



FACT SHEET FOR EXCHANGE STUDENTS 2026-2027

Thank you for your interest in California State University, Sacramento! California State University, Sacramento accepts applications from students at our partner universities to study on our campus for 1-2 semesters as non-degree Exchange students. Exchange students are only temporarily studying on our campus; students are expected to return to their home university to complete their degree after the Exchange. Exchange students are nominated by their own campus to participate. **Students interested in participating should visit the Study Abroad/International Office at their university for more information.**

USA Citizenship/ Dual Citizens with USA Citizenship: Exchange students who have USA citizenship or dual citizenship with USA + another country are eligible to participate in the exchange program.

The City of Sacramento: Sacramento is a city rich in California history, known for its relaxed and friendly atmosphere. Its mild climate, rivers and parks make it popular with outdoor enthusiasts. Residents enjoy all the benefits of an urban California lifestyle - art galleries, museums, theater and great restaurants - yet Sacramento is one of the most affordable big cities in California. Sacramento is also the seat of government for the largest state economy in the United States. It is part of a Capital Region with nearly 2 million people in the heart of one of the country's most beautiful areas. Within easy driving distance are San Francisco, Napa Valley, historic gold country, and Lake Tahoe.



INTRODUCTION TO CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, SACRAMENTO

California State University, Sacramento, also known as “Sacramento State” or “Sac State”, enrolls a multicultural student body of over 30,000. The 300-acre university campus has more than 3,000 trees and is located alongside the American River (where gold was discovered in 1848 to start the California Gold Rush!). California State University, Sacramento offers 72 undergraduate and 59 graduate programs. More than 70% of classes have fewer than 30 students.

Academic Calendar: Our academic year has 2 semesters: Fall semester (late August – December) and Spring semester (late January – May). An International Student Orientation program takes place 1 week prior to the start of classes.

Academic Majors / Departments Open to Students on Exchange: California State University, Sacramento has a wide variety of academic programs. All majors are open to exchange students **except:** Nursing, Criminal Justice, Graphic Design, Kinesiology, Interior design, Psychology and Construction Management. Computer Science with limited availability.

The following departments are considered “impacted”. At present, Exchange students may still apply for these fields, but classes may be restricted or more competitive to access: Biology, Public Health (Health Science) and Psychology. For a complete list of departments, please see the university catalog available at <http://catalog.csus.edu/>.

Course Registration: Admitted exchange students are assisted with class registration by International Programs & Global Engagement staff. Fall 2026 and Spring 2027 Class Schedule will become available one semester prior to the semester starting online at [Courses A-Z | Sacramento State Catalog](#). Additional information on how to choose classes is available on the Exchange application.

Course numbering:

- **Undergraduate classes numbered 1-99** are entry level courses offering a broad view or introduction to a subject.
- **Undergraduate classes numbered 100-199** are usually for upper level students in their 3rd – 4th year of study at our university. (Exchange students in their 2nd-4th years are usually eligible for classes numbered 100-199). These classes teach the subject at a more in-depth and/or advanced level.
- **Graduate classes numbered 200+** are for graduate Master’s level university students only.

Academic Course load: Students are required to enroll full time in at least 12 units (undergraduates) or 9 units (graduates) to meet J-1 immigration requirements. Most classes are 3 units of credit each.

Campus Life: There are more than 300 different student clubs and organizations at California State University, Sacramento. A variety of entertaining programs, comedy shows, concerts, theater /dance performances, art exhibits, movie nights, lectures and debates are held throughout the year. The University Multi-Cultural Center presents special cultural programs and discussions.

Housing: Exchange students have the option of living on or off campus during their exchange program. Exchange students can select to live in the American River Courtyard, an on-campus residential hall, which combines apartment style housing with a meal plan and numerous social activities. Off-campus housing is also available near the university campus. Detailed housing information can be found at: <https://www.csus.edu/student-life/housing/>. Admit packets contain plenty of information regarding off-campus housing.

Recreation, Wellness and Health Services: Our Recreation and Wellness facility nicknamed “The Well” offers state of the art fitness equipment, recreational programming, and health education. Thousands of students participate in the campus recreational sports program. The Student Health Center which is located in The Well provides comprehensive medical services and health education. Most services are provided free of cost for students. Low cost pharmacy services are also available.

