is known for its rigorous academics, diverse student community, and strong research ties to Silicon Valley, making it the destination for scholars and students all over the world. We host over 300 scholars from about 50 countries every year, as well as more than 500 students from about 60 countries abroad. Our international scholars and students play an integral role in the intellectual and cultural life on campus and we are very happy to welcome you to the UCSC community.

International Scholar & Student Services Advising Team
International Education Office

Office Hours:
Monday – Thursday
9:00AM-12:00PM
1:00PM-4:00PM
Closed Friday

Location:
Classroom Unit Building (up the hill behind the Student Union)
Room 101, 1st Floor

Website: ieo.ucsc.edu

For general questions:
Email: ieo@ucsc.edu
Phone: (831) 459-3550

Additional Email: isa@ucsc.edu

Facebook: facebook.com/UCSCISSS

Twitter: @UCSC_Global

For Scholar related questions contact:
Parinaz Zartoshty
Email: jvisa@ucsc.edu
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Location: 2nd Floor, Kerr Hall
Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8:00AM – 5:00PM
Email: gradadm@ucsc.edu
Phone: (831)-459-5905
Website: graddiv.ucsc.edu

Grad Student Commons:

The Graduate Student Commons, located in Quarry Plaza above Joe’s Pizza, offers a variety of spaces, including small study rooms, computer terminals, and a lounge for social interaction, all for graduate students to use. Any UCSC Graduate Student is free to use the Grad Student Commons during the hours of 9 AM - 5 PM. The Grad Student Commons also holds many events for graduate students, such as workshops, yoga, and socials to meet other graduate students. To find out more about events being held by the Graduate Student Commons visit:  https://gradcommons.soe.ucsc.edu/event/calendar
To reserve a room visit: http://gradcommons.soe.ucsc.edu/resv

Phone: 831-459-1395
J-1 Scholar Visa Requirements

Once a scholar has the UCSC appointment letter and the DS-2019, he/she may proceed with scheduling the visa appointment. Do not schedule your visa appointment until after you receive the DS-2019. If you do so, you will need to cancel or reschedule your appointment if you do not receive the DS-2019 on time, as scan copies are not accepted.

Be sure to have all required documents in order before attending the visa appointment. For any questions directly related to the J-1 scholar visa application, contact the US Embassy or Consulate near you, as the required documents vary depending on the country of citizenship. In general, make sure you have paid the required SEVIS fee at least three business days prior to your interview date. Also make certain that your passport is valid at least 6 months into the future. Finally, you should have the original DS-2019 in hand.

Good luck with the visa interview process and we look forward to meeting each of you at the International Scholar Orientation!
J-1 Scholar Visa Requirements

Document Checklist:
Because you may be asked to provide any of the following documents or information it is advised that you carry these documents on your person when you are traveling to the U.S. Do not place these documents in a bag that you will check, keep them in a carry-on bag.

- Valid passport
- Valid J-1 visa stamp
- Original signed DS-2019
- Original financial documents used for obtaining visa
- UCSC appointment letter
- Contact information for the Office of International Scholar & Student Services at UCSC

In addition, you might also find it helpful to bring copies of the following documents with you to the US:

- Other forms of identification such as your local identification or drivers license, birth and marriage certificates for you and your dependents (if applicable).
- Proof of health insurance coverage in the US
- Address information in US
- Prescription information (brand name and generic) for any medicines you take, including prescriptions for eyeglasses or contacts.
- Medical and dental records including immunizations and vaccinations.

Once you go through immigration, you will claim your baggage and then proceed through customs. You will need to respond to several questions on a form for customs. These questions include:

- Are you carrying more than $10,000?
- Are you carrying fruits or vegetables?

Please answer these questions honestly. If you lie and such items are found, the penalty and punishment is much greater.
J-1 Scholar Orientation is mandatory for all J-1 Scholars. The orientation is held in the Classroom Unit Building, Room 101. You will be instructed on exactly what day and time to attend orientation in your pre-arrival packet.

You must bring clear copies, as well as originals, of the following documents for both you and your J-2 dependents to Orientation:

- UCSC Appointment Letter
- DS-2019
- Passport
- Visa
- Printed I-94 confirmation (access at http://cbp.gov/I94)
- Copy of Medical Insurance from Garnett-Powers or Waiver Approval from Garnett-Powers
- U.S. Residential Address, Email and Phone Number
- Any Additional Forms Issued by U.S. Point of Entry Officials (if applicable)

Topics covered during the orientation will give scholars valuable information regarding visa issues/immigration regulations, the UCSC campus, as well as assist international scholars with adapting to a new environment. Failure to check-in at orientation will result in termination of your J-1 status and your need to depart immediately from the US.
Traveling to Santa Cruz by Public Transport

**Flying into San Jose**

Mineta San Jose International Airport (SJC)

http://www.flysanjose.com/fl/

Combine train and bus travel to get from the San Jose Airport to the UC Santa Cruz campus. Total approximate one-way cost is $10.50. From San Jose Airport take VTA (Valley Transit Authority) Airport Flyer Route 10 bus to the Santa Clara Caltrain station. Ride Caltrain from the Santa Clara station to the San Jose Diridon (Cahill Street) Caltrain/Amtrak station. At the San Jose Diridon (Cahill Street) station transfer to the Highway 17 Express bus to the Santa Cruz Metro’s Pacific Station in downtown Santa Cruz. At Santa Cruz Metro’s Pacific Station take any University bus route to UC Santa Cruz campus.

