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# International Booklet



# International Student Booklet

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## Introduction

### *Welcome to Westcliff University!*

Westcliff University values the important role that international students and scholars play in enriching the life of the university. With students coming from all over the world, the International Affairs Department is committed to providing quality advising services and student support for our international students throughout the duration of their program at our university and in the United States.

As a part of the student services that Westcliff University offers, the International Affairs Department has put together a short handbook on how to get acclimated to life in the U.S.

We encourage you to utilize this handbook to help you navigate through your new journey in a new country during your educational period at Westcliff University.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the International Affairs Department at [intlservices@westcliff.edu](mailto:intlservices@westcliff.edu).

Here is some additional contact information:

Heidi Nam (Senior International Student Advisor)  
[heidinam@westcliff.edu](mailto:heidinam@westcliff.edu)

Josh Schoonover (International Student Advisor)  
[joshschoonover@westcliff.edu](mailto:joshschoonover@westcliff.edu)

You can also schedule an on-campus or phone consultation with an International Student Representative by selecting an appointment. Again, we invite you to contact our office at any time and we'll be sure to provide you with a prompt and thorough response.

Best of luck to you on your new journey!

Warmest Regards,  
*International Affairs Department*



## Things to Prepare Before the U.S.

Moving to a new country is a big step! But, with the right preparation, you will be ready to start your life in the United States on the right footing.

Before you embark on your journey, here are a couple of important questions to ask yourself before you make your way here.

- ✓ Do I have all the required travel documents to come to the U.S.?
- ✓ Do I have an airport pick up service ready when I arrive?
- ✓ Do I have homestay/housing in the U.S.?
- ✓ Have I contacted my Admissions Representative or International Affairs Department about my arrival?
- ✓ How am I going to use U.S. transportation to go to the university?

Once you have asked yourself important questions like these, your next step is to start going down the list and taking care of each part.

If you don't know where to start, always ask questions! Westcliff University is here to help!

You can ask your Admissions Representative [admissionsstaff@westcliff.edu](mailto:admissionsstaff@westcliff.edu) or the International Affairs Department [intlservices@westcliff.edu](mailto:intlservices@westcliff.edu)!

We can help you find the right information you need to be prepared before you come to the United States.

## Required Travel Documents

Before you travel to the United States, make sure you have all of your important travel documents on hand such as:

- ✓ Original copy of I-20 or DS-2019
- ✓ Valid Passport
- ✓ Valid F-1 Student Visa
- ✓ University Acceptance Letter
- ✓ Receipt of SEVIS I-901 fee
- ✓ Financial documents
- ✓ Other documents:
  - Health & immunization records
  - Transcripts
  - Degrees, diplomas, certificates

## Airport Pick Up Services

There are several options that you can look at for an airport pick up service.

- Airport Shuttle/Shared Van
- Taxi
- Mobile Online Transportation
- Relative/Friend
- Informal Student Pick Up

### **Fares/Prices**

Please note that fares will vary depending on your destination.

If your destination in the U.S. is close to your arrival airport, there are transportation options from the airport that you can take at a lower cost.

If your destination is about an hour away, taxis & private mobile transportation devices can range from \$60 to \$120.

If your destination is more than one hour away, you are recommended to look into long distance buses, trains, etc. Please refer to the resources listed on pg. 15.

### **Local Airport Websites**

Local airport websites will also include information on airport pick up services that are unique to that airport location. Don't be afraid to ask the information desk at the airport!

#### **Los Angeles Airport (LAX)**

<http://www.lawa.org>

#### **Long Beach Airport (LGB)**

<http://www.lgb.org/>

#### **Santa Ana Airport (SNA)**

<http://www.ocair.com/>

#### **San Diego Airport**

<http://www.san.org/>



## Airport Shuttle/Shared Van

If you don't mind sharing a shuttle van with other passengers for a cheap ride to & from the airport, this is a great option to choose!

