



SDSU | San Diego State
University

International Admissions Handbook

Fall 2026



Welcome to SDSU

Founded in 1897, San Diego State University is a public university in sunny southern California. Part of the 22-campus California State University system, SDSU is one of the largest universities in the state with more than 38,000 students. Combining the strength of a research university with dedicated faculty who support innovation and discovery, SDSU is among the top 5% of universities recognized by the *Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education* as an R1 institution.

Transform Your Tomorrow

SDSU is devoted to developing a diverse community of leaders, athletes, artists, explorers and environmentalists who will stay curious, challenge the status quo, and passionately move the world forward. Bring your curiosity to a university that defies expectations.

➤ Top 3%

out of 21,462 universities worldwide, according to the 2025 edition of the Global 2000 list by the *Center for World University Rankings*.

➤ 1 of 19

to hold both the R1 designation from the *Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education* and Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) status.

➤ 38,396

students enrolled, including 33,839 undergraduate and 4,557 graduate students.

➤ No. 11

among U.S. colleges for best value by *Wall Street Journal* and *College Pulse* in 2024, based on how quickly the degree pays for its cost through the salary boost it provides its students.

➤ 500,000+

proud alumni, providing a strong network of mentors, internships, and employment opportunities for our students.

Location

Welcome home to California's second-largest city. With breakthrough technology companies and research organizations, the largest military concentration in the world and a strong tourism industry, the San Diego region has one of the most dynamic economies in the country. San Diego is an industry leader in cleantech, cybersecurity, life sciences, manufacturing, software, tech, and tourism. The San Diego region is home to dozens of international, coastal, mountain area, downtown and urban communities, all available for your exploration.

Visit sdsu.edu/location to learn more about San Diego.

➤ 21°C/70°F

average daily temperature; San Diego is known for its beautiful weather year round!

➤ No. 5

on *Forbes'* Safest Large Cities in America (population over 100,000) 2025 list.

➤ No. 15

best big cities to live, according to *U.S. News and World Report*.

How Close?

By car:

10 minutes Downtown
15 minutes Beaches
60 minutes ... Mountains
90 minutes ... Deserts
1.5 hours Disneyland
2 hours Los Angeles
By airplane:
1 hour Las Vegas
1.5 hours San Francisco



Undergraduate Programs

At SDSU, we are committed to creating educational opportunities that equip you to succeed in a global society. All incoming students receive a four-year plan giving them a clear roadmap to graduation.

For information about majors, emphases, and minors, visit sdsu.edu/majors. Find the roadmap for your major at sdsu.edu/roadmap.

SDSU Offers the Following Degree Programs:

Africana Studies

American Indian Studies

Anthropology

Art**

- Applied Design*
- Art History*
- Graphic Design*
- Interior Architecture*
- Multimedia*
- Painting and Printmaking*
- Sculpture*
- Studio Arts*

Artificial Intelligence and Human Responsibility

Asian American Studies

Asian Studies

Astronomy

- Data Science*

Biology**

- Cellular and Molecular Biology*
- Ecology*
- Evolutionary Biology*
- Marine Biology*
- Microbiology*
- Zoology*

Brazilian Studies

Business

- Accounting
- Finance
- Financial Services
- General Business
- Information Systems
- International Business
- Management
- Marketing
- Real Estate

Chemistry**

- Biochemistry*

Chicana and Chicano Studies

Child Development^

Communication

Comparative

International Studies

Computer Science

Construction Management

Criminal Justice

Dance

Economics

- International Economics*
- Public Policy*
- Quantitative Analysis*

Engineering

- Aerospace Engineering
- Bioengineering*
- Civil Engineering
- Computer Engineering
- Construction Engineering
- Electrical Engineering
- Environmental Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering

English and Comparative Literature**

Environmental Sciences

Foods and Nutrition

Geography

- Environment, Sustainability, and Policy*
- General Geography*
- Geographic Information Science and Technology*
- Human Geography and Global Studies*
- Water, Climate, and Ecosystems*

Geological Sciences

Gerontology

Health Communication

History

Hospitality and Tourism Management

- Hotel Operations and Management*
- Meetings and Events Operations and Management*
- Restaurant Operations and Management*
- Tribal Gaming Operations and Management*

Humanities

International Security and Conflict Resolution

- Conflict in the Global System*
- Environment in the Global System*
- Justice in the Global System*

Islamic and Arabic Studies

Japanese

Journalism

- Advertising*
- Media Studies*
- Public Relations*

Kinesiology

- Exercise Science Generalist (AA-T only)*
- Fitness Specialist*
- Prephysical Therapy*