**Flying into San Francisco**

San Francisco International Airport (SFO)

http://www.flysfo.com/web/page/index.jsp

UC Santa Cruz can be reached from SFO using a combination of the Caltrain and Highway 17 Express. The Caltrain travels directly to San Jose Diridon station where the Highway 17 express can then be taken to the Santa Cruz Metro station. At Santa Cruz Metro’s Pacific Station take any University bus route to UC Santa Cruz campus or final destination. Information including rates, route planning and timetables can be found on their websites

Caltrain:
http://www.caltrain.com/main.htm

Santa Cruz Metro:
http://www.scmtd.com/
Flying into Oakland

Oakland International Airport (OAK)
http://www.flyoakland.com/

Santa Cruz is also reachable via public transportation from Oakland International Airport. You can reach Santa Cruz using a combination of the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) and the Highway 17 Express via the San Jose Diridon Station. Rates, route planners and timetables can be found on their respective websites:

Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART): http://www.bart.gov/
Santa Cruz Metro: http://www.scmtd.com/

Airport Shuttles Options

Airport shuttle providers that offer service to and from UC Santa Cruz include:

Aeronet Airporter
1-800-531-2629

Anjorin Town Car Service
831-431-7556
888-495-4114

Blue Water Limousines
831-477-0170

Early Bird Airport Shuttle
831-462-3933

Paradise Transportation is a private door-to-door service; this is not a shared-ride van service. Current pricing.
Call 831-477-1200 for a reservation.

Santa Cruz Shuttles
831-421-9883

West Coast Transportation Club
Limousine and Sedans
831-464-2600
Almost all destinations in Santa Cruz and the Bay Area can be reached via public transportation using one or many of the transportation companies that operate along specific routes in specific regions of the Bay Area. Making sense of the different companies and different routes that serve different destinations and regions can be difficult. There are several free websites and Smartphone apps that will sort it out for you by providing you an itinerary based on your location and destination. Three of the more popular are:

- **Google Maps**
  www.maps.google.com
- **Routesy Bay Area**
  http://www.routesy.com/
- **Transit 511**
  http://www.511.org

**Campus Transportation and Parking**

UCSC has campus buses running throughout campus from about 7:00AM-11:00PM on weekdays all free of charge. They also provide vanpools and bike shuttles to campus, and night shuttles throughout campus. Visit http://taps.ucsc.edu/buses-shuttles/ for more info on the different options.

Cars on campus must have valid parking permits. Permits can be purchased from the TAPS Sales Office Monday-Friday, 7:00AM-5:00PM. Temporary metered parking is also available. Visit http://taps.ucsc.edu/parking/parking-permits/index.html or call the Sales Office at (831) 459-4543 for details.
SANTA CRUZ METRO

Santa Cruz Metro buses travel from downtown to campus and back and are a great way to get around Santa Cruz. You can also use Metro buses to get to the Capitola Mall which has a variety of shops and restaurants.

Visit [http://www.scmtd.com](http://www.scmtd.com) for a list of schedules and routes.

The Employee Metro Bus Pass is an alternative transportation program that TAPS offers at the lowest cost possible. The employee bus pass fee is $10 per month for those eligible for payroll deduction; $120 annually.

For more information on bus passes, please visit the TAPS website [http://taps.ucsc.edu/buses-shuttles/metro-bus-pass.html](http://taps.ucsc.edu/buses-shuttles/metro-bus-pass.html)

ZIPCAR RENTAL

Scholars allowed to drive can rent a car from Zipcar hourly or daily. These cars are located on campus and downtown. Insurance and gas are included in Zipcar’s service fees. Visit [http://www.zipcar.com/ucsc](http://www.zipcar.com/ucsc) for more information.
California and Beyond

Monterey
Service to and from Monterey is provided by Monterey Salinas Transit. More information including fares and route schedules can be found on their website at: www.mst.org

Travel Options to East Bay Cities
East Bay cities including Fremont, Hayward, Oakland, Emeryville, Berkeley, Richmond and Martinez can be reached by transfer from the Highway 17 Express to a Capitol Corridor train when you arrive at the San Jose Diridon station, or transfer to VTA Route 180 (Sat/Sun)/181 (weekday) buses to get to Fremont BART station. BART system information is available at http://www.bart.gov.

Travel Options to Peninsula Cities
At the San Jose Diridon station take a Northbound Line/San Francisco Caltrain to get to any of these peninsula cities: Santa Clara, Sunnyvale, Mountain View, Palo Alto, Menlo Park, Atherton, Redwood City, San Carlos, Belmont, Hillsdale, San Mateo, Burlingame, Millbrae, San Bruno, South San Francisco and San Francisco. Cost: $2.50 to $11, depending on destination. The Caltrain fare chart is available at http://www.caltrain.com/Fares/farechart.html. The Caltrain system map is available at http://www.caltrain.com/stations/systemmap.html.

Amtrak
America’s National Railroad Passenger Corporation, Amtrak provides service from San Jose’s Diridon station to most of the US. Routes and fares can be found on their website: www.amtrak.com

Megabus
Megabus is a discount bus service that provides daily transportation to and from Los Angeles to San Jose’s Diridon station. Fares and route schedules can be found on their website: www.us.megabus.com
### Weather

Santa Cruz springs and summers are warm and slightly humid. Be prepared for a good amount of rain throughout fall and winter. It’s a good idea to have an umbrella and rain boots for the rainy Santa Cruz days. Since we are by the ocean, our weather is cooler during the summer months than the San Jose area.

This chart shows the average temperature and rainfall amount in Santa Cruz throughout the year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Average Low</th>
<th>Average High</th>
<th>Average Rainfall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>41°F—5°C</td>
<td>63°F—17°C</td>
<td>6.28 in—159.5mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>43°F—6°C</td>
<td>64°F—18°C</td>
<td>6.44 in—163.6mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>44°F—7°C</td>
<td>66°F—19°C</td>
<td>4.63 in—117.6mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>46°F—8°C</td>
<td>70°F—21°C</td>
<td>1.97 in—50.0mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>49°F—9°C</td>
<td>72°F—22°C</td>
<td>0.84 in—21.3mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>52°F—11°C</td>
<td>75°F—24°C</td>
<td>0.19 in—4.8mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>54°F—12°C</td>
<td>75°F—24°C</td>
<td>0.01 in—0.3mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>54°F—12°C</td>
<td>76°F—24°C</td>
<td>0.04 in—1.0mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>53°F—12°C</td>
<td>76°F—24°C</td>
<td>0.27 in—6.9mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>50°F—10°C</td>
<td>73°F—23°C</td>
<td>1.45 in—36.8mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>45°F—7°C</td>
<td>67°F—19°C</td>
<td>3.75 in—95.2mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td>41°F—5°C</td>
<td>62°F—17°C</td>
<td>5.68 in—144.3mm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Clothing
If you are coming from a tropical climate you might find Santa Cruz’s weather a little chilly, especially from November to March. Most scholars find that they will use a light jacket year round and probably a heavier coat during the winter months. Past international scholars at University of California, Santa Cruz have reported that they wished they had brought more warm clothes with them. In general, you will find that students, faculty and staff at US universities dress more casually (blue jeans and tops) than their counterparts in your home country. They tend to dress more formally, however, if they are going out to dinner or to a special event.