- **Shuttle2LAX**

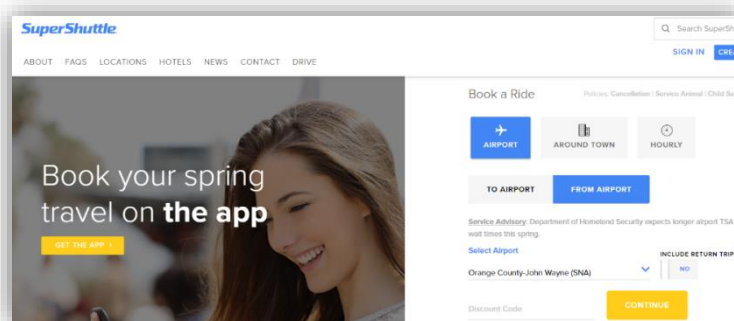
<http://shuttletolax.com/>



*\*Note: This shuttle only operates to and from Los Angeles Airport (LAX)*

- **SuperShuttle**

<https://www.supershuttle.com>



*\*Please note that prices will vary by location.*

## Taxi

If you don't mind paying a little extra money for privacy and extra leg room, getting a taxi can be the option for you!

- **Yellow Cab Co**



<http://www.yellowcab.com>



## *Mobile Online Transportation*

With one touch of your smartphone, you can easily find transportation that will locate where you are and take you where you need to go! You get privacy, extra leg room, and pay a decent price!

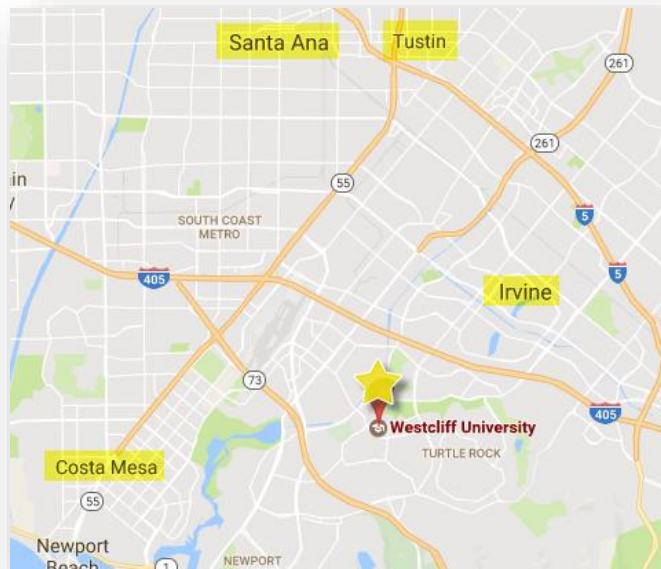
Note: You will need to have a credit card in order to use this application.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b>Lyft</b> <a href="https://www.lyft.com/">https://www.lyft.com/</a></li></ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b>Lyft Fare Calculator</b> <a href="http://www.lyftcalculator.com/">http://www.lyftcalculator.com/</a></li></ul> <p>If you want to find out how much your Lyft ride will cost, go to this site!</p>
 <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b>Uber</b> <a href="https://www.uber.com">https://www.uber.com</a></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b>Uber Fare Calculator</b> <a href="https://www.uber.com/fare-estimate/">https://www.uber.com/fare-estimate/</a></li></ul> <p>If you want to find out how much your Uber ride will cost, you can find out through this site.</p>

## Nearby Hotels & Motels

Emergency situations can come up and things may not go your way. This is when a list of nearby hotels & motels will come in handy.

Here is a list of hotels & motels that are near the Irvine campus.



