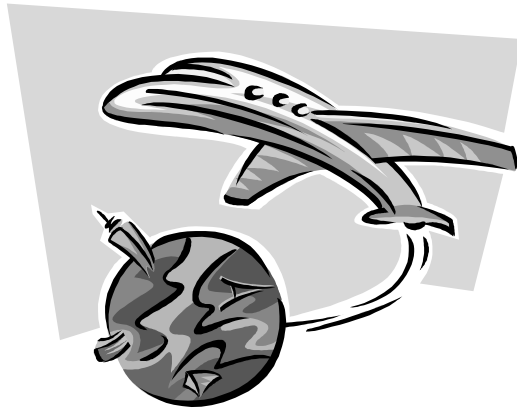


**INTERNATIONAL STUDENT
INFORMATION
&
WELCOME MANUAL**

**Your Passport
to
*CSULB***



**California State University, Long Beach
Center for International Education
Telephone: (562) 985-4106, Fax: (562) 985-1725
www.csulb.edu/cie**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| <u>Topics</u> | <u>Page</u> |
|--|-------------|
| Congratulations | 3 |
| Before Leaving Your Country | 4 |
| CIE Check-In | 5 |
| Enrollment Deposit/Intent to Enroll | 6 |
| SOAR | 7 |
| International Student Orientation | 8 |
| Academic Advising | 9 |
| Freshmen (And Transfer Students from Foreign Institutions) | 10 |
| Transfer Students from U.S. Institutions | 11 |
| Graduate Students | 12 |
| Exchange Students | 13 |
| Registering for Classes | 14 |
| Admission Reminders | 15 |
| Placement Tests | 16 |
| Mandatory Health Insurance | 17 |
| Student Health Services | 18 |
| Financial Matters | 19 |
| Immigration Matters | 20 |
| Housing | 21 |
| Directions to Long Beach | 22 |
| Hotels & Motels | 23 |
| Graduation Begins Today | 24 |
| Campus Contacts | 25 |
| Transportation Information | 26 |
| Area Map and CIE Contact Information | 27 |
| Other Information | 28 |

CONGRATULATIONS

Dear International Student:

You are about to join over 38,000 other students currently studying at California State University, Long Beach (CSULB). CSULB is a highly regarded university offering both a safe environment and a quality education.

The Center for International Education (CIE) is the University Office responsible for the admission, enrollment, and support of international students. There are several CSULB policies and procedures that apply to international students that might not necessarily apply to other students or may be different from other U.S. schools. It is extremely important for you to understand, follow, and comply with all policies and procedures in order to ensure a smooth transition to the University. This manual highlights many of these policies and procedures.

New International Students Must Attend a CIE Check-In Session

You are required to attend a scheduled CIE Check-In Session prior to the start of your first semester at CSULB in order to gain permission to register for classes (see page 5 of this manual and the enclosed schedule insert for an explanation of the CIE Check-In process and for the specific dates and times CIE Check-In Sessions are offered). **ALL new students MUST complete the CIE Check-In process BEFORE they will be given permission to register for classes.**

Please refer to the Admitted Student Checklist included in your admission packet on pages 10-12 for other requirements that must be met prior to registration.

Please take the time to read the rest of this manual carefully. Think of it as your 'Passport' to CSULB. Complying with its instructions will ensure a successful transition into the University.

We look forward to meeting you on campus soon!

The Administration and Staff,
Center for International Education



BEFORE LEAVING YOUR COUNTRY

If you are presently overseas, the first thing to do is to apply for a visa to the United States of America. You need to apply for an F-1 visa if you received a form I-20, or a J-1 visa if you received a form DS-2019 from CSULB. Without the appropriate visa you cannot enter the U.S. as a student. If you are entering the U.S. with the purpose of study, do not enter on visa waiver status or on a tourist visa (B1/B2).

To Apply For A Visa:

1. Contact the U.S. Embassy or Consulate in your country
2. Follow the procedures to apply for the visa (including payment of the I-901 SEVIS Fee - see www.ice.gov/sevis)
3. Assure the interviewing Officer that you intend to return to your home country after your studies

The U.S. Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement SEVIS website contains useful information to help prepare for your entry into the U.S. To view this information, go to www.ice.gov/sevis.

WELCOME TO THE USA

Once you have arrived at a U.S. port of entry, be prepared to pass through immigration and customs inspections. You will need to present your passport with the entry visa, a copy of your I-901 SEVIS Fee receipt, your I-20 or DS-2019 form and financial documentation (**DO NOT** pack these documents in your checked luggage). The Immigration Inspector may ask you several questions. Keep in mind that the inspector has the authority to grant or deny entry into the United States; always be patient, cooperative, and respectful. Once through, you can begin to make your way to Long Beach.

