About the University

UC is the major public research university in the state of California, serving undergraduate and graduate students. There are ten campus locations: Berkeley, Davis, Irvine, Los Angeles, Merced, Riverside, San Diego, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, and San Francisco (a graduate medical school) (*San Francisco and Merced do not participate in the exchange*). The campuses of the UC system are located throughout California and encompass the state’s cultural and geographic diversity. The UC system is home to more than 220,000 students. UC campuses rank highly among the top public universities in the U.S. Each campus offers attractive and distinct facilities, specialized schools, and creative and challenging learning opportunities.

The University of California exchange includes 8 campuses, each of which has different policies and programmes. If selected to study at the University of California, Edinburgh students have to nominate three of these eight campuses, and identify the courses they wish to take at each. The information immediately below is relevant to all campuses.

Website: [http://eap.ucop.edu/ReciprocalExchanges/Pages/Discover-UC.aspx](http://eap.ucop.edu/ReciprocalExchanges/Pages/Discover-UC.aspx)

A comprehensive guide for exchange students is available at: [http://eap.ucop.edu/guides/reciprocity/Pages/default.aspx](http://eap.ucop.edu/guides/reciprocity/Pages/default.aspx)

Academics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course/credit load:</th>
<th>For Information on credits please consult our credit guidance sheet: <a href="http://www.ed.ac.uk/files/atoms/files/international_exchange_credit_loads.pdf">http://www.ed.ac.uk/files/atoms/files/international_exchange_credit_loads.pdf</a></th>
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| Courses available:  | Course listings in the campus catalogues give a broad outline of availability, but many students find on arrival in California that a number of their preferred courses are not to be offered. Before leaving Edinburgh, students should consult the latest course schedules on campus web-sites; these give a definitive outline of the courses which are to be offered during the quarters or semesters to come.  

*Note:* Courses are numbered according to their level, 1-99 being lower division, 100-199 upper division and 200-299 graduate courses. Upper division courses can be considered equivalent to honours level at Edinburgh. Each course has a unit weighting, which is indicated in brackets alongside its title in the General Catalogue. At upper division, one unit signifies 3 hours of work (class attendance and preparation) per week.  

The minimum requirement for the US Visa regulations is that students take 13 semester units per term at UCB and 12 quarter units per term elsewhere. |

Impacted Majors by campus

If you are taking one of the following subjects, be prepared for more work with your application form and study plans as these subjects are "impacted majors" (heavily oversubscribed) at UC and competition for places on courses is intense. "Impacted major" subjects are, Arts (all types), Communications, Engineering and Computer Science, Legal Studies and Psychology.
Notes of Guidance for Exchange Students
University of California

Berkeley (www.berkeley.edu)

- Catalogue: Berkeley General Catalogue http://www.berkeley.edu/catalog/
- Schedule: http://schedule.berkeley.edu/ (Select Schedule of Classes)

Davis (www.ucdavis.edu)

- Davis General Catalogue http://registrar.ucdavis.edu/ (Select General Catalogue)
- Schedule: https://registrar.ucdavis.edu/courses/search/index.cfm

Irvine (www.uci.edu)

- Schedule: http://webster.reg.uci.edu/perl/websoc

UCLA (www.ucla.edu)

- General catalogue: http://www.registrar.ucla.edu/
- Schedule: http://www.registrar.ucla.edu/schedule/

Riverside (www.ucr.edu)

- Catalogue: Riverside General Catalogue http://www.catalog.ucr.edu/
- Schedule: http://www.classes.ucr.edu/

Santa Barbara (www.ucsb.edu)

Enrolling in biology courses can be difficult as they require course syllabuses or a detailed course description of the courses you present on your transcript. Because of this, you may have to wait to enrol in major courses until the first week of school when talking to the Professors can determine whether you have the prerequisites for their individual courses. If you do, then they can unblock the registration system in order for you to enrol.

- Schedule: http://admissions.sa.ucsb.edu/importantdatesanddeadlines.asp

Santa Cruz (www.ucsc.edu)

Santa Cruz has a different grading system to other California campuses; students can be evaluated as 'pass' or 'no pass' supported by a narrative evaluation or can, as at other campuses, be allocated a grade. When they register for courses, Edinburgh students should indicate that they wish to be awarded a grade in addition to narrative evaluations.