### Useful hotel websites:

[www.trivago.com](http://www.trivago.com)

[www.hotels.com](http://www.hotels.com)

### Costa Mesa

#### **Costa Mesa/Newport Beach Hacienda Travelodge**

From \$64/night

1951 Newport Blvd, Costa Mesa, CA, 92627 United States, 866-538-6252

#### **Days Inn Costa Mesa/ Newport Beach**

From \$59/night

2100 Newport Blvd, Costa Mesa, CA, 92627 United States, 866-925-4159

#### **Travelodge Orange County Airport**

From \$67/night

1400 Bristol Street, Suite A, Costa Mesa, CA, 92707 United States, 866-538-9298





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### **Motel 6**

From \$60/night

1441 Gisler Ave, Costa Mesa, CA, 92626 United States, 866- 925-8676

### **Vagabond Inn Costa Mesa**

From \$63/night

3205 Harbor Blvd, Costa Mesa, CA, 92626 United States, 866-925-4159

### **La Quinta Inn John Wayne/ Orange County Airport**

From \$65/night

1515 S Coast Dr, Costa Mesa, CA, 92626 United States

### *Irvine*

#### **Courtyard by Marriot John Wayne Airport/Orange County**

From \$87/night

2701 Main St, Irvine, CA, 92614 United States, 866-539- 9234

#### **Candlewood Suites Irvine**

From \$99/night

16150 Sand Canyon Ave, Irvine, CA, 92618 United States, 866-573-4235

#### **Atrium Hotel at Orange County Airport**

From \$89/night

18700 Macarthur Blvd, Irvine, CA, 92612 United States, 866- 538-0251

#### **Candlewood Suites Irvine East**

From \$98/night

3 S Pointe Dr, Lake Forest, CA, 92630 United States, 866- 538-9298

### *Tustin*

#### **Fairfield Inn & Suites Tustin Orange County**

From \$99/night

15011 Newport Ave, Tustin, CA, 92780 United States, 866- 582-3258

#### **Key Inn & Suites**

From \$60/night

1611 El Camino Real, Tustin, CA, 92780 United States, 866- 573-4235

#### **Tustin Motor Lodge**

From \$59/night

750 El Camino Real, Tustin, CA, 92780 United States, 866- 925-8676



**Santa Ana**

**Motel 6 Santa Ana**

From \$56/night

1623 East 1st Street, I-5/ Santa Ana Freeway at 1st St., Santa Ana, CA, 92701 United States, 866-538-0251

**Motel 6 Irvine- Orange County Airport**

From \$70/night

1717 East Dyer Road, Santa Ana, CA, 92705 United States, 866-538-6252

**CW Suites Hotel John Wayne Airport**

From \$89/night

2701 Hotel Terrace, Santa Ana, CA, 92705 United States, 866-539-9234

If you have any more questions or would like to request for more information, please do not hesitate to contact us through email or by phone. You can also schedule a one-on-one appointment with the International Affairs Department.

## Homestay/Housing Options

If you would like to find out more details about our homestay and housing options, please email the International Affairs Department at [intlservices@westcliff.edu](mailto:intlservices@westcliff.edu).

### *Homestay Option*

*Homestays are when students stay at the home of an American host family living near the university campus. The rooms are fully furnished and utility bills are included. You typically have the option to add a meal plan and an airport pick up service.*

<b>Homestay</b>	<b>Contact Information</b>	<b>Benefits</b>
<b>StudentLink International</b>	(424) 250 - 0775 <a href="http://www.istudentlink.com/">http://www.istudentlink.com/</a>	<p><b>Standard: \$700 (w/o meals)/ \$850 (meals)</b>  <b>Premium: \$800 (w/o meals)/ \$940 (meals)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Homestay options (Standard, Premium, Deluxe)</li> <li>• Low monthly rate</li> <li>• Comprehensive Student Services (Driver's License, Bank Account, Car Insurance, Airport Service)</li> <li>• Online application</li> <li>• Convenient access to and from school</li> <li>• Option for airport pick up service</li> </ul> <p><u>Fees:</u>            One Time Registration Fee \$225            Security Deposit (Refundable) \$175            Housing Fee (Given Later)</p>
<b>Student International Housing Inc.</b>	<a href="http://studentinternationalhousing.com/">http://studentinternationalhousing.com/</a> <a href="mailto:sihousing3@gmail.com">sihousing3@gmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:YThomestay2000@yahoo.co.jp">YThomestay2000@yahoo.co.jp</a>	<p><b>\$800 (w/o meals)</b>  <b>\$900 (w/ meals)</b></p> <p><u>Includes:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Private Room</li> <li>• If you choose the meal plan, it includes a self-prepared continental breakfast and dinner by host.                *Prices will vary w/ specific food preference</li> <li>• Utilities and WiFi</li> </ul> <p>Bus stops in walking distance            Walking distance from school (Peterson, Campus Drive – app.4 miles)</p> <p>Orientation for assimilation and acculturation</p> <p><u>Fees:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• \$200 Placement fee</li> <li>• \$250 Refundable Security</li> </ul>