The climate in Long Beach may range from the low 40's (Fahrenheit) on the coldest night, during the winter, to the upper 90's (Fahrenheit) on the hottest days during the summer. Usually the temperature ranges between 60 - 80 degrees (Fahrenheit). During most of the year, it is common to wear light clothing during the day and long pants at night with a light jacket or sweater. For a few weeks during the winter, a warmer coat or jacket is necessary.

CIE CHECK-IN

All New International Students MUST Complete a CIE Check-In Session

You only need to attend **one** of the scheduled Check-In Sessions (see insert for dates and times). After you have completed all Check-In requirements CIE will clear the hold for that requirement (you may have other holds).

A Check-In session is **not** Orientation, and does not provide academic advising or class registration. The purpose of CIE Check-In is to ensure that you have complied with important Department of Homeland Security and CSULB requirements, and have purchased the required health insurance.

If you are transferring your F-1 status to CSULB from another U.S. school, you must contact the International Student Office at that school and request that they transfer your SEVIS record to CSULB. Until your SEVIS record has been transferred to CSULB, you will **not** be able to complete the Check-In process or register for classes.

It is extremely important to bring to CIE Check-In **ALL** of the items listed below. Check-In can take up to one hour, so please arrive on time. Also, you will need to purchase approved health insurance **BEFORE** coming to CIE Check-In (see page 17).

WHAT TO BRING TO A CIE CHECK-IN SESSION

- 1. A photocopy of your CSULB admission letter**
- 2. Your valid passport (with a photocopy of the ID page, the expiration date page, and the visa page)**
- 3. Original (and photocopy of) stamped CSULB I-20, if available, or stamped DS-2019 form. Students transferring F-1 status from another U.S. school must also bring a copy of their current I-20**
- 4. I-94 card (with a photocopy of both sides). This is part of the card you filled out on the airplane; normally, the I-94 is stapled into your passport at immigration**
- 5. Receipt or proof that you have already purchased approved health insurance (see page 17)**
- 6. A photocopy of your immunization records (in English - see page 18)**

ENROLLMENT DEPOSIT/ INTENT TO ENROLL

Undergraduate degree-seeking international students must:

1) submit a \$150.00 enrollment deposit, and; 2) accept our offer to attend CSULB. This deposit will be credited toward your fees and tuition if you attend CSULB. **Graduate and Exchange students do not need to pay the Enrollment Deposit.**

The enrollment deposit and your intent to enroll can be submitted over the internet at my.csulb.edu using Mastercard, American Express, Discover, or electronic check from a U.S. bank. If you use a credit card you will also have to pay a \$3.44 processing fee.

FALL Admission: To accept your offer for fall semester admission, you must submit the Enrollment Deposit by April 1 or within four weeks of the date on your admission letter, whichever is later for international freshmen. For International Transfer Students, the deadline is May 1 or within four weeks of the date on your admission letter, whichever is later.

SPRING Admission: To accept your offer spring semester admission, you must submit the Enrollment Deposit within four weeks of the date on your admission letter.

If you do not submit the deposit by the deadline, your admission offer WILL BE CANCELLED.

If you demonstrate to International Admissions that you are fully sponsored by your home government by the applicable deadlines listed above, you may be entitled to a waiver of the Enrollment Deposit but you **MUST** still indicate your intent to enroll using my.csulb.edu.

Questions about the Enrollment Deposit/Intent to Enroll should be emailed to: cie-admission@csulb.edu.

SOAR

SOAR (Student Orientation, Advising and Registration) is the **required** University advising program designed to help new undergraduate students learn about CSULB policies and register for classes (visit the SOAR website at www.csulb.edu/soar).

Remember you MUST attend one CIE Check-In Session before attending a SOAR session otherwise you will not be able to register for classes.

Exchange and graduate students are not eligible or required to attend SOAR.

International transfer students from U.S. institutions should see (www.csulb.edu/soar) for a SOAR schedule and information on how to register for SOAR.

If you are unable to come to the U.S. by that date contact Sharon Olson (slolson@csulb.edu or (562) 985-5585). Academic advising is required for international freshmen and is provided by the Center for International Education (CIE). All **Freshmen** must meet with **Sharon Olson** at (CIE) before they attend a CIE Check-In Session and before they can register for classes, drop classes, add classes, or swap classes.

The SOAR program provides an opportunity to meet other students and to learn about CSULB. SOAR is very valuable to students and is required. Please be certain to sign up early to prevent to get the best choice of SOAR dates.

The SOAR program is required by the University and is NOT the same as the International Student Orientation or CIE Check-In Sessions.

International Undergraduate Students should attend both SOAR and International Student Orientation

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ORIENTATION

The International Student Orientation is a very special event for all new undergraduate, graduate, and exchange students. You will meet other new international students, receive important information about the campus, participate in small groups, have many of your questions answered, and enjoy a complimentary lunch.