Electronics
The official voltage in the US is 120 volts and most electronic devices use a special two-pronged outlet that is different from the outlets in your home country. This means that your electronic devices (including your computers) will not work in the US without an adapter. It’s a good idea to make sure you pack at least one adapter to use when you first arrive. The odds are that your computer’s battery will die during your long journey. If you’re relying on your computer to communicate with friends and family back home you might not be able to do so without a voltage adapter.

Other Helpful Items
Even though you can purchase items after you arrive in the US there are some items that you might consider bringing with you for various reasons:

- Laptop. If you do decide to bring a laptop with you to the US don’t forget to bring an adapter so you can use the electrical outlets in the US!
- Toiletries, particularly items from your home country that you might not be able to find in the US.
- Sheets or towels for bathing. Depending on where you are staying when you first arrive, you might not have access to these items until you are able to purchase them. If you are planning on staying on campus you will most probably require extra –long twin sheets, which may not be available in your home country. You will have an opportunity to purchase them once you arrive.
- Camera and accessories. If you’re bringing a camera with you to the US don’t forget to bring any accessories such as memory cards and chargers that you might need.
Scholars are independently responsible for making housing arrangements. Scholars may search for housing through:

- **The Community Rentals Office (CRO):** Please note that scholars must have a United States email address in order to access the website, and can set up a temporary U.S. email address through gmail, hotmail, yahoo, etc. The CRO offers information on renter rights, and also offers information on how to avoid U.S. housing scams. The CRO can be accessed at http://housing.ucsc.edu/cro/index.html.

- **UCSC’s Staff and Faculty Housing** (http://housing.ucsc.edu/employee-housing/index.html)

- If scholars are unable to make permanent arrangements prior to arrival, please make temporary housing arrangements at a local hotel. Be sure to ask for a UCSC university discount. Many hotels offer discounts. Please see http://www.santacruz.com/Hotels for local hotel listings.
When searching for listings of available properties you might encounter a type of shorthand used to describe the amenities at a specific property. The following list of common abbreviations might be helpful in your search.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AC: Air Conditioning</th>
<th>Avail: Available</th>
<th>BA: Bathroom</th>
<th>BR: Bedroom</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Blks: Blocks</td>
<td>DR: Dining Room</td>
<td>DW: Dishwasher</td>
<td>Furn: Furnished</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gar: Garage</td>
<td>Incl: Included</td>
<td>Kit: Kitchen</td>
<td>/mo: Per Month</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
General Advice
You do not need a social security number to lease a room or apartment. Even though some landlords might insist that you have a social security number, it is not required by law.

Renting a room or apartment in the US can be difficult. You will want to follow a few general guidelines to make sure you avoid being scammed and to make the process as smooth as possible. According to the California Department of Consumer Affairs, you are afforded the following basic rights as a tenant in the state of California:

- Limits on the amount of the security deposit that the landlord can require.
- Limits on the landlord's right to enter the rental unit.
- The right to a refund of the security deposit, or a written accounting of how it was used after a tenant has vacated the property.
- The right to sue the landlord for violations of the law or the rental agreement.
- The right to repair serious defects in the rental unit and to deduct certain repair costs from the rent--under appropriate circumstances.
- The right to withhold rent under appropriate circumstances.
- Rights under the warranty of habitability.
- Protection against retaliatory eviction.

A complete list of the rights and responsibilities of you and your landlord can be found in the California Department of Consumer Affair’s document “California Tenants: A Guide to Residential Tenants’ and Landlords’ Rights and Responsibilities:
http://www.dca.ca.gov/publications/landlordbook/
Avoiding Scams

Unfortunately, there are dishonest people who are far too eager and willing to steal your money. Many times, people will set up fake listings on websites such as Craigslist in an attempt to steal your money. According to Craigslist, most attempts to be scammed can be avoided if you follow a few simple rules:

- **Always deal with people in person when possible.** Be wary of conducting business with anyone who is not willing to meet you face to face.

- **Never wire money via services such as Western Union, Moneygram or others to a person you are renting from, especially if you have never met them in person.**

- **Never give out financial information such as bank accounts or social security numbers to people you are renting from.**

- **Do not rent housing without first seeing the interior of the property.**

If something seems like it’s not right it probably isn’t. It’s better to be cautious than to be a victim of a scam.
Money Matters

Currency

In the United States paper currency is issued denominations of $1, $5, $10, $20, $50 and $100. Each bill is the same size and similar in color and design. Coins are primarily issued in 1, 5, 10 and 25 cent denominations. In order to determine the value of the goods and services you are paying for, you might find it helpful initially to convert the cost to the currency in your home country. You can do so at either of the following websites:

XE
http://www.xe.com

Bloomberg
http://www.bloomberg.com/markets/currencies/currency-converter/
Banking

You will most probably want to open a US bank account, and you have several options. Each bank has slightly different requirements; you will need to call each bank to learn what you need to bring. In most cases, you will need: your passport, your form DS-2019 and one other form of photo ID. You do not need a Social Security card to open an account.

These branches are not located on campus, so you will need to arrange your own transportation to get to the bank or credit union. Note that some have more than one branch in Santa Cruz. Please note that our office does not endorse any of the following banks. Selecting a bank is your decision.

