

F-I Student Enrollment Guide

You're in! Now what?



CONGRATULATIONS, AND WELCOME TO CSULB!

You have an exciting journey ahead of you and we want to make sure that you are well prepared to get started in pursuing your academic goals. If you are coming to CSULB as a first-time, first-year student, transfer student, graduate student, or credential student, there are still a few steps you need to take to make sure you successfully transition to The Beach!



Check out our socials!

Guide Highlights

New Student Requirements

Applying for the F-I Visa

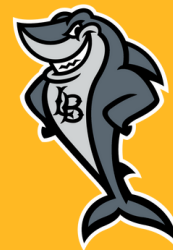
Housing Information

Health Insurance

Pre-Departure Preparation

Immigration Check-In

New International Student Orientation



**International Students
and Scholars Services**



WHY DO I HAVE TO ACTIVATE A CSULB EMAIL

Setting up your Account and Email should be completed as soon as possible. All university communications, including all International Students and Scholars Services immigration reminders, requests, and updates are sent to your CSULB student email address.

How to Activate your Account Video



NEW STUDENT REQUIREMENTS

You will need to complete the below steps to ensure you meet all requirements to start your first semester at CSULB:

1. Activate Your MYCSULB Account and Student Email
2. Accept Admission Offer
3. Complete Placement Exams (if Required)
4. Review Costs
5. Sign up for Student Orientation, Advising, and Registration (SOAR (if you are a First Year or Transfer-Undergraduate student)
6. Apply for Housing
7. Submit Final Transcripts and Test Scores

SELECT YOUR ACADEMIC LEVEL FOR DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS TO COMPLETE YOUR REQUIREMENTS:

First Year Student

Transfer - Undergraduate Student

Graduate Student

Credential Student

Second Bachelor Students

A SOAR Reminder for First Year and Undergraduate Transfer Students



Student Orientation, Advising, and Registration (SOAR) is a comprehensive program designed to support your transition – both academically and socially – to California State University, Long Beach.

How to Sign Up For SOAR Video



If you have any holds on your student record, you may be unable to register for classes. Prior to your SOAR session(s), check for any holds on your record by logging in to MyCSULB Student Center once you have activated your student account (refer to Step #1). Look for the Holds section and follow the instructions for any holds that may appear.



WHY DO I HAVE TO PAY THE 901 SEVIS FEE?

Regulation requires all prospective F and M students to pay the I-901 Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) Fee before the Department of State issues you a visa. To pay the I-901 SEVIS Fee, visit [FMJfee.com](https://fmjfee.com) to access the SEVIS Form I-901.

How to Pay the 901 SEVIS Fee Video



APPLYING FOR THE F-1 VISA

After receiving your CSULB form I-20, follow the steps below to apply for an F-1 visa:

1. Pay the 901 SEVIS Fee
2. Apply for the F-1 visa by submitting the online DS-160 form at your nearest US embassy or consulate.

Learn how to apply for your visa by reviewing the [student visas page](#) on travel.state.gov, as well as the instructions at the website of the [embassy or consulate](#) where you will apply for a visa. After you receive your visa, check to see that you received the right type of visa and that your name and date of birth are correct and match the information in your passport.



A Predeparture Reminder for all F-1 Students



Before you leave for the United States, familiarize yourself with the [different kinds of documents](#) you might need. It is always a good idea to carry your original documents with you at all times. Do not put them in your checked baggage. It is also a good idea to make at least two sets of copies of these documents: one copy to leave with your family before you depart and one copy to give to your school officials.

Here is a list of the important immigration documents:

1. Passport
2. F-1 Visa
3. Form I-20, signed by you on page 1

ISS Predeparture Presentation





ON-CAMPUS HOUSING

Students should apply in early April for the Fall semester and early November for the Spring semester. Applications are considered complete when payment is made, and considered in the order of completed application.

Housing is not guaranteed to any student, regardless of class level. However, CSULB does prioritize housing spaces to new residents.

For more information about on-campus housing (fees, meals, amenities, communities) and to apply, visit [CSULB Housing and Residential Life website](#).