Transportation: City bus and light rail service throughout Sacramento is free to California State University, Sacramento students with their university student identification card.

Computer Services: There are several computer laboratories available to students and located throughout the campus. Students receive a free email account and the university has wireless internet access across most of the campus. Students living on campus also have access to computer labs inside the American River Courtyard.

EXCHANGE STUDENT APPLICATIONS & ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Students should visit their [Study Abroad Office](#) for information about the Exchange selection process. You must be nominated by your university International Office to participate in this exchange program. After being nominated, Exchange applicants will submit the following documents for review to determine admission:

- Exchange student application
- Nomination letter from your Study Abroad Advisor
- Exchange Student Application form (available from your Study Abroad Advisor)
- List of desired classes
- Financial support documents
- TOEFL score report (non-English speaking countries)
- Official university transcripts
- Passport Biographic information pages

APPLICATION DEADLINES:	FALL (Classes begin late August)	SPRING (Classes begin late January)
Priority Review:	February 15* – April 1	September 15* – November 1

**Housing application for Fall opens 3/1; Spring opens 10/1. Students who are seeking on-campus accommodations are strongly encouraged to apply by these dates.*

English Language Requirements (TOEFL, IELTS & Duolingo): Exchange students from countries where English is not the primary language must submit proof of their English abilities. Minimum scores to qualify for the Exchange are:

- **Undergraduates:** TOEFL 64 IBT. IELTS 6.0. Duolingo 95.
- **Graduate (Master’s level):** TOEFL 80 IBT. IELTS 6.5. [Note: Some postgraduate majors such as Communication Studies, English, TESOL and International Affairs have higher TOEFL requirements.]

Academic Requirements

- Undergraduates: min 70 percentage or 2.75/4.33 GPA
- Graduate (Master's level): min 76 percentage or 3.30/4.33 GPA

Graduate Exchange Students: In addition to meeting the general Exchange admission requirements, graduate applicants are also reviewed by the academic department to determine eligibility. The applicant must submit a statement of purpose, and have the appropriate academic background in the field of study in order to take graduate level courses. Please note that graduate exchange cannot be guaranteed and is dependent upon the graduate program's space availability and course offerings. Early inquiry for graduate level exchange is suggested prior to submitting an application as Sac State will verify with the program for space and course offering availability.

COST OF LIVING

Incoming exchange students should have approximately \$14,294 per semester for expenses including room, board, transportation, books / supplies, insurance and personal expenses. Exchange students do not pay registration fees to our university. Out of State /Non-Resident Fees are also waived for Exchange students.

HEALTH INSURANCE REQUIREMENT

All students attending Sacramento State on a J-1 visa are required to enroll in the mandatory CSUS health insurance plan. Coverage dates are for a semester/full academic year, depending on the student's length of exchange program. Full year coverage spans from August 1 to July 31. While semester coverage spans over the course of the academic term, students are also covered during the 30 day grace period *after* their program completion; so if students choose to travel within the US, they will still be fully covered. Students who present additional coverage obtained in their country or the U.S. **will not be waived** from the CSUS health insurance plan.

VISAS

Once an incoming exchange student is accepted to California State University, Sacramento, the student is sent an admission letter and a DS-2019. Students will use these documents to apply for a **J-1 visa** at the US Embassy or US Consulate in their home country. Information on how to apply for a visa will be sent to students when they are admitted to the exchange program.

INTENSIVE ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROGRAMS

None. Exchange students must meet the university TOEFL / IELTS requirement in order to be admitted. However, we do offer some English courses designed to assist students in improving their English abilities. Courses are offered in reading and vocabulary development, grammar, and writing /composition.

CONTACT INFORMATION

As participants must be nominated by their home university, please see the Study Abroad / International Office at your university for questions about the exchange program. The Study Abroad/International Office will provide those students nominated for study at Sac State with an application fee waiver code to submit the Cal State Apply online application.

SACRAMENTO STATE IPGE STAFF ROLES AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Mayra Villegas (mayra.villegas@csus.edu) –Study Abroad Student Advisor, for Outbound Exchange Students

Alex Shigenaga (alex.shigenaga@csus.edu) – Coordinator of International Student and Scholar Services, for Inbound Exchange Students

Kunyi Cheng (kunyi.cheng@csus.edu) – Coordinator of Global Initiatives, Student Exchange Agreement, exchange balance, and partnership