Bay Federal Credit Union:
420 River St,
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(831) 479-6000
http://www.bayfed.com

Bank of America:
1640 Mission St
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(800) 432-1000
104 River St
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(800) 432-1000
http://www.bofa.com

Chase:
2111 Mission St,
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(831) 426-8280
730 Ocean St
Santa Cruz, CA
(831) 427-0532
http://www.chase.com

US Bank:
2203 Mission St,
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(831) 471-9183
http://www.usbank.com

Wells Fargo Bank:
74 River St
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(831) 469-3525
http://www.wellsfargo.com

Bay Federal Credit Union, Bank of America, and Wells Fargo have ATMs by Baytree Bookstore. You can use these ATMs even if you do not have an account with that particular bank or credit union, but you will be charged a transaction fee.

If you have an account with Citi Bank, there are no branch locations in Santa Cruz. However, there are ATMs located in 7-Eleven Stores.
Choosing the Right Bank
In general, most banks offer similar services with just a few slight differences. When you select a bank it is important to choose one that fits your needs. Be sure to take the time to learn about the differences in rates and fees at each bank. When selecting a bank you will want to find out the answers to the following questions:

What does my bank do to protect me from identity theft and what are their policies about identity theft? Unfortunately identity theft, or the act of stealing someone’s personal information, does happen. Most banks offer protections against identity theft. You’ll want to find out what a prospective bank does to help protect you from identity theft. Additionally, it’s important to know what their policies are if identity theft does occur.

What is the minimum amount of money I must deposit to open up my account and how can I make the first deposit? Some banks require you to deposit a certain amount of money in order to open your account. Though most will accept cash deposits, it is generally not advisable to carry large sums of money. You will want to make sure you will be able to make a deposit via wire transfer or check from a foreign bank.

What is the minimum amount I am required to keep in my checking or savings account at all times? Many banks require that you keep a minimum amount in your account at all times. Falling below that amount will result in being charged additional fees as a penalty. Be sure to find out how much you will be required to have in your account at all times before opening it.

What is the fee for using an Automated Teller Machine (ATM)? Most banks do not charge you a fee for withdrawing money from your account if you use their ATM’s. However, most do charge you a fee for withdrawing money from your account using another bank’s ATM. Be sure to find out how much you will be charged if you need to use another bank’s ATM to withdraw money.

Will I be charged annual or monthly fees? Some banks charge you monthly or annual fees to have an account. Be sure to find out how much you will be charged for your checking or savings accounts.

What is the bank’s overdraft policy? Some banks charge you a fee if you write a check or make a payment with money that is not in your account. You could be charged for each payment that is an overdraft, daily or even both. Be sure to find out what the bank’s policy is.

How much will my checks cost? Not all banks provide checks for free. If you need checks to pay bills you will want to find out how much your bank will charge you to provide you with checks to use.
Cell Phones

There are a variety of mobile phone companies that operate in the Santa Cruz area. Monthly contracts and pay-as-you-go services are available with most companies. Please contact the company to learn what you will need to bring to get a phone. In general, you will need to provide: a valid photo ID (passport or driver's license), your date of birth, local address and a Social Security number. You do not have to provide an actual Social Security card, just the number. If you do not have a Social Security number you can still sign up for service with a deposit. Before you sign any contract, make sure you meet the company’s requirements.

Visit the following for more information:

- **AT&T:** 600 River St, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
  (831) 457-8255
  [http://www.att.com](http://www.att.com)

- **Sprint:** 3555 Clares St, Capitola, CA 95010
  (831) 475-8060
  [http://www.sprint.com](http://www.sprint.com)

- **Verizon:** 110 Cooper St, Ste A, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
  (831) 421-0753
  [http://www.verizon.com](http://www.verizon.com)

- **T-Mobile:** 1855 41st Ave, Capitola, CA 95010
  (831) 475-5246
  [http://www.t-mobile.com](http://www.t-mobile.com)

- **MetroPCS:** 831 Water St, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
  (831) 425-9300
  [http://www.metropcs.com](http://www.metropcs.com)

- **Tracfone:** Pre-paid phones and wireless cards
  Found in:
  - Safeway
    2111 Mission St
    Santa Cruz, CA 95062
    (831) 420-0781
  - Rite Aid
    901 Soquel Ave,
    Santa Cruz, CA 95062
    (831) 426-4303
  [http://www.tracfone.com](http://www.tracfone.com)
## Making Calls

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Call</th>
<th>How to call</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Emergencies</td>
<td><strong>Call 911. This is the national emergency number for police, ambulance services, and fire department.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Directory Assistance</td>
<td><strong>Call 411. An operator will give you phone numbers for people and businesses. There is a $1.25 fee.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Going outside the U.S</td>
<td><strong>Call 01 + country code + city code + phone number. See below for “collect calls”</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In the U.S. but going outside your local area code</td>
<td><strong>Call 1 + three digit area code + seven digit phone number.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In your local area code</td>
<td><strong>Call the seven-digit phone number directly.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On-campus to another on-campus phone</td>
<td><strong>Call only the last five digits of the phone number. For example, the number for Berkeley International office is 831-459-3550, so you would dial 9-3550</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On campus phone to an off campus location</td>
<td><strong>Call 6+ the phone number as described above. For example, if it’s outside the 831 area code, you will call 9+1+ area code+ 7-digit phone number (However, some campus phones are already linked directly to off-campus locations, so it’s always best to ask).</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Driving

Scholars visiting for less than 6 months can use their driver’s license from their home country. If you will be in the US for more than 6 months, it is appropriate to apply for a driver’s license with the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). Below are the local DMV locations:

4200 Capitola Road
Capitola, CA 95010

90 Alta Vista Ave.
Watsonville, CA 95076

For both locations:
Hours: Mon-Tue & Thur-Fri 8:00AM-5:00PM; Wed 9:00AM-5:00PM
Phone: 1-800-777-0133

If you wish to apply for a California driver’s license you will need to complete the following steps.