Please See the Enclosed Schedule Insert for Orientation Date, Time, and Location

At Orientation You Will:

- *Meet staff from the Center for International Education*
- *Meet other new & returning international students*
- *Receive important information about CSULB policies and procedures*
- *Learn more about the University & its services*
- *Ask questions in small group settings*
- *Attend a special Information and Resource Fair*
- *Enjoy a delicious complimentary lunch*
- *Participate in a campus tour & various workshops*
- *Find out about other Orientation Activities for the week*
 - ◇ *Long Beach community tour*
 - ◇ *Recreational events*
 - ◇ *Trip to Hollywood and television show taping*
 - ◇ *Other meetings, workshops, and events*

ACADEMIC ADVISING

Freshmen & All Students Transferring From Foreign Institutions

International freshmen and students transferring from foreign schools **MUST** attend Student Orientation Advising and Registration (SOAR) to receive academic advising on the specific SOAR date listed on the International Admitted Student Checklist included in your admissions packet. You will receive an email with instructions on when to sign up for your assigned SOAR date. At SOAR you will receive academic advising and register for all of your classes.

Transfer Students from U.S. Institutions

Transfer students need to attend a SOAR session (see page 7) in order to register for classes their first semester. Once the first semester has started, transfer students receive academic advising from two sources: 1) Academic Advising Center; and 2) Your Major Department. General Education (GE) information and advising is provided by the Academic Advising Center (AAC). Refer to your General Education (GE) worksheet to determine what GE classes you need. Information and advice related to your major classes are provided by your academic department, which is housed in one of the eight colleges on campus.

Graduate Students

Graduate students receive academic advising directly from their academic departments and should contact the graduate advisor or coordinator in their graduate department.

Exchange Students

Exchange students receive academic advising from their home institutions, academic departments at CSULB, and from a designated Center for International Education (CIE) staff member. CIE will assist exchange students with class registration and other university matters.

CIE Does Not Provide Official University Academic Advising

**FRESHMEN, TRANSFER Students from FOREIGN
Institutions, & ADMITTED International Student Checklist**

This checklist is for students who have been admitted from Secondary/ High Schools and for those students transferring to CSULB from Foreign Institutions. This list (a more detailed checklist is included as a separate insert in your admission packet) contains things that are required to ensure your successful enrollment and class registration at CSULB.

- Complete “intent to enroll” by signing into my.csulb.edu and paying the \$150 enrollment deposit (see page 6).
- Sign up to attend one SOAR session (you will receive an email instructing you on the specific date). Do not attend an earlier SOAR. If you plan to arrive later than that date, other arrangements must be made (see page 7).
- Sign up for the English Placement Test (EPT) & Entry-Level Mathematics Test (ELM) if required as early as possible.
- Contact Sharon Olson in the Center for International Education for academic advising: Email: slolson@csulb.edu
- Turn in all final transcripts, test scores and diplomas to International Admissions (see page 15).
- Purchase the approved health insurance (see page 17).
- Attend one CIE Check-In Session (see page 5).
- Attend SOAR (see page 7).
- Register for a minimum of 12 units at SOAR.
- Attend International Student Orientation (see page 8).

| |
|---|
| <p style="text-align: center;">TRANSFER STUDENTS from U.S. Institutions Admitted International Student Checklist</p> |
|---|

This checklist is for students who are transferring to CSULB from U.S. institutions. This list (a more detailed checklist is included as an separate insert in your admission packet) contains things that are required to ensure your successful enrollment at CSULB.

- Complete “intent to enroll” by signing into my.csulb.edu and paying the \$150 enrollment deposit (see page 6).
- Sign up for any available SOAR date. (see page 7).
- Turn in all final transcripts, test scores and diplomas to International Admissions (see page 15).
- Contact your international student advisor from your previous school to request that they release your SEVIS record to CSULB. (see page 20).
- Purchase the approved health insurance online (see page 17).
- Attend one CIE Check-In Session (see page 5).
- Attend SOAR to obtain academic advising and register for at least 12 units (see page 7 and 20).
- Attend the International Student Orientation (see page 8).
- Plan to take the Writing Proficiency Exam (WPE) during your first semester if you have not already passed the WPE. (see page 24).

| |
|---|
| <p style="text-align: center;">GRADUATE STUDENTS Admitted International Student Checklist</p> |
|---|

This checklist is for graduate international students. A graduate is a student who has been admitted to a CSULB Master's or Doctoral program.