## Housing Option

Housing allows you to be more independent and quickly immerse yourself into your surroundings. The option that we provide has furnishing and utility bills included.

Housing	Contact Information	Benefits
<b>Kapi Residences</b>	949-565-5693 949-565-6593 <a href="mailto:info@kapiresidences.com">info@kapiresidences.com</a>	<b>Shared Room: \$850-900</b> <b>Private: 1299-1699</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Fully furnished apartments</li> <li>•Utilities &amp; Wi-fi</li> <li>•Monthly housecleaning</li> <li>•Irvine, Newport Beach, Los Angeles, Long Beach</li> </ul>
<b>University Town Center</b>	949-854-2417 Jennifer Zaremba <a href="mailto:jzaremba@irvinecompany.com">jzaremba@irvinecompany.com</a>	<b>Studio: \$1800-1950</b> <b>1 Bed: \$2000-2150</b> <b>2 Bed/1Bath: \$2650 2 Bed/2 Baths: \$2700-2900</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Irvine, CA (5-15 min from the Irvine campus)</li> <li>•Can share with 3-5 people</li> <li>•12-month lease</li> </ul> <p>Required documents: Credit &amp; Rental Check</p>
<b>Harbor Village</b>	714-545-0442 <a href="mailto:info@harborvillage-aps.com">info@harborvillage-aps.com</a>	<b>\$900/4 weeks (normal price \$975/4 weeks)</b>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Costa Mesa, CA (20 min from Irvine campus)</li> <li>• Can share up to 2 people per bedroom</li> <li>• Utilities and WiFi</li> <li>• Month-by-month leasing</li> </ul> <p>Required documents: I-20, passport, proof of income (can be from sponsor)</p>

## Room/ Roommate Finding Sites

Websites	Contact Information	Benefits
<b>Easy Roommate</b>	<a href="http://www.easyroommate.com/">http://www.easyroommate.com/</a>	An easy way to find a roommate or room for rent
<b>U Loop</b>	<a href="http://irvine-ca.uloop.com/">http://irvine-ca.uloop.com/</a> <a href="http://irvine-ca.uloop.com/housing">http://irvine-ca.uloop.com/housing</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online network of news websites and classifieds</li> <li>• College student housing</li> <li>• Customize your search for housing</li> <li>• Options for apartments &amp; houses, roommates, sublets, storage, and moving</li> </ul>

## Getting a Mobile Phone

Mobile phones are increasingly necessary for international students to communicate, explore, travel, and otherwise get adjusted to their surroundings. Although many students may be familiar with cell phone carriers in their home country, cell phone providers and plans in the United States may function differently.

The most typical mobile phone options in the U.S. are 2-year contracts, pre-paid plans, and purchasing a SIM card.

### *2-Year Contracts*

These are the most common cell phone plans in the U.S. Cell phone providers offer low monthly rates for customers that choose these plans. If you are purchasing a new phone at the same time, the phone cost can often be built into the monthly rate if you do not want to pay the full amount upfront. However, terminating a contract early may result in a large penalty fee.

\*Note: Most providers in the U.S. require either a Social Security Number (SSN) or a security deposit (roughly ranging from \$00-\$500).

Benefits:

- Low monthly rates
- Low prices on new phones

### *Prepaid Plans*

These are often an easier option for international students because they do not require a Social Security Number (SSN) and/or a credit check. Prepaid plans also give you the flexibility to pick plans that allow you to pay by the month, day or minute without the worry of ending a contract early for a large fee.

