DIVISION of INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

San Francisco State University
2026/2027 Exchange Fact Sheet

Contact Information

University Website:	https://www.sfsu.edu/
Division of International Education Website:	https://international.sfsu.edu/
J-1 Exchange Website:	https://international.sfsu.edu/prospective-exchange
Mailing Address:	Division of International Education Village at Centennial Square, Building C San Francisco, CA 94132
Phone Number:	+1-415-338-1293
Inbound Exchange Email:	exchange@sfsu.edu
Outbound Exchange Email:	studyabroad@sfsu.edu

Primary Contact Persons for Incoming Students

Dr. Alaric Trousdale	Exchange Student & Scholar Lead Officer and ARO	alarictrousdale@sfsu.edu
Ashley Burch, MS	Exchange Student Advisor and ARO	aburch@sfsu.edu

Primary Contact Persons for Outgoing Students

Dr. Janelle Waldrep	Lead Study Abroad Officer	waldrep@sfsu.edu
Mark Belocura, MBA	Study Abroad Coordinator	mbelocur@sfsu.edu

Division of International Education Administration

Dr. Marilyn Jackson	Assistant Vice President	mjackson@sfsu.edu

Calendar

2026-2027 Academic Year	Fall 2026	Spring 2027
Orientation	**Tuesday, August 18, 2026**	**TBD**
First Day of Instruction	**Monday, August 24, 2026**	**TBD**
Final Exam Week	**December 14-18, 2026**	**TBD**
Exchange Application	**Fall 2026**	**Spring 2027**
Nomination Deadline	**March 25, 2026**	**September 24, 2026**
Application Deadline	**April 1, 2026**	**October 1, 2026**

Application Process

Nomination	• Partners will receive an email with a Google form to nominate their students. The email will also have the application instructions for the nominated student which we rely on our partners to provide to their students. • After our partners provide the application instructions to their nominated student, the student will create an account on the application website, upload all necessary documents and submit their application for the exchange staff to review.

Application	**Documents Needed**
	• Personal Essay (250-500 words)
	• Course Proposal
	• Official Transcripts
	• Proof of English Proficiency
	  ◦ Accepted documents: iBT 61, IELTS 6.0, TOEFL 500, TOEFL Essentials 7.5 or faculty/staff recommendation
	• Proof of Adequate Funding
	  ◦ Accepted documents: Bank statements in the students name, scholarship/financial aid award and sponsor letters
	• Copy of valid passport

Acceptance Notification	Students will receive notification via email as follows: • **Fall semester/Academic Year**: Mid to late April • **Spring semester/Calendar Year**: Mid to late October

Financials

Proof of Funding

As per immigration requirements, exchange students on J-1 visas are not eligible for federal financial aid from the U.S. government. As part of the exchange program application, prospective exchange students must demonstrate adequate financial resources to support their living expenses for the duration of their studies The amount of proven funding must meet or exceed the totals indicated in the Expenses chart below.

Please find the upcoming academic semester costs below. All amounts are estimates in USD based on the SF State Bursar's Office recommendations and other sources.

Estimated Expenses

2026-2027	Semester	Academic Year
Books & Supplies	**$550**	**$1,100**
Housing & Meals	**$11,133**	**$22,266**
Transportation & Personal Expenses	**$2,367**	**$4,734**
Health Insurance	**$1,000**	**$2,000**
Total	**$15,050**	**$30,100**

In order to be accepted into the SFSU Exchange Program, students must show financial proof of **$15,000** if they are here for only **ONE semester.**
If students are here for the **Academic Year**, they must show proof of **$30,000.**

Health Insurance

As per J-1 immigration regulations and CSU policy, all exchange students on J-1 visas and J-2 dependents must maintain health insurance coverage for the duration of their program as indicated on the Form DS-2019. They must purchase the health insurance plan specified by SF State health prior to entering the United States. **No other insurance coverage will be accepted.**
In the United States, healthcare is not a public service. Therefore, the cost of healthcare is generally much higher than in countries that have a national healthcare system. Health insurance protects students financially, particularly when it comes to unexpected illnesses and injuries that lead to expensive medical bills.

Students are provided instructions for purchasing health insurance upon acceptance into the exchange program. Details for the current student health insurance plan can be found on the United Healthcare website.

Housing

On-Campus Housing
Beginning Fall 2025, exchange students will be guaranteed on campus housing as long as they apply by the deadline. Students interested in on-campus housing must submit their application directly to the university's Housing Office by the specified deadline. Students may not apply for on-campus housing until they have been accepted into the exchange program and received their Student ID Number. If students do not apply by the deadline, on campus housing may not be guaranteed.

Off-Campus Housing
Most exchange students live off campus and make their long-term housing arrangements after arriving in San Francisco. Looking for housing in a new country can be intimidating, but additional housing resources are provided in the Pre-Arrival Orientation module. Due to San Francisco's high cost of living, most students choose to live with housemates and/or roommates.

