CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
LONG BEACH

Education Abroad
Center for International Education
California State University, Long Beach
6300 E State University Drive Suite 185
Long Beach CA, 90815
Email: inboundexchange@csulb.edu
Inbound Exchange Website

GUIDE FOR INCOMING EXCHANGE STUDENTS

APPLYING TO THE CSULB INBOUND EXCHANGE PROGRAM

In order to apply to CSULB's Inbound Exchange Program, you ***must*** first be nominated by the exchange coordinator at your home university. If your nomination is accepted by our university for our Inbound Exchange Program, you will receive an e-mail with a link to our online application from our office. Please read through the instructions on this handout. This will help you once you have started your application.

Link to the online application

- You will receive your own personal link to the online application.
- The link is personalized for your own usage only. It cannot be shared with others.
- You can stop and continue your online application at any time.
- The link will become invalid when the application deadline passes, or when our team closes the application portal.

Questionnaire and Documents: You are required to fill out all the questions and submit all documents in PDF format.

- **Financial Documents**
  - **Statement of Financial Obligation**
    - Click here to download the form
    - Please fill out the form and upload the form onto your online application
  - **Proof of Finances**
    - Provide proof of $10,727 USD for one semester or $21,454 USD for two semesters. You may use a combination of government aid, loans, scholarships, your own bank statement, and/or your parent's or legal guardian's bank statement to provide proof of financial support if need be.
    - Bank holder's name and available amount needs to be written in English.
    - Credit or investment accounts will not be accepted. We only accept liquid accounts such as savings, checking, or an official student loan offer letter.
    - Document must have a recent issued date on it (within the last 4 months)
    - You may block or erase the account number on the document.
- **Class Selection Instructions and Agreement Form**
  - Click here to download the form
  - Once approved and signed by your study abroad advisor at your home university, then upload the form onto your online application

- **CSULB Exchange Student Agreement**
  - Click here to download the form
  - Electronic signatures are acceptable
- **Academic Transcripts & Current Semester Schedule**
  - Combined both documents and title it as Academic Transcript & Current Semester Schedule.
  - If you are a graduate student, combine your bachelor's and master's degree transcript into one PDF along with your current semester schedule.
  - If you are not currently enrolled at your home university then provide a written statement informing our office of that, along with your academic transcript.
  - Must be in English and include your name.
- **Passport Requirement**
  - Your passport must be valid for at least 6 months after your intended stay at our university.
  - If your passport is expired or is expiring, upload your current passport anyway. Once you receive your new passport, you can email our office a copy and we will update your application for you.

Finalizing Your Application

- Once you have submitted each questionnaire, we will have access to your entire application and will be able to review it.
- We will notify you via e-mail if we have any questions regarding your application.
- When you are accepted to our university, your application status will be changed to "Accepted."
- Once admitted you will be emailed instructions on how to activate your Beach ID.
- Please understand that admission for all our exchange students is not automatic. It will take time to process all students.

IMPORTANT DATES

Fall 2025		Spring 2026	
Suggested Arrival Period	August 17 – 20, 2025	Suggested Arrival Period	January 12-14, 2026
Orientation (date is subject to change)	August 20, 2025	Orientation (date is subject to change)	January 15, 2026
First Day of Classes	August 25, 2025	First Day of Classes	January 20, 2026
Final Examinations	December 12 to 18, 2025	Final Examinations	May 11- May 16, 2026
Last Date of Semester	December 24, 2025	Last Date of Semester	May 22, 2026
Holidays Labor Day: September 1, 2025 Veterans Day: November 11, 2025 Fall break: November 24-26, 2025 (no classes, campus open) Thanksgiving: November 27- November 30, 2025		Holidays Spring Recess (no classes, campus open except March 31): March 30 to April 5 Cesar Chavez Day (campus closed): March 31, 2026	

ACTIVATING YOUR BEACH ID

Once you are accepted and admitted to our university, our Inbound Team will email you instructions on how to activate your Beach ID. If you have trouble activating your account, please contact the IT help desk.

ACADEMICS

Class Selection: You can find all class (module) descriptions in the CSULB Catalog listed by subject. The Schedule of Classes will indicate which classes are being offered each semester so you can be sure to select options that are available for that semester.