Benefits:

- Does not require SSN and/or credit check.
- No contract/deposit
- No early-termination penalty fee

### *SIM Cards*

For students that already have a phone, and are planning on using it in the U.S., SIM cards are a great option. However, before doing so you will need to make sure that your mobile phone (mainly GSM & CDMA) is unlocked so that it can be used by another cell phone provider. You will then need to set up a monthly payment plan.

Benefits:

- No contract
- Secure you data & preferences
- Portable



**Local Mobile Phone Providers/Carriers:**

**T-Mobile**

[www.t-mobile.com](http://www.t-mobile.com)

University Town Center  
4237 Campus Drive Suite B158  
Irvine, CA 92612-2758  
949-509-7413

**T-Mobile**

Culver & Alton  
3995 Alton Pkwy Suite B,  
Irvine, CA 92606  
949-251-1576

**Verizon Wireless**

[www.verizonwireless.com](http://www.verizonwireless.com)

Park Place  
2981 Michelson Dr  
Irvine, CA 92612  
(949) 756-3515

**Verizon Wireless**

Jamboree  
3601 Jamboree Rd, Newport  
Beach, CA 92660  
(949) 222-0991

**AT&T**

[www.att.com](http://www.att.com)

Harvard (Harvard Place Auto Plaza)  
17675 Harvard Ave Ste B,  
Irvine, CA 92614  
(949) 622-8240

**AT&T**

Campus  
4678 Campus Drive, Ste.C,D,E  
Newport Beach, CA 92660  
(949) 553-9861

**Sprint**

[www.sprint.com](http://www.sprint.com)

Crossroads  
3992 Barranca Pkwy, Irvine,  
CA 92606  
(949) 654-8000

**Sprint**

Tustin (The District)  
2871 Park Ave  
Tustin, CA 92782  
(714) 247-2200

**SIM Card Provider:**

**J1 SIM**

[www.j1simcards.com](http://www.j1simcards.com)

J1 SIM Card is a wireless solution designed specifically and exclusively for travelers on a VISA.

- Free SIM Card ▶ Just ask the International Affairs Department!

\$25/month	\$45/month
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unlimited Nationwide Talk, Text &amp; Data(2GB/month at 4G LTE speed then 128 kbps)</li> <li>• Unlimited International SMS</li> <li>• Unlimited audio streaming at 4G for iTunes, Pandora, Spotify and other music services.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unlimited Nationwide Talk &amp; Text</li> <li>• Unlimited Data at 4G LTE</li> <li>• Unlimited International SMS</li> <li>• Unlimited Audio &amp; Video Streaming</li> <li>• Unlimited Talk, Text &amp; Data in Canada &amp; Mexico</li> </ul>

## Health Insurance

Medical accidents and injuries can unexpectedly happen and medical expenses can get very costly in the United States. Westcliff University strongly recommends that all students are covered by a health insurance plan during the student’s educational period at the school.

### **What is health insurance?**

Health insurance protects you by decreasing the cost of medical charges you may encounter during your period away from your home country.

### **What can health insurance can do for international students?**

Medical costs can get expensive especially during a time of medical emergency. A sound health insurance plan can provide coverage of costly medical expenses such as doctor appointments, accident costs, prescription costs, injuries, etc.

### **Where can I find affordable health insurance?**

There are a variety of health insurance agencies and plans that can provide international student with benefits according to their own needs. International students have the option of choosing health insurance plans that is recommended by Westcliff University or through other agencies.

All students must complete Westcliff University’s health insurance form before the first day of class. Students must certify that all the information on the form is accurate information. Westcliff University is not liable for any incurred medical cost, loss of health insurance premiums for not following the insurance policy guideline, or loss of academic privileges due to inaccurately completed waivers.