- Purchase the approved health insurance (see page 17).
- Attend one CIE Check-In Session (see page 5).
- Sign-up to take the Examination of English as a Second Language (EESL) if required (see information below and page 16).
- For all academic advising and course planning, graduate students **MUST** contact the graduate advisor from their particular academic department.
- Attend the International Student Orientation (see page 8)
- Turn in all final transcripts, test scores and diplomas to International Admissions (see page 15).
- If you are required to take the EESL, you must take the test before classes begin (see insert for dates and times). Please see page 16 of this manual for additional information. Depending on your score on the EESL, you may be required to take up to two English classes as part of your study program at CSULB. Students arriving at the University after the final EESL test date will be required to take additional English classes. Students arriving late to the exam will not be permitted to test and will be required to take additional English classes. English classes are counted as part of your minimum enrollment, but do not count toward your degree requirements. The above-mentioned classes are not listed in the Schedule of Classes. Students must register for these classes through the American Language Institute (ALI) on campus and are responsible for all additional course fees. The cost of these ALI classes is significantly less than other University classes.
- Register for at least 9 units using my.csulb.edu.
- You are required to take the Writing Proficiency Exam (WPE) during your first semester. (see page 24).

For more information on registering for the EESL, contact the ALI office at (562) 985-8424 or email: aliuces@csulb.edu.

EXCHANGE STUDENTS

The information on this page applies **only** to
CSULB Exchange Students on J-1 Visas.

An exchange student is a student who has been admitted to CSULB (for either one or two semesters) as a non-degree student, in order to participate in an official exchange program between California State University and the student's home University. J-1 regulations require all exchange students to maintain enrollment in a minimum of 9 units each semester. Exchange students enrolled in fewer than 9 units or with poor academic performance will be dismissed from the exchange program and will lose their immigration status.

Exchange Students Must:

- Purchase the approved health insurance online (see page 17)
- Attend a CIE Check-In Session (see page 5)
- Meet with an International Student Advisor in CIE to receive assistance with class registration
- Attend the International Student Orientation (see page 8)

Information about Exchange Students

- Will not earn a degree from CSULB
- Should maintain continuous communication with their Exchange Program Coordinator at their home university
- Are required to be enrolled in a minimum of 9 units for the duration of each semester
- Must have written permission from CIE to work on campus
- Are not required to take the EPT or ELM placements tests or the GWAR
- May be eligible for off-campus employment upon successful completion of their program of studies
- Should check the Schedule of Classes (online at www.csulb.edu) for a list of classes offered this semester
- Are not required to pay the \$150 enrollment deposit fee

REGISTERING for CLASSES

Before you register for classes, please refer to the Admitted International Student Checklist included as a separate insert in your admission packet and listed in this booklet on (page 10) for Freshmen, (page 11) for Transfer students and on (page 12) for Graduate students. Many of the items on the list **MUST** be completed before you can register for classes.

Steps to Register:

1. Purchase the required health insurance online and attend a CIE Check-In Session.
2. After you have been advised on which classes you should enroll, write down the class numbers and days/ times of each class you plan to take this semester.
3. Login to your my.csulb.edu account.
4. Click on the [Holds](#) link to make sure that nothing will prevent your registration.
5. After you have resolved any remaining holds, click on the [Registration and Academics](#) link and then the link for the appropriate semester and then the [Add Classes](#) link.
6. Enter the class numbers for each of the classes you plan to attend in the spaces indicated before clicking the submit button.
7. It will be indicated if your registration in each course was successful.
8. Click the [View My Schedule](#) link to make sure that you have enrolled in the correct courses.
9. Click on the [Finances and Aid](#) link followed by the [Total Due Charges](#) to determine when and the amount due for tuition and fees (if you paid the enrollment deposit it will be applied to your tuition/fees).
10. If you are unable to register for your classes you may contact the CIE office or an academic advisor for assistance.

ADMISSION REMINDERS

Your admission is provisional based on your compliance with any remaining admission requirements.

Remember to have your final official academic records, transcripts, diplomas, etc., sent to the International Admissions Office so that we have a current record of your academic history.

Please remember that your admission was based on the information you provided us in support of your application. A condition of your admission may be satisfactory completion of specific coursework that was in progress at the time we offered you admission. It is **extremely** important that you complete all required courses, maintain the required grade point average, and submit all final academic documents to International Admissions. Failure to do so will force the University to withdraw your offer of admission.

Students who transfer course credit to CSULB may need to bring with them detailed course descriptions of coursework previously completed. This information should indicate the depth and breadth of the subject material covered in each course. Your major department advisor may need to review these documents to determine what courses you will need to take at CSULB.

All questions regarding admission, placement tests, transcripts, course transfer etc., should be sent to International Admissions at email: cie-admission@csulb.edu. For information on housing, arrival information, classes, or general inquiries, please visit the CIE Website: www.csulb.edu/cie.

International Admissions

Email: cie-admission@csulb.edu
Website: www.csulb.edu/ia

PLACEMENT TESTS

Some new students are required to take certain placement tests (note: placement tests are not required for exchange students). These are placement tests, not to be confused with admission tests such as TOEFL. Not all students need to take placement tests. **Check your admission letter** from International Admissions; that admission letter will tell you if any of the following placement tests are required: EPT (English Placement Test) , or ELM (Entry-Level Mathematics), or EESL (Examination of English as a Second Language).