Language, Culture, and Society

Latin American Studies

Leadership Studies

LGBTQ+ Studies

Liberal Studies

- Education—Generalist (AA-T only)*^
- Elementary Education*^

Linguistics

Mathematics**

- Applied Mathematics*
- Computational Science*
- Mathematics Education*
- Science*

Modern Jewish Studies

Music

Nursing^

Philosophy

Physics

Political Science

Psychology

- Industrial and Organizational Psychology*
- Neuroscience*

Public Administration

- City Planning*

Public Health

- Environmental Health

Recreation Administration

- Outdoor Resource Management*
- Recreation Systems Management*
- Sustainable Tourism Management*

Religious Studies

Rhetoric and Writing Studies

Social Science**

Social Work

Sociology

Spanish**

Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences^

Statistics

- Actuarial Science*
- Data Science*

Sustainability

Television, Film and New Media

- Critical Studies*
- Production*

Theatre Arts

- Design and Technology*
- Musical Theatre
- Performance*
- Youth Theatre*

Urban Studies

- Urban Cultures and Societies*
- Urban Planning, Design and Management*
- Urban Political Economy and Public Policy*
- Urban Sustainability

Women's and Gender Studies

** This is an emphasis or specialization offered within the major*

***This major also offers preparation for the single subject teaching credential*

^ Admission into programs leading to licensure and credentialing does not guarantee that students will obtain a license or credential. Visit sdsu.edu/majors for more information.

First-Year Admissions

This is the time to discover your dreams and make them a reality with the support of the SDSU community. SDSU accepts international first-year applications between October 1, 2025 and April 1, 2026 for fall (August) 2026 admission. SDSU does not offer spring admission.

Application Deadlines

• Early Consideration Deadline—December 1, 2025

Students who submit completed documents by this deadline will be notified of a decision by the end of January.

• Regular Deadline—April 1, 2026

Students who submit completed documents by this deadline will be notified on a rolling basis.

You can apply to SDSU as a first-year if you have:

- not yet graduated high school, but are on track to graduate with a high school diploma by spring 2026; or
- graduated high school, but have not taken college/university courses after graduation.

Steps to Apply

Step 1: Complete the Cal State Apply Application

Complete the online application at calstate.edu/apply and pay the \$70 USD nonrefundable application fee.

Step 2: Check Your Admission Status

After submitting the application, you will receive an acknowledgement email from San Diego State University that includes your RedID number, which is your SDSU student identification number, and instructions on how to log in to my.SDSU.

Step 3: Submit Unofficial High School Transcripts/Grade Reports

Unofficial transcripts/grade reports must be submitted from all high schools attended for initial evaluation and need to include original language, with certified English translations, if necessary. Refer to the Requirements by Country information at sdsu.edu/countryrequirements.

Step 4: Proof of English Proficiency

English proficiency is critical to your success. If your native language is not English, SDSU requires that you complete one of the following requirements:

- TOEFL score of 80 iBT/550 PBT or higher. Test scores are sent electronically from Educational Testing Service (ETS) to SDSU using institution code 4682; or
- IELTS overall score of 6.5 or higher; or
- PTE score of 58 or higher; or
- Duolingo English Test score of 105 or higher; or
- SDSU's American Language Institute's Level 106 English language course with a minimum overall GPA of 3.0 or higher.



International Cost of Attendance

International students admitted to SDSU must submit financial documentation as evidence of funding for a minimum of one academic year (nine months). An SDSU I-20 will be issued after the SDSU Financial Statement Form and supporting financial documents are approved by the SDSU Office of International Admissions. Visit sdsu.edu/internationalfees for the most current information.

Basic Tuition & Fees*	\$12,180
Non-Resident Tuition†	\$13,320
On-Campus Housing & Food‡	\$21,856
Health Insurance	\$1,282
Books, Supplies	\$970
Transportation	\$1,170
Miscellaneous, Personal	\$2,268
TOTAL	\$53,046 USD

* Includes Nonresident Campus Fee of \$1,500 per semester (\$3,000 per academic year).

† Nonresident tuition is based on 15 units each semester at \$444 per unit.

‡ All first-year students who graduate from high school outside of SDSU's local admission area live on campus for two years. Be sure to review the on-campus food and housing payment schedule at housing.sdsu.edu.

Cost of Attendance Note: The CSU makes every effort to keep student costs to a minimum. Fees listed in published schedules or student accounts may need to be increased when public funding is inadequate. Therefore, CSU must reserve the right, even after fees are initially charged or initial fee payments are made, to increase or modify any listed fees. **All listed fees, other than mandatory systemwide fees, are subject to change without notice, until the date when instruction for a particular semester or quarter has begun.** All CSU listed fees should be regarded as estimates that are subject to change upon approval by the Board of Trustees, the Chancellor, or the Presidents, as appropriate. Changes in mandatory systemwide fees will be made in accordance with the requirements of the Working Families Student Fee Transparency and Accountability Act (Sections 66028-66028.6 of the Education Code).