- Schedule of Classes
- CSULB Course Catalog

Undergraduate students must be enrolled in a minimum of 12 credits and maximum of 18 credits.
Graduate students must be enrolled in a minimum of 8 credits to maintain their visa status. Graduate students who decide to enroll in undergraduate classes will be expected to complete 12 units per semester. Most classes are worth 3 credits, however, some may vary. You should pay close attention to any pre-requisites that are required for the class.

Registration: You can enroll in some courses on your own, but there are some classes where our staff will have to initiate the enrollment process with each major department on campus. It is important to note that **class requests are not guaranteed**. If you see classes/modules in your online schedule **DO NOT CHANGE THEM** until you speak with an advisor. It is always our goal to finalize enrollment prior to your arrival. However, due to this specialized process some schedules are finalized during the first 1-2 weeks on campus. While it is not suggested, you will have an opportunity to make changes to your schedules during the first two weeks of class if necessary. If you are staying with our university for two semesters, we will inform you of your registration date for the following semester.

Grading: Each class will receive a separate grade mark (A, B, C, D, or F). Grades of A, B, and C are considered passing while D and F are considered below average and failing. Each of these marks are then averaged based on the number of credits assigned in what we call a Grade Point Average (GPA). For example, a 1 credit class will not affect the average as much as a 3 credit class. At the end of each term, the grade points earned are divided by the credits taken per class to determine the student's GPA. **Students must maintain a 2.0 GPA or C average to remain in the program.**

Transcripts: One original transcript will be sent free of charge to your home university. This usually happens within one month after the end of the semester after all grades are posted. You can request additional copies at a cost from Enrollment Services.

ACCOMMODATION

On-Campus: If you are interested in on-campus housing, **apply as soon as you activate your Beach ID** (you cannot apply until it has been activated). Please understand that placement in on-campus housing is not guaranteed. The sooner you apply, the better your chances of being placed. If you are placed on a housing waitlist, we recommend that you look into off-campus housing options so that you have a back-up option if necessary.

Fall semester students should be aware that the housing office only issues yearlong contracts. Therefore, students will be required to sign a contract for the entire academic year and then obtain a letter from our office at the end of the term to receive approval to end the contract early. Spring placements are based on available space or departures, which varies greatly each semester.
On-Campus Housing Application: The application process for housing is completed online at this link: https://www.csulb.edu/student-affairs/university-housing-residential-life/incoming-students/apply-for-housing

You must have a CSULB student ID number and password to complete the application, which will be assigned upon acceptance into the program. Fall/Academic year application period is mid-March to early-May. We recommend that you complete your application on time to increase the chances of placement. Late applicants

may be placed on a waiting list. You can make payments online through our web portal's secure payment system, complete a wire transfer, or send in a cashier's check. Money Orders are not accepted.

NOTE: CSULB Housing costs do not include winter, spring break, summer, or fall break. Housing during the fall/spring break is approximately $200, and $400 during the winter break.

If you are not placed in on-campus accommodation by the time you arrive at our university, you will have to find temporary housing until you find a more permanent place. Please refer to the ***temporary housing options*** listed below:

- Motel 6
- Hotel Current
- Best Western
- Holiday Inn
- Residence Inn- Marriott

Off-Campus: Students that are seeking a more independent experience may want to explore off-campus housing options as they provide more flexibility and privacy. In many cases, off-campus housing in Long Beach can be more affordable than on-campus dormitories. The campus is in a central location and many of the buses connecting to other parts of Long Beach, even other cities, run through or near the campus, which makes living on or off campus equally convenient. All students can obtain a bus pass called a 'Tap Card' at a reasonable cost for local transportation within the city.

We recommend that you search for and arrange this housing as early as possible after receiving your official admission letter. Some students select to arrange temporary housing upon arrival to give them time to find and confirm housing.