Note: Please refer to the appendix for information on Westcliff University recommended health insurance plans. Please refer below for optional (third party) health insurance plans:

<b>Company</b>	<b>Options</b>	<b>Contact Information</b>
<b>ISO Insurance – International Student Organization (multilingual services)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• COMPASS Gold</li> <li>• COMPASS Silver</li> <li>• ISO Med</li> <li>• Shield</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.isoa.org/">http://www.isoa.org/</a> Phone Number: (800)244-1180
<b>International Student Insurance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Student Secure Plan</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.internationalstudentinsurance.com/schools/westcliff-university.php">http://www.internationalstudentinsurance.com/schools/westcliff-university.php</a> Phone Number: (904)758-4391

## Local Transportation

### *Public Transportation Services*

**Public Bus:** OCTA – The Orange County Transportation Area is the main bus service provider for Orange County. For information regarding the bus schedules and fares go to: [www.octa.net](http://www.octa.net) or call (714)560-6282

**Train:** Metrolink- Southern California’s premier regional passenger rail system reaching cities including Irvine, Anaheim, Los Angeles, San Clemente and San Bernardino. For information on the train schedules and fares go to <http://www.metrolinktrains.com/>

**Carpooling Services:** The Orange County Transportation Area (OCTA) offers third-party services where commuters are able to match their trip with other drivers in the area. In terms of RideMatching, the OCTA does not regulate the exchange of money so riders have the option of either trading off driving or paying partially for gas. [ridematch.info](http://ridematch.info)

**Vanpooling Services:** The vanpooling service is an option for a group of five or more riders with a regular schedule. Riders are able to lease a car at a discounted price and ride as a group to and from school at the same time. <http://www.octa.net/vanpool>

### *Private Transportation Services*

Transportation network companies like Uber or Lyft allow you to use their smartphones to submit requests to a destination which then coordinates a driver to pick you up at your exact location.

### *If the student is commuting from a far distance,*

#### **Megabus**

<https://us.megabus.com/Default.aspx>

Students that are traveling from San Jose, San Francisco, Sacramento, Riverside or Oakland can utilize this option.

Traveling from San Jose, San Francisco, Sacramento, Riverside, Oakland, Burbank, Los Angeles, Anaheim

General Fare estimate: A trip from San Jose to Anaheim is \$27 dollars

#### Nearest Drop off point

Anaheim

(25 min drive from Irvine & 20 min drive to Cerritos)



From there, student can take Metrolink (nearest Metrolink station is Fullerton Transportation Center) to Irvine (23 minutes)- Regular Fare \$7.25 (on-way trip)  
to Cerritos (14 minutes)- Regular Fare \$6.00 (one-way trip) '

### ***Hoang Transportation***

<http://www.xedohoang.com/index.php?lang=en>

Safer and cleaner than Greyhound Transportation

### **Traveling from Southern & Northern California:**

San Diego, Westminster, El Monte, Los Angeles, Rosemead, San Jose, Oakland, San Francisco, Sacramento

Arizona:

Chandler, Phoenix

General Fare: \$45-\$65 dollars

### **Nearest drop off point nearest to Irvine Campus:**

Westminster (26 min drive to Irvine)

### ***CA Shuttle Bus***

<http://www.cashuttlebus.com/index.php>

### **Traveling from Northern California:**

SAN FRANCISCO- Union Square, Powell Station

SAN JOSE- Caltrain station

Southern California:

North Hollywood, Hollywood, Union station, Santa Monica

General Fare estimate: \$31 dollars

### **Nearest drop off point**

Los Angeles Union Station

From there student can take Metrolink, to Irvine station for \$10.75 (regular fare)

Within the metropolitan area, there are several airports and train stations. The primary airports are:

- Los Angeles International-LAX (Los Angeles)
- John Wayne (Santa Ana)
- Long Beach (Long Beach)
- LA/Ontario International (Ontario)



## Opening up a U.S. Bank Account

International students may find many benefits to opening a bank account in the United States, including convenient money-wiring to and from their home country. Account holders can feel secure about their money- all FDIC-insured banks have a standard insurance on up to \$250,000 per holder.

The 2 most common types of bank accounts are Checking Accounts and Saving Accounts.

### **Checking Account**

This type of account allows you easy access to your funds in order to meet your day-to-day transactional needs.

- Many International students will only need a checking account during their stay in the U.S.