EPT and ELM

IMPORTANT: Students who are required to take EPT and/or ELM will NOT be allowed to register for classes and your admission will be CANCELLED if the required tests are not taken prior to the beginning of the student's first semester.

There are absolutely NO EXCEPTIONS to this University policy.

If you are required to take the EPT and/or ELM and you live overseas or in another U.S. state, you must contact the testing agency by telephone (510-873-8142) or email (csuout-of-state@ets.org) to make arrangements to take the tests prior to arriving. More information on EPT and/or ELM tests can be found at: www.csulb.edu/testing. **Please note that an EPT score below 151 requires you to take as many as two additional English courses and an ELM score below 50 requires you to take as many as two additional Math courses.**

Examination of English as a Second Language (EESL)

EESL is mandatory for graduate students who were required to submit TOEFL scores as a condition of admission to CSULB. Registration for the EESL can only be done after you arrive at CSULB. Registration and testing information are provided during CIE Check-In Sessions. Students arriving after the final exam date or who are unable to test will be required to enroll in additional English courses. Students arriving late to the exam will not be permitted to test and will be required to enroll in additional English courses. Students are responsible for all additional course fees. Students who have already met the CSULB Graduate Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR) (see page 24) prior to arrival at CSULB should contact International Admissions at CIE for information on an EESL waiver.

MANDATORY HEALTH INSURANCE

California State University, Long Beach requires all F-1 international students and J-1 exchange students to purchase and maintain adequate health insurance coverage. International students will not be able to register for classes until the Center for International Education (CIE) has received verification that you have purchased the **REQUIRED** California State University (CSU) International Student Health Insurance group policy offered through Wells Fargo Student Insurance. **ONLY** students sponsored by particular foreign governments may meet certain criteria to be exempted from this requirement.

HOW TO PURCHASE CAMPUS HEALTH INSURANCE

Online at: www.csuhealthlink.com

(credit card: Visa or Master Card)

Note: If you would like to purchase health insurance online at the above website before you have established a permanent U.S. address, you can use the address of the CIE (see page 27 of this manual) as your mailing address. Be sure you update your U.S. mailing address through my.csulb.edu and directly with the insurance company as soon as possible.

The required CSU International Student Health Insurance plan pays 90% of covered health care costs for services provided by an in-network doctor, clinic or hospital (PPO). The plan has a \$100 deductible as well as a small co-pay for each office visit. There is a \$100 deductible for each Emergency Room (ER) visit, which is waived if admitted directly from the ER to the hospital.

The required coverage includes, but is not limited to:

- Medical Coverage of at least: \$250,000 per condition
- Total Out of Pocket Maximum of: \$2,500/ year
- Medical Evacuation Coverage: 100% of cost with Unlimited Maximum
- Repatriation Coverage: 100% of cost with Unlimited Maximum
- Co-pay of 10% or less with Surgery Maximum Benefit of \$250,000

IMPORTANT: Students will not be permitted to register for classes or to complete a CIE Check-In Session until they have purchased the required health insurance (see page 5).

STUDENT HEALTH SERVICES

During a CIE Check-In Session, you will review your immunization records with a nurse from Student Health Services (SHS). Please bring a copy (in **English**) of your immunization records. Students requiring immunizations will be **CHARGED ADDITIONAL FEES**.

The following immunizations are required:

- **If you are 18 or younger** on your first scheduled day of class, there are two required immunizations: Measles/Mumps/Rubella and Hepatitis B.
- **If you are 19 or older** on your first day of class, there is one required immunization: Measles/Mumps/Rubella.
- **If you will reside in a CSULB residence hall**, you are required to provide proof of immunization against Meningitis within the last 5 years.

Tuberculosis (TB) test/chest X-ray may also be required. This will be determined at the time of your visit to SHS. You may provide SHS with documentation of a TB test and/or Chest X-ray from your doctor, if completed within the past 3 months. During CIE Check-In, SHS will provide immunizations and TB tests to students as required by the University **AT ADDITIONAL COST TO STUDENTS**. For additional information on the CSULB immunization requirements, please see www.csulb.edu/shs.

Student Health Services Hours and Contact Information:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 8:00 AM—6:00 PM
Wednesday, 10:00—7 PM, and Friday, 8:00 AM —12 PM
Telephone: (562) 985-4771 website: www.csulb.edu/shs

Student Health Services and Health Insurance

Student Health Services is staffed by qualified doctors and registered nurses to provide quality medical care. However, when students require specialist consultation, hospitalization, or medical attention outside of Student Health Services' regular operating hours, use of outside medical facilities is required. Medical costs in the U.S. are extremely high. The mandatory medical insurance (page 13) for international students provides coverage for medical care not available from the campus Student Health Services or provided outside of its normal operating hours.