- Catalogue: http://reg.ucsc.edu/catalog/index.html
Notes of Guidance for Exchange Students
University of California

- Schedule: [http://reg.ucsc.edu/soc.htm](http://reg.ucsc.edu/soc.htm)

San Diego (www.ucsd.edu)


Schedule: [https://www-act.ucsd.edu/cgi-bin/tritonlink.pl/2/students/academic/classes/schedule_of_classes.pl](https://www-act.ucsd.edu/cgi-bin/tritonlink.pl/2/students/academic/classes/schedule_of_classes.pl)

**Course enrolment:** Students attending UC enroll in courses using the online enrolment system. Each campus has different enrolment deadlines and procedures. Read the Pre-Arrival Instructions for your host UC campus for enrolment information. Check your e-mail frequently after your placement for enrolment information. UCEAP cannot guarantee the availability of courses. Enroll online in as many courses as you can before arriving at UC, you may need to register for some classes after arrival. Many students “shop” for classes during the first two weeks of a term.

**Academic restrictions**

- Certain subjects are highly competitive and students must be willing to attend any host campus. Joint honour students who are specialised in two of the following majors should be aware that UC cannot guarantee access to more than one major and you must be prepared to select coursework in only one of your majors. Restrictions apply to the following subjects: Architecture, Arts, Drama, Dance, Music, Business / Management, Business / Economics, Communication, Computer Science, Economics, Education, Engineering, Film / Film Studies, Journalism / Writing, Legal Studies, Medicine, Nursing, Veterinary Science, Psychology. For details please visit [http://eap.ucop.edu/ReciprocalExchanges/Pages/Majors.aspx?t=2](http://eap.ucop.edu/ReciprocalExchanges/Pages/Majors.aspx?t=2)

- Students of Biology, Business Administration, Economics, Engineering and Psychology will need to be enrolled in the same field at Edinburgh University, and will need to meet the prerequisite of the course. For details please visit [http://eap.ucop.edu/Documents/ReciprocalExchanges/Prerequisites.pdf](http://eap.ucop.edu/Documents/ReciprocalExchanges/Prerequisites.pdf)

Your final course selection must be agreed and approved with your Exchange Coordinator and any course changes made whilst you are away must have their approval.

**Accommodation**


  For specific housing options at each UC campus and application instructions, see UC Host Campus Pre-Arrival Instructions: [http://eap.ucop.edu/ReciprocalExchanges/pages/beforeyouarrive.aspx](http://eap.ucop.edu/ReciprocalExchanges/pages/beforeyouarrive.aspx)

  Available but not guaranteed. Only first-year students are guaranteed housing. All university-owned housing assignments are subject to available space and you may not be assigned to university-owned housing.

**Application process:** Most UC campuses make their application forms available on the Internet. Visit the UOEAHP homepage for direct links to the housing pages. If your host UC campus
Notes of Guidance for Exchange Students
University of California

does not have an on-line application form, an application will be sent to you. The completed application must be returned prior to the deadline.

Private accommodation: Yes, but students will need to source this themselves.

Costs

Estimated costs of living: The chart below provides the estimated average fees and expenses for the 2014–15 academic year (nine months)*. It is only provided as a guide. Estimates for 2015–16 are not yet available. Actual costs for the 2015–16 academic year may be higher.

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Books and Supplies</td>
<td>$1,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Living (Room and Meals)</td>
<td>$14,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal / Transportation</td>
<td>$2,400</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health Insurance</td>
<td>$1,900</td>
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Fees and tuition that do not apply to UCEAP reciprocal exchange students:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fees and Tuition</td>
<td>$36,178 (estimated)</td>
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* Figures for fees and tuition, books and supplies, living, and personal / transportation are averages. Actual costs vary, depending on your location and lifestyle.

Insurance:

**UC Health Insurance**
Medical treatment in the U.S. can be very expensive. You are required to have health insurance and automatically will be enrolled in the host UC campus insurance plan. The cost of insurance is applied to your student billing account. Insurance coverage and costs vary by campus. Visit the UCEAP Reciprocal Exchanges Pre-Arrival Instructions for direct links to individual UC campus insurance information.

**Supplemental Insurance**
Depending on your medical history, your UC health insurance may not be adequate so you may want to purchase supplemental insurance. In the U.S., it is standard for 80 percent of the cost for certain services to be paid by the insurance company, and 20 percent of the cost to be paid by the patient.