1.) Visit the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). You can visit any location during business hours but for faster services, appointments can be made online at http://www.dmv.ca.gov

2.) Apply for the driver’s license and submit the following documents:
   - Either your Social Security number OR your I-20/DS-2019 and passport. You do not need a Social Security number to obtain a driver’s license.
   - **Important.** If you do not have a Social Security number tell the DMV that you “are not eligible” for a Social Security number. They will then verify your legal status using your I-20/DS-2019 and passport as well as by verifying that your SEVIS record is “active.” Your SEVIS record should be active within 30 days of presenting your immigration documents to our office. In general, it is best to wait 30 days after your International Scholar Orientation.

3.) Pass a vision test. This test is administered at the DMV during your appointment.

4.) Pay the $33 application fee.

(Continued on next page)
California State ID Card

Even if you do not wish to drive, you may want to consider getting a California State ID card. An ID card can be presented as an official form of identification in any situation where your age or identity needs to be verified. You can apply for an ID card at the DMV by completing the following steps.

1. Visit the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV).

2. Apply for the ID card and submit the following documents:
   - **Either** your Social Security number **OR** your I-20/DS-2019 and passport. You do not need a Social Security number to obtain an ID card.
   - **Important.** If you do not have a Social Security number tell the DMV that you “are not eligible” for a Social Security number. They will then verify your legal status using your I-20/DS-2019, and your passport as well as by verifying that your SEVIS record is “active.” Your SEVIS record should be active within 30 days of presenting your immigration documents to our office. In general, it is best to wait 30 days after your International Scholar Orientation.

3. Pay the $28 application fee.

5.) Pass a written test. There are 36 questions on the test and you are given 3 opportunities to pass.
   - The DMV offers free, online practice-exams on their website at http://dmv.ca.gov/pubs/interactive/tdrive/exam.htm. You will be applying for the Regular Driver (Class C License)
   - The Driver’s License Handbook is available in PDF form on the DMV’s website at http://www.dmv.ca.gov/pubs/pubs.htm

6.) Pass a behind the wheel driving test. This test requires a separate appointment. Appointments can be made here: http://www.dmv.ca.gov/foa/welcome.do?localeName=en

J-2 dependents who are legally present in the US, but who are ineligible for a Social Security number, must follow additional steps in order to be eligible for a driver’s license. In short, J-2s must apply for a social security number and receive a denial letter from the Social Security Administration Office. The J-2 must then present the denial letter to the DMV, along with documents demonstrating legal presence, to apply for their driver’s license.
A social security number (SSN) is a nine-digit number issued by the Social Security Administration (SSA). It is required for everyone who works in the U.S., and its primary purpose is to track individuals for taxation purposes. A social security number is valid for life and private information.

Eligibility:
- Must be physically present within the United States at least 10 days before applying.
- Must wait at least 2 business days from the date that you are validated by ISSS in SEVIS.
- Must have attended a J-1 Scholar Orientation and submitted all required documents to ISSS.

To Apply:
Complete the SSN Application Form SS-5 available on the Social Security Administration website (http://www.ssa.gov) or at the Social Security Administration office. ***IMPORTANT NOTE: Your Social Security Card will be mailed in approximately 10 business days after you apply to the address you indicate on the Form SS-5. It is vital to include an address that you will be able to receive mail.

Bring the following documents to the Social Security Administration office:

- **Passport with visa stamp**
- **I-94 confirmation printout** (access at http://cbp.gov/I94)
- **Original DS-2019**
- **Letter of invitation/offer of employment** from your sponsoring UCSC Dean
Insurance Information

J-1 exchange visitors must present health insurance for themselves and their J-2 dependents for the entire exchange visitor program at their Mandatory Orientation in order to validate their legal status. The United States Department of State (USDOS) sets minimum medical insurance requirements for all exchange visitors.

Effective September 1, 2014, Garnett-Powers is the mandatory health insurance provider for our visiting scholars. Please visit the Garnett-Powers website and enroll in the insurance program or apply for a waiver, if you will provide your own insurance. To be eligible for a waiver, the insurance evidence you provide must meet the above J-1 requirements. This evidence is evaluated by Garnett-Powers.

You will need to provide evidence of enrollment in this plan or an approved waiver form by Garnett-Powers to successfully check-in at orientation with our office.

Federal Insurance Requirements Effective May 15, 2015

- Medical benefits of at least $100,000 per accident or illness
- Repatriation of remains in the amount of $25,000
- Expenses associated with medical evacuation in the amount of $50,000
- Deductible not to exceed $500 per accident or illness
- Covers pre-existing conditions after reasonable waiting period
- Includes a co-payment provision that does not exceed 25% co-pay by the exchange visitor
- Does not exclude benefits for perils inherent to the activities of the exchange visitors program

The insurance corporation underwriting the policy must have one of the following ratings:

- an A.M. rating of "A" or above
- an Insurance Solvency International, Ltd. (ISI) rating of "A-i" or above
- a Standard & Poor's Claims paying ability rating of "A" or above
- a Weiss Research, Inc. rating of "B+" or above

Insurance coverage backed by the full faith and credit of your home country government meets this requirement.
Insurance Information

Determine If You Need to Purchase Medical Insurance or if you are eligible for UCSC benefits

Email your UCSC Department or Divisional contact to determine if you are eligible for the following UCSC insurance options. Your Department or Divisional contact is the UCSC staff member identified within your appointment letter that you must complete employment paperwork with upon arrival. Please be mindful that even if you are eligible for UCSC insurance, you may need to purchase supplementary insurance in order to meet exchange visitor insurance requirements.

1. **UCSC-Sponsored Postdoctoral Benefits**: Scholars who specifically hold the Postdoctoral Scholar job title are eligible for insurance that meets all USDOS requirements. Review your appointment letter for your UCSC title. The insurance cost will be shared between you and UCSC. To meet federal insurance requirements, scholars must add their J-2 dependents to their plan (if applicable).