FINANCIAL MATTERS



U.S. federal law requires all international students admitted to CSULB verify that they have sufficient funds to cover University fees, tuition, health insurance, and living expenses. Estimated student expenses were provided to you with your admission application, but please note that fees, tuition, and expenses are subject to change without notice.

Generally, undergraduate and graduate students will require \$7,000 to \$8,000 to begin their first semester. Students who do not have a checking account with a U.S. bank should bring sufficient funds in travelers' checks in U.S. dollars or micro-encoded bank drafts payable through a U.S. bank. **All checks MUST be made payable to yourself. DO NOT make checks payable to CSULB. CSULB CANNOT refund any excess monies. Payment ONLY applies to University Fees & Tuition.**

It is possible to pay University fees and tuition in person by cash, check, or online at my.csulb.edu with a credit card (only certain credit cards are acceptable and a service charge may apply: see instructions on my.csulb.edu). Tuition and University fees may also be paid by direct wire transfer from a foreign bank that maintains a correspondent relationship with Wells Fargo Bank. Wires must be sent to: Wells Fargo Bank N.A., 550 California Street, 10th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94104 U.S.A. The routing number is #121000248. The bank account number is #4944-839513. The swift code is WFBIUS6S. The beneficiary is CSU, Long Beach. The "Other Beneficiary" information is the name of the student and the student's campus ID number (found on the admission letter). The "Other Beneficiary" information is **very important** and required to match the wired funds to the correct student's account. This process may take weeks & additional bank transfer fees may apply.

DO NOT: Wire money or make checks payable to CSULB beyond the amount required for University Fees & Tuition. The University CANNOT refund excess monies for personal use such as housing or buying computers. These monies CANNOT be used at the CSULB bookstore, or in any other way/place on or off the CSULB campus.

Students must meet all financial obligations related to their educational, health insurance, and living expenses. International students should not rely on possible on-campus employment for tuition or living expenses.

IMMIGRATION MATTERS

Entering the U.S.A.

If you are entering the U.S. to attend CSULB, you must present the following at the Port of Entry:

- CSULB I-20 or DS-2019
- Valid F-1 or J-1 Visa
- Valid Passport
- I-901 SEVIS Fee receipt (if required)

DO NOT enter the U.S. on a “B” visitor’s visa or under visa waiver status. Students holding F-2 status will not be permitted to enroll in classes or begin their studies until their change of status to F-1 has been approved..

Transferring from Other U.S. Schools or Language Programs

Students transferring F-1 status from another U.S. institution must notify the International Student Advisor at their current school and request that their SEVIS record be transferred to CSULB. Transfer students will not be able to register for CSULB classes or complete a CIE Check-In Session until CIE is able to verify that your SEVIS record has been transferred to CSULB and that you hold proper F-1 status.

Maintaining Valid F-1 or J-1 Visa Status

Failure to maintain proper immigration status can lead to problems for students. Valid immigration status means:

- Minimum CSULB enrollment of 12 units for undergraduates and credential students and 9 units for graduates and exchange students each fall and spring semester (summer and winter enrollment is optional)
- Satisfactory academic progress in your program of study
- Passport valid at all times
- Local mailing address is always current with CSULB

Working in the U.S.A.

F-1 students are eligible to work on campus and require no special permission to do so, as long as they maintain valid immigration status and good academic standing. J-1 students must have written authorization from the exchange student advisor at the CIE prior to beginning work on-campus. Limited opportunities exist for F-1 and J-1 students to work off campus under special circumstances and require prior CIE advisor approval. The CIE holds regular workshops each fall and spring semester on employment options for F-1 students. Unauthorized off-campus employment is a serious violation of immigration regulations. More information is available at www.csulb.edu/cie.

HOUSING



The CSULB Office of Housing and Residential Life has the capacity to house approximately 2000 students. With over 38,000 students attending CSULB, on-campus housing opportunities are very limited. If you are interested in learning more about on-campus housing, you should contact the Office of Housing and Residential Life as soon as possible:

Phone: (562) 985-4187

Fax: (562) 985-2290

Email: housing@csulb.edu

Website: <http://housing.csulb.edu>

In addition to on-campus housing, there are a number of off-campus housing opportunities available in the area. Four steps students can take to prepare for off-campus housing are:

- Go to www.csulb.edu/cie for housing information and links
- Plan to arrive at least 2-3 weeks before classes begin
- Educate yourself about housing options, such as apartments, roommates, rooms for rent
- Once on campus, check the housing information board located in the CIE

NOTE: While the CIE provides resources and information to students regarding housing options both before and after they arrive on campus, it is very important to understand that ultimately it is the responsibility of each student to make their own housing arrangements.