Housing

Transitioning to life as a university student is easier when living on campus at SDSU. Our residential communities provide a strong support network within your living environment and the opportunity to establish close-knit friendships. All international first-year students from outside SDSU's local admission area are required to live on campus during their first two years of study. Costs vary depending on the type of accommodation and meal plan selected. Visit housing.sdsu.edu to learn what it's like to live on campus.

Why SDSU?

Students and student success are at the core of all we do. You will be encouraged to take advantage of life-changing educational experiences, such as undergraduate research labs and laboratory spaces on and off campus, entrepreneurship opportunities, internships, and professional mentoring. Our graduates are innovators, knowledge creators, and global citizens who are well prepared for the real world.

➤ \$229.8 million

in grant funding in 2023-24, which marks a 20% year-over-year increase for university research into critical issues like:

- Advancing cancer care
- Climate change
- Mental health
- Artificial intelligence
- Microplastics and human health

➤ No. 14

in the nation among public universities for entrepreneurship according to *U.S. News and World Report*.

➤ Top 15

best tech job cities in 2025 features San Diego, according to *CourseReport.com*.



Transportation

The SDSU Transit Center connects the campus to bus and trolley routes that serve the greater San Diego area, including the airport, train stations, beaches, shopping malls, downtown San Diego, and local attractions.



International Student Center

The International Student Center (ISC) offers a full range of programs and services to foster student success, global perspectives, intercultural awareness, and international cooperation. The ISC services include the New International Student Orientation, a tutor-mentor program, immigration advising, weekly international events, and the SDSU International Student Association. For more information, visit sdsu.edu/internationalstudents.



University Pathways

Our University Pathway Program, through SDSU Global Campus, helps you acquire the tools needed to succeed in a degree program at San Diego State University or elsewhere.

Undergraduate Pathway Program

SDSU's Undergraduate Pathway Program (UPP) guarantees students admission into an SDSU degree program upon successful completion of UPP studies. While in the UPP program, you will begin earning credits towards your SDSU degree, prior to matriculation. The UPP program combines SDSU credit-bearing courses with English as a Second Language instruction, one-on-one academic advising, and immersive academic and cultural experiences. Our dedicated SDSU UPP team will help students smoothly transition into life as a student in the United States and at SDSU.

If you would like to focus on improving your academic English before enrolling in any SDSU credit courses, we invite you to apply to our English for Academic Purposes (EAP) program. Eligible international students can receive conditional admission to SDSU, and earn a TOEFL/IELTS waiver, without taking any SDSU credit-bearing courses.

Please visit sdsu.edu/upp for more information.

Student Life

At SDSU you are supported by a community who will help you explore new interests, find your passion, and prepare for personal and professional success. There are numerous ways to get involved in campus activities, while taking advantage of the Southern California lifestyle, including:

- **Aztec Nights:** Celebrate the start of each semester with a week of events, such as carnival rides, karaoke, trivia, and more!
- **On-Campus Concerts:** Make time to see your favorite band at Viejas Arena or the Cal Coast Credit Union Open Air Theatre on campus.
- **Mission Bay Aquatic Center:** Learn to surf, sail, and kayak at one of the world's largest instructional waterfront facilities, located on one of San Diego's famous beaches.

The International Student Association

Getting involved in the International Student Association (ISA) is a great way to enrich your experience at SDSU and make new friends.

Student Organizations

With more than 400 student organizations at SDSU, it is easy to find something that suits your interests.

Athletics and Recreation

SDSU students are admitted FREE to all regular season home Aztec athletic events with a valid SDSU RedID card, while supplies last. Share in the excitement of watching your fellow Aztecs play on one of our nationally ranked teams. And at SDSU, every student has the opportunity to train like an athlete in the Aztec Recreation Center (ARC). The ARC is a 134,000-square-foot fitness facility that offers group fitness classes, intramural sports leagues, climbing and bouldering walls, and more! Learn more at arc.sdsu.edu.





Contact Us

Office of International Admissions

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Connect Virtually

Join us during virtual office hours and events.

Meet with an Admissions Counselor

admissions.sdsu.edu/contact/international

Virtual Visits

sdsu.edu/virtualvisits

Virtual Tour

sdsu.edu/virtualtour

Social Media



@SDSUAdmissions



@SanDiegoStateUniversity

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WeChat ID: SDSU-intladmission

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Request Information

Sign up at
sdsu.edu/connect
to receive important
information about
SDSU and the
admission process.