Temporary Housing
To avoid housing scams or uncomfortable living situations, the Division of International Education recommends that students commit to an off-campus housing arrangement only after arriving in San Francisco. Waiting until arrival allows the student to visit the property in person prior to signing a contract or paying any money to a landlord. Waiting also allows the student to become familiar with neighborhoods, connect with potential roommates, and assess average rental prices prior to making accommodation commitments. To accomplish this, the Division of International Education recommends that students arrange temporary housing (1-2 weeks) prior to arriving in San Francisco. This ensures that they have a place to stay while they look for a more permanent living situation. San Francisco offers many temporary housing options, including hostels, hotels, and short-term apartment/room rentals such as those available on Airbnb and VRBO.

Arrival Information

Arriving in San Francisco	• Student are advised to arrive at San Francisco International Airport (SFO). • The DoIE does not provide airport pickup service for exchange students. • DoIE recommends students use the SFO website after arrival to connect to wifi and get a taxi or rideshare to their accommodations.

Academic Information

Course Descriptions	• Course descriptions can be found in the Course Index. • Please keep in mind that not all courses are offered each semester.
Syllabi	• In general, syllabi are not available online prior to the first day of class. • We kindly request that you advise students not to contact our office, departments, or professors to obtain syllabi prior to the start of classes.
Class Schedule	• Once posted, course availability for upcoming semesters can be found on the Class Schedule. The class schedule for a given semester will become available several months before the start of the semester. • Schedule release dates may be found on the Academic Calendar. • We understand that some institutions ask students to plan their schedules 6 months or a year in advance. Due to the short notice nature of SF State's schedule announcement process, we ask advisors and students to be flexible when planning their classes.
Attendance Policy	• Most classes meet "MWF" (Monday, Wednesday, and Friday) or "TTH" (Tuesday and Thursday). • Students must attend class each day, as new content will be covered in each class.
Class Formats	Exchange student may take 1 online course while all other courses must be in person or hybrid. • **In-Person:** Instruction takes place in a classroom. • **Online Asynchronous:** Instruction takes place online and may be accessed at any time. • **Online Synchronous:** Instruction takes place online at a specific time. • **Online Bichronous:** A combination of Asynchronous and Synchronous instruction. • **Hybrid:** A combination of online and in-person instruction.
Grading	Visit Grading Policy and Systems for additional information.
Transcripts	• In general, official transcripts do not become available until several weeks after the last day of the semester. • Once transcripts are available, the Division of International Education requests them from the SF State Registrar. • It takes an additional two weeks after the request is made for DoIE to receive, sort, and ship transcripts. DoIE is unable to expedite this process.

Program Advising

Field of Study	• SF State exchange students enter the United States on a J-1 visa as part of the Exchange Visitor Program. • Students' home universities nominate them to pursue a specific field of study, which will be indicated on the students' DS-2019 immigration document. The field of study need not match the student's major at their home university. • However, the student should possess adequate knowledge to succeed in classes in that field. • In addition to courses in their field of study, students may take non-restricted courses in other disciplines, provided the student meets course requirements.
Restricted Departments/ Programs/ Majors	The following departments, programs, and majors are currently unavailable to exchange students, unless previously agreed upon with the partner university: •American Language Institute •Business (all concentrations) •College of Professional & Global Education •Computer Science / Computer Engineering •Design (Fashion Design and Merchandising, Interior Design, Industrial/Product Design, Visual Communication Design) •Kinesiology - Exercise and Movement Sciences •Music and Dance (individually taught courses) •Nursing (BSN) and Pre-Nursing •Psychology •School of Education •Social Work
Academic Expectations	• As per J-1 visa requirements, all exchange students must enroll as full-time students. Full-time is defined as 12 units of course work each semester. Students should attend class, submit assignments, and maintain satisfactory academic performance. • Satisfactory performance is defined as a "C" average, (2.0 GPA or 72% overall average). • If students experience academic difficulty or health concerns, please encourage them to contact DoIE. We can connect students with academic as well as physical and mental health support.
Graduate Classes	• Unless previously agreed upon with the partner university, all exchange students are classified as undergraduate students at SF State regardless of their status at their home universities. • Exchange students may not enroll in graduate courses (level 700 and above).

International Education Exchange Council (IEEC)

The International Education Exchange Council (IEEC) is a student-run service organization that supports international students and study abroad students at San Francisco State University.

IEEC hosts hundreds of annual events, offers language exchange opportunities, and promotes study abroad and intercultural sharing.

As part of the SF State exchange program, students contribute to campus internationalization through participation in one of the following IEEC commitments listed below. *

Commitment Options

- **Officer:** Gain leadership experience serving on one of the following committees: Executive, Events, Creative, Finance, Marketing, others as needed.
- **Country Ambassador:** Promote study abroad on campus through weekly tabling, handing out flyers, promoting their Home University at the Study Abroad Fair.
- **Language Exchange:** Assist SF State students who are interested in learning the exchange student's native language(s).
- **Flyering** Provide resources for future students by posting flyers around campus to promote IEEC and Study Abroad.
- **Blogging:** Student share their experience, insight and culture.

*Commitment options vary semester to semester.