Finding suitable housing in Long Beach can be a challenging task. However, there are many apartments and rooms in private homes within walking distance of the campus or within 5 to 20 minutes by bicycle, bus, or car. For additional information about off-campus housing, including options and estimated expenses, please see the website mentioned above or contact the CIE at (562) 985-5713 or email: cie-housing@csulb.edu.

DIRECTIONS TO LONG BEACH

If you arrive at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX), you can take an airport shuttle (e.g. Super Shuttle, L.A. Express, Prime Time, etc.) from LAX to Long Beach. It will take approximately 30 to 45 minutes to reach Long Beach from the airport. You do not need advance reservations to take these shuttles, and they circulate in designated areas just outside the baggage claim area. Each van will have a sign on it indicating its destination. Make sure your van is going to Long Beach. You can ask where and when to board a shuttle by using the courtesy phones available in the baggage claim area. The cost can be \$30 or more plus a recommended 10-15% tip. Be cautious and always watch your baggage, money, and important papers.

If you arrive at LAX in the evening, you might prefer to reserve a room at a hotel near the airport and travel to Long Beach the next day. Most of the LAX hotels provide shuttle transportation from the airport. You may also call the hotel from the airport.

Directions from LAX

- 405 Freeway South
 - Exit Bellflower Boulevard
 - Go south about 2 miles (CSULB is on the left)
 - Left onto Beach Drive
 - Stop at the Visitor Information Center and ask where to park to visit the CIE Office located in Brotman Hall
- CIE Office hours: Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

It is likely that you may need to stay in a hotel for several days in Long Beach until you find more permanent housing. There are many hotels around the Los Angeles Airport (LAX) and around CSULB. Advance reservations are recommended, so you should contact the hotel prior to your arrival (see the next page and the CIE website for a list of hotels and motels).

Make certain that you have adequate U.S. currency or a credit card with you for transportation, food and hotel expenses. We strongly encourage students to do as much research as possible about Long Beach on the Internet before arriving.

We wish you a safe journey to Long Beach, California!

HOTELS & MOTELS

Hotels Close To Los Angeles International Airport (LAX)

Lower Century Hotel

4330 West Century Boulevard, Los Angeles

Phone: (310) 673-2400

Approximately \$60-75 per night



Travelodge

5547 West Century Boulevard

Phone: (310) 649-4000

Approximately \$75-85 per night

www.travelodge.com



Hotels Close to CSULB

Motel 6

5665 East 7th Street, Long Beach

Phone: (562) 597-1311

Very Close to the Campus

Approximately \$55 – 65 per night

www.motel6.com

Guesthouse

5325 E Pacific Coast Highway,
Long Beach

Phone: (562) 597-1341

Approximately \$60 per night

(student rate)

www.guesthouselb.com

Oakwood Long Beach Marina

333 1st Street, Seal Beach

Phone: (562) 493-9725

Accessible via public transportation

Approximately \$50 – 90 per night

www.oakwood.com

Sea Port Marina Hotel

6400 E. Pacific Coast Highway,
Long Beach

Phone: (562) 434-8451

Accessible via public transportation

Approximately \$65 per night

www.seaportmarinahotel.com

***NOTE:** The University does not have any formal agreements with any of the hotels listed and rates could change without notice; always check directly with the hotels. However, when making reservations students should mention that the hotel was listed in this manual and that they are new students at CSULB to qualify for any available student discounts.*

GRADUATION BEGINS TODAY

At CSULB we are committed to your successful completion of your program. Please take the following steps to ensure that your time here is worthwhile:

1. Help is given when it is requested. That includes your professors and the offices of the university. Do not be afraid to ask anyone at CSULB for help.
2. Use professor office hours to ask additional questions. Professors maintain time in their offices to be available to answer questions from students.
3. Class participation and attendance is often required to earn a good grade in a class. Make an effort to take part in class room discussions or activities and be sure to attend all classes.
4. Get involved in student groups and organizations. Make friends and contacts with students from the U.S. and other countries, not just those from your home country.
5. If English is your second language, take the time to improve your writing and speaking not only for your own benefit, but also that you may successfully meet the requirement detailed below.

Graduation Writing Assessment Requirement (GWAR)

In addition to the courses required for your degree, you must also satisfy the GWAR to earn any degree at CSULB. The most common way a student meets this requirement is by taking the Writing Proficiency Exam (WPE). Many international students have had trouble satisfying the GWAR. Freshmen should take the WPE right after you have passed English 100. Transfer and Graduate students are required to take the WPE their first semester at CSULB. **If you do not pass the WPE on your first attempt, you should seek help from a WPE Advisor right away by contacting the Learning Assistance Center (LAC) at 562-985-5350.**