**Travel Insurance**
Buy travel insurance to ensure coverage from your departure to your arrival in the U.S. Carefully consider when your UC insurance coverage starts.
Health Insurance Exemption Request (Waiver)
If you wish to be covered under a plan other than UC campus plan, you must request a waiver (exemption) from the requirement within stipulated deadlines. Before applying for a waiver, research your host UC campus requirements to ensure that your insurance from home meets all requirements. A campus-specific waiver request along with proof of enrolment in the alternative insurance plan must be submitted for review to the campus by the posted deadline.

Note:
- **Waiver is not automatic**: Do not assume that a waiver will be approved. Purchase of the UC insurance plan is a UC requirement; calculate its cost into your budget. *See Estimated Costs of Attending UC* in this guide book.

- **Non-U.S. insurance plans**: There are specific waiver criteria on each UC campus. Most UC campuses will only consider waivers from recognized U.S. insurance companies that are owned, operated, and headquartered in the U.S. and are not a travel insurance policy. Other campuses may allow non-U.S. plans but require that the plan have a U.S.-based processing office.

- **U.S. insurance plans**: UCEAP cannot guarantee that waivers will be granted, even for Fulbright-sponsored insurance.

**UC campus waiver information**: Visit the Pre-Arrival Instructions for direct links to individual UC campuses.

**Orientation**
Before the start of your first term, your host UC campus holds an orientation session to provide you with information about enrolment, visa issues, safety and services available on campus. Attendance is required. Your host college or department (or the Graduate Division, in the case of graduate students) may also hold an orientation. Visit the Pre-Arrival Instructions page for your host UC campus to find about dates and times of orientation sessions.

**Employment**
Reciprocal exchange students are not encouraged to work while on UCEAP and must plan to have sufficient funds to cover living expenses for the full period of study. J-1 visa holders are not eligible to work off campus. Part-time, on-campus employment is, however, an option at all campuses.

**Visas**
Your host UC campus will issue the Certificate of Eligibility for Exchange Visitor (J-1) Status, known as the DS-2019, after your UC acceptance is confirmed and your financial documentation is complete.

You cannot apply for your visa until you receive your certificate of eligibility.

Apply for the J-1 exchange visitor visa. Applicants must contact the U.S. embassy or consulate for application procedures and application fee information. In most countries, applicants are required to make an appointment for a face-to-face interview.

**U.S. Citizens & Canadian Citizens**
Notes of Guidance for Exchange Students
University of California

U.S. citizens do not need a DS-2019 to enter the U.S.; a U.S. passport is sufficient. Individuals born in the U.S. are automatically U.S. citizens, and must use their U.S. passport while participating in the exchange program, even if they have dual citizenship.

Canadian citizens who enter the U.S. directly from Canada must have a passport and a DS-2019 to enter the U.S. but do not require a visa except in specific categories. Contact the U.S. embassy or consulate for more information about requirements.

Applying for a Visa Outside Your Home Country
If you apply for a visa in a country other than your home country, you may need to plan for a longer visa application processing time. Contact the U.S. embassy or consulate for more information about requirements.

Visa Application Tips
- Submit complete UCEAP application forms and supporting documents by the announced deadlines, and respond to requests for items promptly so that approval of your application is not delayed.
- Contact the nearest U.S. embassy or Consulate in advance to learn about local visa application procedures. Check periodically for any changes.
- Apply for your visa as soon as possible after receipt of your DS-2019. During the application process, be prepared to demonstrate:
  - That you plan to remain in the U.S. for a specific, limited time.
  - That you have strong social and economic ties in your home country, which will ensure your return home at the end of your visit.
- Make travel reservations that allow adequate time for processing of your visa application before departure. Regulations allow you to arrive in the U.S. no more than 30 days prior to the start date on your DS-2019. Plan all leisure travel for holiday breaks and after your UCEAP studies.
- Do not enter the U.S. under a tourist visa.
- Check the UCEAP Reciprocal Exchanges Visa Resources for updates. Government policies and procedures are subject to change.