### **Savings Account**

This type of account is for individuals that are planning to save money and earn interest as their account value builds. It is also a simple way to securely store your money.

### **Fees**

1. It is possible to set up free Checking and Savings Accounts; however, banks will typically have clauses that you need to meet in order to avoid monthly maintenance fees.
  - a) Examples: If you have a certain balance, if you have automatic deposit set up, etc.
2. In order to prevent misuse, many banks charge a fee if you withdraw from your savings account more than a certain determined amount of times per month.

### **Required Documents**

1. Valid Passport
2. Current, active I-20
3. I-94 Arrival/Departure Record
4. A document including your full name, home (US) address & personal telephone number (i.e. utility bills, leasing agreement, etc.)
5. Enrollment verification letter from the university (including university address & telephone number)
6. Secondary form of identification (i.e. birth certificate, student ID card, driver's license, etc.)

Below is a table comparing and contrasting a few national banks in some key areas. Even if you choose a different bank, reviewing this table will give you an idea of some questions to ask, as well as some insight into how American banks operate.

	Bank of America	Chase	US Bank
<b>Minimum Balance to Open an Account</b>	\$25	\$25	\$25
<b>Minimum Balance to Maintain the Account</b>	\$1,500 or monthly \$250 deposit	\$5,000 or monthly direct deposit	None
<b>Maintenance Fee</b>	\$12/mo. (if the above is not met)	\$6/mo.	\$2/mo. Unless you switch to online statements, then it would be free
<b>Overdraft Fees</b>	\$35	\$34	\$36
<b>Overdraft Conditions</b>	Any deficit	Deficit or \$5.01 or more	Deficit of \$5.01 or more; extended overdraft fee of \$15 for any negative balance 5 days or longer
<b>Receiving International Wire Transfer Fees</b>	\$16/transfer	\$15/transfer	\$25/transfer
<b>Sending International Wire Transfer Fees</b>	\$35/wire for foreign currency, \$45/wire for USD	\$40/online wire, \$50/ banker-assisted wire	\$50/transfer
<b>Online Banking</b>	Yes	Yes	Yes
<b>Student Option</b>	23 & under	ages 17-24	offered, ages unknown
<b>Location</b>	38 states	26 states	25 states
<b>Total # of Branches</b>	4,765	5, 439	3,222
<b>Other</b>			First order of checks for free; 4 no-fee transactions per billing cycle at non-US Banks ATMS



## Nearby banks to the Irvine campus:

### **Chase Bank**

Campus Plaza Shopping Center  
4543 Campus Dr  
Irvine, CA 92612

### **Schools First Federal Credit Union**

A311 Student Center  
University of California, Irvine  
UCI Student Center & Event Services  
Irvine, CA 92697

### **Wells Fargo Bank**

University of California Irvine  
1 W Peltason Dr g202b  
Irvine, CA 92697

### **Bank of America**

18622 MacArthur Blvd  
Irvine, CA 92612

### **Bank of America**

4101 MacArthur Blvd,  
Newport Beach, CA 92660

### **Bank of America**

Newport Hills Shopping Center  
2600 San Miguel Dr  
Newport Beach, CA 92660

## Social Security Number

### **What is a Social Security Number?**

A Social Security Number (SSN) is used by the U.S. government in order to track earnings over a worker's lifetime. International students under F-1 and J-1 status must apply for a Social Security Number if they wish to be employed while in the United States. An additional benefit of holding a Social Security Number is that one is required for certain (but not all) banks or mobile phone plans. It is also helpful, though not required, in applying for a driver's license or state ID card.

### **Application Process**

1. Visit <https://www.ssa.gov/locator/> in order to find a Social Security Office near you.
2. Bring the following documents with you to the office:
  - a) Active I-20
  - b) Valid Passport or Birth Certificate
  - c) Original I-94 Arrival/Departure Record
  - d) Enrollment Verification Letter from Westcliff University
  - e) Employment Offer Letter (start date must be within 30 days)
3. Complete an application for a Social Security Card (available at the office).
4. Present materials at the counter for review. Note: there is no fee for this service.
5. Your Social Security Card will be mailed to you, typically in around 2 weeks.