CAMPUS CONTACT INFORMATION

Campus Operator: (562) 985-4111

Online Directory: <http://daf.csulb.edu/offices/its/telecommunications/directory/lookup.html>

| OFFICE | PHONE | WEB ADDRESS |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|--|
| Academic Advising Center | 562-985-4837 | www.csulb.edu/advising |
| Campus Bookstore | 562-985-5093 | www.csulb.edu/bookstore |
| Campus Tours | 562-985-5358 | www.outreach.csulb.edu |
| Career Development Center | 562-985-4151 | www.careers.csulb.edu |
| Cashier's Office | 562-985-1681 | daf.csulb.edu/offices/financial/bursar |
| Counseling & Psychological Services | 562-985-4001 | www.csulb.edu/divisions/students/caps |
| Housing Office | 562-985-4187 | housing.csulb.edu |
| Learning Assistance Center | 562-985-5350 | www.csulb.edu/centers/lac |
| Library | 562-985-5518 | www.csulb.edu/library |
| MBA Office | 562-985-7988 | www.csulb.edu/colleges/cba |
| Parking | 562-985-4146 | www.csulb.edu/parking |
| Student Health Services | 562-985-4771 | www.csulb.edu/centers/shc |
| Student Identification Card | 562-985-7388 | www.csulb.edu/aux/bookstore |
| SOAR | 562-985-5515 | www.csulb.edu/soar |
| Disabled Student Services | 562-985-5401 | www.csulb.edu/dss |
| Writer's Resource Lab | 562-985-4329 | www.csulb.edu/~wrl |
| Testing Office | 562-985-4006 | www.csulb.edu/centers/testing |
| University Police | 562-985-4101 | www.csulb.edu/police |

TRANSPORTATION in LONG BEACH

The majority of students who attend CSULB use their own personal car for transportation. If you wish to drive a car during your studies come by the CIE office to obtain an information sheet on how to apply for a California driver license. There is also a bulletin board that usually has postings listing cars for sale.

If you decide not to drive while attending CSULB there are other ways to get around as indicated on the following websites:

Long Beach Transit:

www.lbtransit.com/

Metropolitan Transit Authority:

metro.net/

Bikestation:

www.bikestation.org/longbeach/index.asp

Orange County Transportation:

www.octa.net/

Metrolink:

www.metrolinktrains.com/?play_at=map

Campus Connection Shuttle:

http://daf.csulb.edu/maps/pdf/campus_connection_routes.pdf

AREA MAP

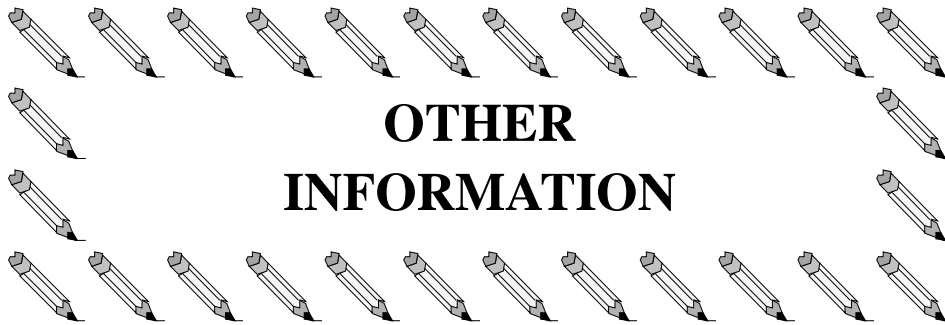
Call University Outreach and School Relations at 562-985-5358 for a campus



CIE EMAIL CONTACT INFORMATION

| | |
|---------------------------|--|
| International Admissions: | cie-admission@csulb.edu |
| Housing Services: | cie-housing@csulb.edu |
| Student Services: | cie-student@csulb.edu |

**Center for International Education
Brotman Hall 201
California State University, Long Beach
Long Beach CA 90840
USA
562-985-4106
www.csulb.edu/cie**



OTHER

INFORMATION

STUDENT CLUBS:

The International Student Association (ISA) is a student club that meets throughout the academic year and organizes various kinds of social and cultural activities for all interested students.

ISA Webpage: www.csulb.edu/isa

CSULB has many other nationality and cultural student clubs, as well as academic and other types of clubs. For a complete list of student organizations, see the Student Life and Development link at www.csulb.edu/student-info.

CSULB QUICK FACTS:

- Over 38,000 total students enrolled
- Over 1,300 international students from nearly 100 countries

COUNTRIES WITH 10 OR MORE VISA STUDENTS:

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| • Japan - 290 | • Taiwan - 157 | • India - 119 |
| • Korea - 116 | • Saudi Arabia - 78 | • China 50 |
| • Thailand - 35 | • Vietnam - 31 | • Hong Kong - 26 |
| • Germany - 22 | • United Kingdom - 22 | • Indonesia - 19 |
| • Turkey - 18 | • Pakistan - 17 | • Canada - 14 |
| • UAE - 12 | • Sri Lanka - 12 | • Iran - 11 |
| • Sweden - 11 | • Brazil - 11 | • France - 11 |