



SDSU | San Diego State
University

International Admissions Handbook

Fall 2027



Welcome to SDSU

Founded in 1897, San Diego State University is a public university in sunny Southern California. SDSU is one of the largest universities in the state, serving more than 40,000 students as part of the 22-campus California State University (CSU) system. With dedicated faculty who support innovation and discovery, SDSU is classified as an R1 institution by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education, placing it among the nation's top research universities.

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%

globally for education quality, alumni employment, faculty excellence and research performance in the Center for World University Ranking's 2025 Global 2000 list.

➤ R1

research status from the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education, placing SDSU among the top 5% of research universities in the United States.

➤ 40,110

students enrolled, including 35,283 undergraduates and 4,827 graduate students.

➤ No. 11

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

➤ 500,000+

living alumni, providing a strong network of mentors, internships and employment opportunities.

Location

Welcome to California's second-largest city. With breakthrough technology companies and leading 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 United States. San Diego is an industry leader in cleantech, cybersecurity, life sciences, manufacturing, software, tourism and more. The region also offers 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 annual high temperature — San Diego is known for its beautiful weather year-round.

➤ No. 6

safest large city in America (population 100,000+) according to MoneyGeek, 2026.

➤ No. 15

best big city to live in America, according to U.S. News & World Report, 2026.

How Close?

By car:

10 minutes Downtown
15 minutes Beaches
1 hour Mountains
1.5 hours 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 inspire intellectual growth and prepare students to thrive in a global society. All incoming students receive a four-year roadmap designed to provide a clear path 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:

Advertising

Africana Studies

American Indian Studies

Anthropology

Art**

- Applied Design*
- Art History
- Interactive Media and Graphic Design
- Interior Architecture*
- Painting and Printmaking*
- Sculpture*
- Studio Art

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
- Entrepreneurship
- Finance
- Financial Services
- General Business
- Human Resource Management
- 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*
- 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

Kinesiology

- Exercise Science (ADT only)*
- Fitness and Exercise Science*
- Prephysical Therapy*

Language, Culture and Society

Latin American Studies

Leadership Studies

LGBTQ+ Studies

Liberal Studies

- Education-Generalist (AA-T/TMC only)**^

Linguistics

Mathematics**

- Applied Mathematics*
- Computational Science*
- Discrete Mathematics and Computer Science
- Mathematical Data Science and Computer Science
- Mathematics and Computer Science
- Mathematics Education*
- Science*

Media Studies

Modern Jewish Studies

Music

- Music Education*

Philosophy

Physics

- Modern Optics*

Political Science

Psychology

- Industrial and Organizational Psychology*
- Neuroscience*

Public Administration

- City Planning*

Public Health

- Environmental Health

Public Relations

Recreation Administration

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

Religious Studies

Social Science**

Social Work

Sociology

Spanish**

Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences^

Statistics

- Actuarial Science*
- Data Science*

Sustainability

Television, Film and New Media

- Cinema 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

Writing and Rhetoric

* 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 your time to discover what inspires you, explore new possibilities and shape your future with the support of the SDSU community. You can begin working on your application on August 1 and submit it between October 1, 2026 and April 1, 2027 for fall (August) 2027 admission.

Application Deadlines

- **Early Consideration Deadline: November 30, 2026**

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

- **Regular Deadline: April 1, 2027**

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

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

- Not yet graduated high school but are on track to graduate with a high school diploma by spring 2027.
- 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 SDSU that includes your RedID number (your SDSU student identification number) and instructions on how to log in to my.SDSU.

Step 3: Submit Unofficial High School Transcripts/Grade Reports

For initial evaluation, submit unofficial transcripts or grade reports from all high schools attended in the original language. If the documents are not in English, they must be accompanied by certified English translations. 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 achieve one of the following:

- TOEFL iBT score of 4 or higher on an exam taken **after** January 21, 2026.
- IELTS overall score of 6.5 or higher.
- Duolingo English Test score of 105 or higher.
- Overall GPA of 3.00 or higher upon completion of the Level 8 course from SDSU's American Language Institute.
- Higher Level International Baccalaureate (IB) English Exam score of 4-7.
- Advanced Placement (AP) English Language and Composition or English Literature and Composition minimum score of 3.



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 and Fees	\$12,780*
Nonresident Tuition [†]	\$14,130
On-Campus Housing and Food [‡]	\$21,856**
Health Insurance	\$1,866
Books and Supplies	\$1,014
Transportation	\$1,216
Miscellaneous, Personal	\$2,566
TOTAL	\$55,428 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 \$471 per unit.

**The on-campus food and housing figures are averages based on meal plan and housing options chosen by actual students. Exact costs will vary based on your room type and meal plan selection.

[‡] 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 in 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.

➤ \$200+ million

in grant funding in 2024–25 for university research into critical issues like:

- Artificial intelligence
- Cancer treatments
- Climate resilience
- Disease prevention
- Mental health

➤ No. 12

best city in America in 2026, according to Resonance Consultancy, recognized for its balance of economic opportunity, culture and quality of life.

➤ Top 14

in the nation among public universities for entrepreneurship, U.S. News & World Report (2025).



Transportation

The SDSU Transit Center provides convenient access to bus and trolley routes connecting campus to destinations across the San Diego region, including the airport, train stations, beaches, shopping centers, downtown and many of the area's top 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, offered 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, you will begin earning credits toward your SDSU degree prior to matriculation. The UPP 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 UPP team will help you smoothly transition into life as a student in the United States and at SDSU.

If you would like to strengthen your academic English before enrolling in SDSU credit-bearing 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 artists at Viejas Arena or the Cal Coast Credit Union Open Air Theatre.
- **Mission Bay Aquatic Center:** Learn to surf, sail, kayak and more at one of the world's largest instructional waterfront facilities.

Career Services

Join the 87% of SDSU students who participate in work experiences before earning their degree. Through personalized advising, workshops and networking opportunities, you'll gain the tools needed for a successful career launch.

Student Organizations

With more than 400 student organizations and clubs 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. 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 walls and more! Learn more at arc.sdsu.edu.





Contact Us

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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

Request Information

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



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