2. **UCSC-Sponsored Full or Mid-Level Benefits**: Scholars and their J-2 dependents may be eligible for full or mid-level UCSC benefits. Contact your department or divisional representative for eligibility and application instructions. The insurance cost will be shared between you and UCSC. To meet federal insurance requirements, scholars must add their J-2 dependents to their insurance plan (if applicable), AND purchase medical evacuation and repatriation insurance for themselves and their J-2's. See options below.

3. **UCSC-Sponsored Core Benefits**: UCSC may offer the basic university Core Benefits plan. The insurance cost will be shared between you and UCSC. Unfortunately, this basic plan offers minimal coverage, and does not meet federal insurance requirements. To meet federal insurance requirements, scholars must purchase primary medical insurance, as well as medical evacuation and repatriation insurance for themselves and each J-2 dependent. See options below.

VERIFICATION OF INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS: Unfortunately, ISSS is unable to verify if private, home government, or UCSC-specific insurance policies meet USDOS requirements. Scholars must independently confirm that their insurance policies meet federal requirements.
Insurance Options

**Potential Program Termination:** Failure to maintain USDOS insurance requirements for both J-1 scholars and J-2 dependents for the entire program duration will result in program termination. If an EV program is terminated, both J-1 and J-2 dependents must return to their home country immediately. Termination of an EV record has an adverse effect on both J-1 and J-2 programs. J-1 scholars (including their J-2 dependents) **cannot** apply for reinstatement, extension of stay, change of category, or any other exchange visitor benefit if their program has been terminated.

**Options that Meet Medical Evacuation & Repatriation Requirements Only**

The insurance options listed below are for visiting scholars and their families who have already purchased primary insurance that meets USDOS requirements, and only need to purchase medical evacuation and repatriation insurance. *Scholars are responsible for reading the cancellation policy closely*

1. **The Harbour Group:** This plan is for visiting scholars and their J-2 dependents. Please submit a copy of your application to ISSS prior to applying online, or mailing application to the broker.

2. **A-G Administrators, Inc. Medical Evacuation & Repatriation Insurance Plan.** The application form and brochure must be mailed to the broker. Complete the appropriate application. Make a COPY and send it to your international advisor. MAIL the application with check or money order payable to A-G Administrators, Inc., P.O. Box 979, Valley Forge, PA 19482. [A-G Insurance Application](#)

3. **Compass Benefits Group, Liaison Traveler:** This plan is for visiting scholars and their families who will be in the US for at least 3 months, and as long as one year. Please submit a copy of your application to ISSS prior to applying online, or mailing application to the broker.

4. **IMG Sky Rescue:** This plan is for visiting scholars and their J-2 dependents. Please submit a copy of your application to ISSS prior to applying online, or mailing application to the broker.
Care Services

Immediate Care:
IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY, DIAL 911

ON CAMPUS:

UCSC Health Center
For your health needs you can visit the UCSC Health Center located across the street from Colleges 9 and 10. For more information about the services provided contact them at: 
Website http://healthcenter.ucsc.edu
Email: healthcenter@ucsc.edu
Phone (for NON emergencies) : (831) 459-2211

COUNSELING & PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES (CAPS)
CAPS is a part of the Student Health Center. The counselors provide help with personal problems like stress, anxiety, depression, as well as cultural adjustment. All visits are completely confidential.
To contact CAPS:
Website: http://caps.ucsc.edu
Phone: (831) 459-2628

MENTAL HEALTH:

Dominican Hospital Behavioral Health Unit (Santa Cruz):
1555 Soquel Drive, Santa Cruz, CA 95065
(831) 462-7719

Suicide Prevention Service (Santa Cruz & Watsonville): (831) 458-5300; (877) 663-5433

Suicide Prevention Hotline (national): (800) 784-2433

URGENT CARE:

Palo Alto Medical Foundation- Westside
1203 Mission Street (at Laurel), Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(831) 458-6310
X-rays available during hours of operation

Dignity Medical Group-Dominican
2018 Mission Street (at Almar), Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(831) 706-2220

Palo Alto Medical Foundation – Main
2025 Soquel Avenue (at Capitola Road), Santa Cruz, CA 95062
X-rays available during hours of operation

Doctors on Duty
615 Ocean Street (in front of UCSC Inn), Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(831) 425-7991
X-rays available Monday-Friday 9:30am-5pm

EMERGENCY CARE:

Dominican Hospital
1555 Soquel Drive, Santa Cruz, CA 95065
(831) 462-7700 (main);
(831) 462-7710 (Emergency Room)

Watsonville Community Hospital
75 Nielson Street, Watsonville, CA 95076
(831) 724-4741
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:
Women’s Crisis Support ~ Defensa de Mujeres
1570 Soquel Drive, Santa Cruz, CA 95062
24-Hour Crisis Line: (831) 685-3737
Main (831) 425-4030

Santa Cruz Women’s Health Center
250 Locust Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(831) 427-3500

Walnut Avenue Women’s Center
175 Walnut Avenue Santa Cruz CA 950601
(831) 426-3062

Women’s Crisis Support Hotline
(831) 429-1478

ALCOHOL & DRUG ABUSE SERVICES:
Alcoholics Anonymous
(831) 475-5782

Alcohol & Drug Abuse
(831) 454-HELP
Be sure to ask if your insurance will be accepted. Insurance co-pays may apply.

In the U.S., emergency room care is expensive and should be used only for emergencies. If you have a minor illness, it is better to first visit the Student Health Center or an off-campus urgent care clinic. However, if you are ever in doubt, do not hesitate to go to the emergency room.
Adapting to life in your new environment can be a difficult process but it doesn’t have to be too difficult. One of the best ways you can have a successful intercultural experience is by learning as much as possible about the culture of your new environment. Though not every culture fits neatly into simple categories, there are some elements of US culture that apply in most situations.

**Cultural Adjustments**

**Cultural Differences**

Adapting to life in your new environment can be a difficult process but it doesn’t have to be too difficult. One of the best ways you can have a successful intercultural experience is by learning as much as possible about the culture of your new environment. Though not every culture fits neatly into simple categories, there are some elements of US culture that apply in most situations.