When looking for off-campus options, please refer to the apartments our exchange students frequently use:

- Beverly Plaza Apartments
- Park Avenue Apartments
- Elizabeth Manor
- Pacific View Apartments

The following homestay options are NOT affiliated with CSULB

- Homestay of Long Beach
- Universal Student Housing

VISA DOCUMENTS

Exchange students must apply for the J-1 visa. It is important to note that all exchange students must comply with their student visa regulations in order to remain active in their exchange program. This includes but is not limited to, maintaining the 2.0 GPA requirement, preventing any disciplinary action, and maintaining full-time enrollment for the duration of study.

We receive many requests for students to extend their stay at CSULB for an additional semester. If this is permitted by both CSULB and the student's home university, it is important to note that in order to extend your J-1 visa you will need to return to your home country to apply for an extension. Therefore, at the beginning of the application process you are encouraged to apply for the longest period of exchange you are interested in to prevent the need for an unnecessary trip home to extend your visa.
Information about the visa application process can be found at this link: http://j1visa.state.gov/participants/

HEALTH INSURANCE & IMMUNIZATIONS

Health Insurance: All students must purchase the JCB Health Insurance Policy. The policy averages $570 - $700 USD each semester. No exceptions or waivers to this coverage are allowed. Directions for enrollment will be sent to you by email after you are admitted into the exchange program.

Required Immunizations: All exchange students will be asked to provide proof of the required immunizations, which are listed below.

Required Immunization	Required Documentation
Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR)	All incoming students born after 1956. 2 doses on or after 1st birthday
Meningococcal Conjugate (Serogroups A,C,Y & W-135) (MenACWY)	All incoming students through 21 years of age. 1 dose on or after the 16th birthday
Hepatitis B	First-time enrollees at California State University campuses 18 years of age and younger. Full Immunization series
Tuberculosis (TB) risk questionnaire	All incoming students must complete a Tuberculosis (TB) risk questionnaire. Incoming students who are at higher risk for TB infection should undergo either skin or blood testing for TB infection within 1 year of entry into CSULB

Additional Vaccination for Students Living in Housing (on-campus):

Required Immunization	Required Documentation
Varicella (Chicken Pox)	All incoming students born in U.S. after 1979. 2 doses on or after 1st birthday
Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis (Tdap)	1 dose on or after the 7th birthday.
Meningococcal Serogroup B Vaccine	All incoming Housing Students. 2 dose series (Bexsero) 2 or 3 dose series (Trumenba)

If you are missing a required immunization or are unsure about its status, it is recommended you get these vaccinations in your home country, as it can be quite expensive to get them after your arrival.

ARRIVAL

Please consider the following information regarding transportation from the airport and directions to our campus.

California State University, Long Beach
6300 E State University Drive Suite 185
Long Beach, CA 90815

You can arrive in Long Beach, California from one of the local airports: Los Angeles International Airport (LAX), John Wayne Airport (SNA), or Long Beach Airport (LGB).

CSULB does not offer transportation from the airport to your destination or campus. Here are some transportation options you may consider:

1. Super Shuttle
2. Prime Shuttle
3. Shuttle2 LAX (this company shuttles to and from LAX)
4. You may also use a taxi, however, taxi fare from LAX to campus could run anywhere from $40-60 and shuttles are generally much less expensive.
5. Ride Apps such as Uber or Lyft

ORIENTATION AND IMMIGRATION CHECK-IN

There will be a mandatory orientation program (usually the week before classes begin).

All newly admitted exchange students must complete the Online Immigration Check-In to meet J-1 reporting requirements. Exchange students who fail to complete the Online Check-in may be dis-enrolled from classes. Students must submit the following documents:

- Copy of original DS2019 form signed by the U.S. consulate
- Copy of J-1 Visa
- Copy of most recent entry date stamp or I-94 record

HELPFUL LINKS

Mandatory Health Insurance: https://jcbins.com/

CSULB Catalog: http://web.csulb.edu/divisions/aa/catalog/current/index.html

Schedule of Classes: http://web.csulb.edu/depts/enrollment/registration/class_schedule/

Housing Information: https://www.cpie.csulb.edu/international/international-students---scholars-services/newly-admitted-students#/housing

On-Campus Housing Application: https://www.csulb.edu/student-affairs/university-housing-residential-life/incoming-students/apply-for-housing