### **Contact Information**

[www.ssa.gov/ssnumber/](http://www.ssa.gov/ssnumber/)

Toll-Free Number: 1-800-772-1213

## Getting a California Driver's License

### Application Process

1. Complete an original application DL 44 form (available at the DMV)
  - a) Pay \$33 application fee
2. Thumb print & picture will be taken
3. Pass a vision test
4. Complete the "Knowledge Test" (written exam, roughly 20 minutes long)
  - a) Note- the DMV will NOT administer the written exam after 4:30pm.
5. If you pass, make an appointment for a driving test
  - a) Call 1-800-777-0133
  - b) Online at <https://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/dmv/detail/portal/foa/welcome>

### Required Documents

- I-20 Form
- I-94 Arrival/Departure Record
  - You will either have it on your passport or you can access the electronic record: [www.cbp.gov/i94](http://www.cbp.gov/i94) and print out a copy
- Valid passport (with your visa, if applicable)
- Social Security Number or proof of birth/legal presence documents (if you have one)
- Proof of residence
  - Examples: Rental Agreement, utility bills, U.S. bank account statement (mailed to your home), insurance documents (medical, dental, vehicle, etc.)
  - For a complete list of acceptable documents, visit: [https://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/dmv/detail/dl/residency\\_requirement](https://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/dmv/detail/dl/residency_requirement)
- Enrollment Verification Letter from the university (required at some DMVs)
- Proof of Vehicle Insurance (Behind-the-Wheel test only)

### Tips for a Faster, Better Experience

- Wait at least 10 days after your I-20 record has been registered on SEVIS
  - This is to ensure that your immigration status and documents are updated and processed
- Walk-In vs. Appointments
  - Walk-In: You will be waiting in the DMV office for longer, but you can go any day you choose.
  - Appointment: Your time in the DMV office will be much shorter, but often the next available opening is weeks away.
- Be aware that it is not uncommon to fail your Driver's test on your first try.
  - If you do fail, you must pay another test fee and wait 2 weeks before you can take the driving test again.
  - If you fail 3 times, you will have to start the application process over again.

## California-Issued Identification Card

If you do not plan to drive, you can apply for a California Identification Card. This is useful when you want to apply for traveler's check and if you need to prove your residence. It is also much safer to carry an ID card than your passport on a regular basis.

### *Nearest DMV offices:*

#### **Bellflower DMV**

(Near Cerritos campus)  
9520 East Artesia Blvd  
Bellflower, CA 90706  
1-800-777-0133  
Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am to 5:00pm

#### **Laguna Hills DMV**

(Near Irvine Campus)  
2353 Moulton Parkway  
Laguna Hills, CA 92653  
1-800-777-0133  
Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am to 5:00pm

#### **Costa Mesa DMV**

(Near Irvine Campus)  
650 W. 19th St  
Costa Mesa, CA 92672  
Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am to 5:00pm (Wednesday opens at 9:00am)



## Contact Information

**Phone:** (888) 491-8686

**Website:** [www.westcliff.edu](http://www.westcliff.edu)

**Email:**

<b>General International Questions</b>	<a href="mailto:intlservices@westcliff.edu">intlservices@westcliff.edu</a>
<b>International Travel/ Vacation</b>	<a href="mailto:intltravel_vacation@westcliff.edu">intltravel_vacation@westcliff.edu</a>
<b>CPT Division</b>	<p>Bachelor Level : <a href="mailto:cpt_bachelors@westcliff.edu">cpt_bachelors@westcliff.edu</a></p> <p>Master Level: <a href="mailto:cpt_masters@westcliff.edu">cpt_masters@westcliff.edu</a></p> <p>Doctoral Level: <a href="mailto:cpt_doctorate@westcliff.edu">cpt_doctorate@westcliff.edu</a></p>

If you have any questions and want to learn more information about adjusting to life in the United States, please do not hesitate to contact the International Affairs Department!