Visa-Related Fees & Expenses

Disability Statement
Some destinations may be more accessible than others for disabled students. If you require any adjustments due to disability or specific learning difficulty and you wish to study abroad please contact Thomas Ozers in the International Office (Thomas.ozers@ed.ac.uk). We will work together with you to explore the help available at your host institution. It might also be helpful if you discuss this with your Personal Tutor and the Disability Office as well.
These notes are for guidance only. We have tried to keep them up to date, but it is very difficult to do so without your input. So, if you can keep notes of any inaccuracies in this information we should be glad of them on your return to Edinburgh. Any other observations and impressions about your stay will also be useful and will help those students who participate in the exchange in future years.

What Edinburgh students had to say about UC:

Best bits:
Finding an area of research I love
Meeting new people and exploring new places.
New friends and experiences
Wide range of cultures
Travel opportunities
Meeting new people, learning different subjects
Joining a fraternity.
Travelling and learning how to surf.
Getting to travel at the weekends

Going to a university campus that was literally situated on the beach in California as well as receiving a very high standard of lectures and tutorials. We received our exam results within a few days of completing our exams.

There are a lot of precious memories. I met awesome friends. I travelled a lot (e.g. California, Florida, Hawaii), spent 4 days in Disney World, tried skiing in Lake Tahoe, drove along the Highway 1, swam in the what I called ‘Tiffany Blue’ coloured sea, watched David Copperfield’s magic show in Las Vegas...... There are some people helped me a lot in my academic area. My exchange year will definitely be the best year of my university life.

People. Exchange and American - the people were great.

I got very involved in theatre, taking two acting classes which was a real highlight. I also did a lot of extra-curricular, and even started a new instrument, having paid for music lessons in baroque bassoon as part of a class. I got to study with some pretty reputed professors, including Judith Butler, and made some fantastic connections.
Their advice to future students at UC:

**Accommodation:**

*Live in the university apartments*

*Don’t worry if you need to search after arrival.*

*Try and arrange it as soon as possible*

*Be organised and proactive*

*With UCLA, try to find accommodation in Westwood!*

*Try and live as close as possible to campus. I lived 15 min bike ride away which was annoying. Plus got charged a lot more than accommodation was actually worth.*

*Find somewhere with your own kitchen.*

*Apply for housing when you get there, you’ll get to see it before you move in!*

*Stick with the accommodation the university advises you to go into because there will be other British people there and that will make the culture shock easier to cope with.*

*Be aware that students can’t live in the university residence hall during winter break. You have to find another place if you want to stay in Berkeley for the Christmas. I personally think Berkeley’s residential dining hall is not that satisfied. If you live in uni residence hall, you are required to buy meal points which I think it’s too much. If you prefer not living on campus and would like to find a private place, I suggest to find somewhere on north side of the campus because it is safe*

*If you go to UCSB, don’t live in university apartments. Those that do are exchange students, transfers or people who couldn’t find private accommodation. Recommend private housing in Isla Vista (IV) via Craigslist or Facebook groups*

*I had the wonderful experience of living at International House, Berkeley. I would absolutely recommend this to anyone studying abroad at Berkeley, as it is such a wonderful place to bond and network, all whilst learning about different students and cultures. 3rd year is the minimum age you can live there, and all residents have to fill out a personal statement. Sharing a room had its disadvantages, but if you want the authentic Berkeley experience, go to I-House!*

*Go to the ucha coop, at least initially.*

**General advice:**

*Take an opportunity to set your academic network*

*Try finding cheaper housing to be able to travel.*

*Be open minded*

*Be prepared to look hard for accommodation*

*Save a lot of money beforehand*
Try and live with Americans or try and find private housing in apartments that are not too far away from Campus. E.g. West Village

Go surfing as much as possible.

Get a car!

Strike the right balance between having fun and doing work. Continuous assessment is difficult to excel in if you neglect your studies whilst away so try and travel as much as you can without impacting your grades.

Learn to cook for yourself. It will reduce the living cost a lot. The Chinese restaurants are not that satisfied around the campus.

Live in IV and join the Excursion Club

Get stuck in to all activities. Shop around for classes, take 15 creds. Avoid the Greek system- it's a bit culty. Don't expect the same binge-drinking culture, be prepared to be open and willing to throw yourself into things, and to be assessed verbally. Expect far more continuous assessment, including midterms. Essay writing requirements are much lower and less specific than at Edinburgh- use the skills learnt at Edinburgh and you will get great grades. If possible, take a class relating to USA