**Individualism** - In general, people in the US are very individualistic in nature. People view themselves first and foremost as individuals rather than as a member of a family, community or nation. They value being self-reliant and independent and tend to distance themselves psychologically and emotionally from others.

**Time** - Most people in the US view time as monochromic, meaning that specific things are done at specific times. Time is organized and set aside for certain tasks or purposes. Punctuality is valued heavily and arriving on time for appointments and starting tasks and events at a certain time is expected in US culture.

**Equality** – US culture is largely egalitarian in nature. For the most part, little difference is paid to status and people are valued for who they are and not from which family they may come from. The result is that the hierarchy in the US may seem less important or prevalent than the hierarchy in your home country. This also applies to differences in gender. Men and women are viewed as equals in US culture and given equal rights.
**Cultural Adjustments**

**Communication** – Communication in US culture is largely very direct. The emphasis is often on communicating something very specific in as a precise and direct manner as possible. Americans generally pay less attention to the information surrounding the words and pay more attention to the words themselves. Written communication is generally considered more important than verbal communication.

**Friendship** – The concept of friendship varies from culture to culture. In some cultures, friendship is seen as very deep and long-lasting relationship. It is based on love and respect and requires obligation. In US culture, friendship is often times a more casual relationship. Many international visitors have reported that American students and scholars are friendly and easy to approach but more difficult to really get to know.

**Domestic Violence** – In the US, physical or verbal abuse towards your spouse is completely unacceptable. Not only is it unacceptable but it is illegal. Physically or verbally abusing your spouse can result in arrest and jeopardize your current and future visa status.
Coping With Cultural Differences:
The following tips might help you cope with some of the difficulties you might be experiencing as a result of cultural differences.

**Forget “good” and “bad”** – One important thing to remember when faced with cultural differences is that cultural differences are just that, differences. Try not to place a qualitative judgment on something just because it is different than how things are done in your culture. It’s not good or bad or better or worse, it’s just a difference.

**Be curious, learn by doing** – One of the best ways learn about a new culture is to experience it. Be open to doing and trying new things. Be curious about the ways things are done in your new culture. Ask questions.

**Laugh!** - Laughter is the best medicine. You will make mistakes trying to find your way in your new culture. One of the best ways to deal with your mistakes is to learn to laugh at them. It will help you learn and others will respond to your laughter with friendliness.

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**Depression and Homesickness**

It is common to suffer from depression and or homesickness during your time in the US. The tips above should help you, but if you feel that you are suffering from depression it is important to seek help.

Counseling & Psychological Services is a part of the UCSC campus that provides a wide range of resources including counseling, group counseling, workshops, and psychiatric help. Visit their website to find a list of everything that they provide in addition to other off-campus resources for you.

[http://caps.ucsc.edu/index.html](http://caps.ucsc.edu/index.html)
English Language Opportunities:

**English In Action**
Organized through UCSC, International students, research scholars, and spouses practice English for an hour each week, conversing with a volunteer American partner. There is no charge for this program. Contact Karin Grobe, kgrobe@wormdoctor.org, (831) 427-0984.

**Santa Cruz Adult School Language Courses**
Learn to speak, read, and write English in these Beginning and Intermediate English as a Second Language (ESL) Courses. Fees are charged for course participation. Contact the Santa Cruz Adult School office at (831) 429-3966, or go to http://www.adultedreg.com/santacruz/index.cfm?processtype=department&deptid=441. The school is located at 319 La Fonda Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95062.

**The Volunteer Center**
Volunteers work on an individual basis in English instruction. There is no charge for instruction. Contact Barbara Davis (831) 427-5070 for more details, or go to http://volunteercentersca.org/vc_santacruz.html.
Your New Community
THE OFFICE OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION, RECREATION, AND SPORTS (OPERS) offers intramural sports and recreational trips. For more information, please visit http://opers.ucsc.edu and http://www.ucscrecreation.com or call OPERS at (831) 459-2531.

WELLNESS CENTER & WEST FIELD HOUSE
UCSC’s Wellness Center (located at OPERS Field) includes a gym, 50m swimming pool, martial arts room, dance studio, and tennis, racquetball, basketball, and volleyball courts. Across campus, the West Field House at College 8 has several courts, as well. You can also rent equipment and lockers from the OPERS office. Visit http://opers.ucsc.edu/facilities/index.html for more info.

ON CAMPUS ACTIVITIES
Visit events.ucsc.edu to find a list of all the events happening on campus.
OFF-CAMPUS MAIL SERVICES
The Santa Cruz Main Post Office is located in Downtown Santa Cruz at 850 Front Street, and is open from 9:00AM-5:00PM Monday-Friday. For more information, please call (800) 275-8777. You can also visit the U.S. Postal Services’ website http://www.usps.com and click the “Find USPS Locations” link to navigate to the Santa Cruz Main Post Office’s information page.

There is a FedEx Office located at 712 Front Street. For more information, visit http://local.fedex.com/ca/santa-cruz/office-5102.

There is also a UPS store located at 849 Almar Street, Suite C. For more information, visit http://www.theupsstorelocal.com/1128.

DOWNTOWN ACTIVITIES
There are always a number of fun events going on in Santa Cruz. Visit http://www.downtownsantacruz.com/calendar for a list of events and activities happening throughout the community.
Limited child care is available through the campus. To find out more about availability go to: http://childcare.ucsc.edu/

**Free To Be Me Preschool and Childcare**
(831) 430-8591
Santa Cruz
Website: http://santacruz4kids.com/
Address: 3201 Churnside Lane | Ages: 2 to 6yr

**St. Stephen's Child Development Center**
(831) 462-4453
Santa Cruz
Website: http://sscdcpreschool.com/
email: cdc@ststephenslutheran.org
Address: 2500 Soquel Avenue | Ages: 2-6

**Campus Kids Connection, Inc.**
831-462-9822
Capitola
Website: http://www.campuskidsconnection.com/
Address: 820 Bay Ave., Suite 109 | Ages: 1yr-6th grade
Campus Kids Connection, Inc. is a local non-profit that provides preschool, pre-K, and after school programs in Santa Cruz and Soquel. Other schools that are a part of the Campus Kids Connection:

- **CKC Children's Center** at Santa Cruz Gardens Elementary
  8005 Winkle Avenue
  Santa Cruz, CA 95065
  (831) 475-6587

- **Bostwick Children's Center** on Bostwick Lane
  987 Bostwick Lane
  Santa Cruz, CA 95062
  (831) 475-2151

- **Opal Cliffs Children's Center** near Jade Street Park
  4510 Jade Street
  Capitola, CA 95010
  (831) 475-5188

**The Village Preschool**
831.423.3588
Santa Cruz
Website: http://www.villagepreschoolsc.com/
# Your New Community: Schools

## Elementary Schools:

- **Bay View Elementary**  
  1231 Bay Street, Santa Cruz California 95060  
  (831) 429-3991  

- **DeLaveaga Elementary**  
  1145 Morrissey Blvd, Santa Cruz, CA 95065  
  (831) 429-3807  
  Website: [http://www.delave.santacruz.k12.ca.us/](http://www.delave.santacruz.k12.ca.us/)

- **Gault Elementary**  
  1320 Seabright Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95062  
  (831)429-3856  

- **Westlake Elementary**  
  1000 High St, Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
  (831) 429-3878  
  Website: [http://www.westlake.santacruz.k12.ca.us/](http://www.westlake.santacruz.k12.ca.us/)

## Middle School:

- **Branciforte Middle School**  
  315 Poplar Ave, Santa Cruz, CA 95062  
  (831) 429-3883  
  Website: [http://b40middle.com/](http://b40middle.com/)

- **Mission Hill Middle School**  
  425 King St., Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
  831-429-3860  
  Website: [http://www.missionhill.santacruz.k12.ca.us/](http://www.missionhill.santacruz.k12.ca.us/)

## High Schools:

- **Harbor High School**  
  300 La Fonda Ave, Santa Cruz, CA 95062  
  (831) 429-3810  
  Website: [http://www.harborhigh.org/](http://www.harborhigh.org/)

- **Santa Cruz High School**  
  415 Walnut Avenue  
  Santa Cruz, Ca. 95060  
  831.429.3960  
  Website: [http://server1.santacruzhs.santacruz.k12.ca.us/schs/index.php](http://server1.santacruzhs.santacruz.k12.ca.us/schs/index.php)

- **Soquel High School**  
  401 Soquel San Jose Rd, Soquel, CA 95073  
  (831) 429-3909  
  Website: [http://soquelhs.net/home/](http://soquelhs.net/home/)

## Santa Cruz Waldorf School:

- **Grades K-8**  
  2190 Empire Grade, Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
  (831) 425-0519

## Public Charter School:

- **Pacific Collegiate School**  
  (831) 479-7785  
  Website: [http://www.pacificcollegiate.com/](http://www.pacificcollegiate.com/)
Grocery Stores in Santa Cruz

**Safeway**: 2111 Mission St. Santa Cruz, CA; 117 Morrissey Blvd. Santa Cruz, CA
http://www.safeway.com/IFL/Grocery/Home

**Shopper’s Corner**: 622 Soquel Ave. Santa Cruz, CA 95060
http://www.shopperscorner.com/

**Trader Joe’s**: 700 Front St. Santa Cruz, CA 95060
http://www.traderjoes.com/

**Whole Foods**: 911 Soquel Ave. Santa Cruz, CA 95060
http://www.wholefoodsmarket.com/stores/santacruz

**Hernandez Market**: 525 Laurel St. Santa Cruz, CA 95060 (831) 423-1755
3790 Portola Dr. Santa Cruz, CA 95060 (831) 475-8088

**New Leaf Community Market**: 1134 Pacific Ave. Santa Cruz, CA
Restaurants Near Campus

**Betty’s Burgers**
3 Locations:
1000 41st Ave., Santa Cruz, CA 95062  
(831) 423-8190
505 Seabright Ave., Santa Cruz, CA 95062  
(831) 475-5901
1222 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
(831) 600-7056

**Hula’s Island Grill**
221 Cathcart St, Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
(831) 426-4852

**Burger.**
1520 Mission St, Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
(831) 425-5300

**Café Brazil**
1410 Mission St, Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
(831) 429-1855

**Kianti’s Pizza**
1100 Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
(831) 469-4400

**Saturn Café**
145 Laurel St, Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
(831) 429-8505

**Sabeing Thai**
California 1, Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
(831) 425-1020

**Taqueria Vallarta**
4 Locations:
1101 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
(831) 471-2655
608 Soquel Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95062  
(831) 457-8226
893 41st Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95062  
(831) 464-7022
1221 Mission Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
(831) 426-7240

**Zoccoli’s Deli**
1534 Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
(831) 423-1711

**Surfrider Café**
429 Front St, Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
(831) 713-5258

**Hoffman’s**
1102 Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
(831) 420-0135

**I Love Sushi**
516 Front St, Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
(831) 421-0706

**Planet Fresh**
1003 Cedar St, Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
(831) 423-9799
DRUGSTORES in Santa Cruz:
**CVS** (2 Locations)
1700 Mission St, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 &
600 Front St, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

**Walgreens**
201 Front St, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

DEPARTMENT STORES AND MALLS:
**Capitola Mall**
1855 41st Ave, Capitola, CA 95010
www.shopcapitolamall.com

**Westfield Valley Fair Mall**
2855 Stevens Creek Blvd, Santa Clara, CA 95050
www.westfield.com/valleyfair/

**Target**
1825 41st Ave, Capitola, CA 95010
Thank you for taking time to review this information. We hope that this handbook has provided you with useful information and that it will serve as a point of reference throughout your stay here in the US.

We encourage your participation in the numerous activities we have planned for you and throughout the campus. We value the diversity you bring as well as the cultural and intellectual enrichment you offer. Your presence on our campus increases awareness of other countries and cultures.

All of us at ISSS look forward to serving your immigration needs and contributing to the enhancement of your UCSC experience. Once again, welcome to UCSC and the next chapter in your lives.