OFF-CAMPUS HOUSING

Housing and Residential Life does not provide nor manage alternative/outside housing alternatives. There are many resources available for finding off-campus housing. Here are a few options you may want to consider:

1. Online listing sites: These sites, such as Craigslist and Zillow, allow you to search for available rentals in your area. You can use filters to narrow down your search based on location, price, number of bedrooms, and other factors.
2. Social media: You can use social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter to connect with people in your community who may be looking for roommates or have rental properties available.

CSULB does not manage off-campus resources. It's important to be careful when searching for off-campus housing, as there are many scams out there. [Protect yourself from rental scams](#).

Helpful Off-Campus Housing Recommendations



Below are some popular apartment complexes students choose to stay:

- [Beverly Plaza Apartments](#)
- [Park Avenue Apartments](#)
- [Alvista Apartments](#)
- [Pacific View Apartments](#)
- [CORT](#)

Need a roommate? Check out these resources:

- [CSULB Roommate Finder](#)
- [Boom | Long Beach Housing, Rooms, Apartments, Sublets, Roommates](#)



IS THERE A HEALTH INSURANCE WAIVER?

Waivers might be considered only for certain government-sponsored arrangements, and for students with a parent or spouse who has a U.S. employer-based policy that covers the student.

How to Purchase Health Insurance Video



Understanding US Health Insurance Video



HEALTH INSURANCE

CSULB requires all F-1 international students and J-1 exchange students to purchase and maintain adequate health insurance coverage prior to registering for classes.

International students will not be able to register for classes until International Students and Scholars has received verification that you have purchased the mandatory California State University (CSU) International Student Health Insurance group policy offered through JCB Insurance Solutions.



Important Health Insurance Dates



- [Insurance refund deadlines for Fall 2025 and Annual 2025-26 Policies](#)



HOW DO I COMPLETE THE IMMIGRATION CHECK-IN?

Follow these steps to complete the check-in:

1. Update your US residential address in your MyCSULB account.
2. Verify your I-94 record is in F-1 status:
<https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/#/home>
3. Complete online Check-in Self-Assessment

IMMIGRATION CHECK-IN

Students with an initial or initial-transfer form I-20 must complete the Online Immigration Check-In for to release their Check-In Hold and meet F-1 reporting requirements with the Department of Homeland Security.

Failure to complete the check-in may result in being disenrolled from classes.

New, incoming students should only complete the check-in form after they enter the United States. The check-in form should be completed within 3 days of entering the United States.



Helpful Tips to Complete Check-In



Common Errors to Avoid:

- Incomplete or incorrect U.S. contact information
- You are not physically in the U.S.

You will be notified via your student email to update your US residential address if there is an issue.

Deadline to complete the immigration check-in form for FALL 2025 is **September 22, 2025**.

Use this link to update your US contact information and to learn more about [Using MyCSULB Personal Information](#).



INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ORIENTATION

New international first-year, transfer, and graduate students are **required** to attend International Orientation.

During orientation, you will learn how to:

- Maintain valid immigration status while studying in the U.S.
- Adapt to American culture and university expectations.
- Get involved on campus with student organizations such as the International Student Association.

ORIENTATION DATES

Dates and times for each orientation will be updated on our website by clicking [here](#).

Typically orientation, the welcome event, and orientation workshops are held the week before the semester starts.

ORIENTATION WORKSHOPS

- Safety and Title IX Workshop
- Academic/Cultural Success Workshop
- Curricular Practical Training (CPT) Info Session
- On-Campus Work Info Session

Orientation dates, times, and locations will be updated [here](#).

Helpful Reminders for International Student Orientation



Lunch and Resource Fair

All new, international students are invited to attend a free lunch and resource fair. Come explore and learn about campus resources offered at CSULB.

International Student Welcome Event

Join your new peers for a social event, hosted on campus. This is a great opportunity to connect with your cohort and make new friends! Free lunch and prizes will be available.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

Completing the steps to enrollment can feel overwhelming, but we try to provide you with as much information as possible to make this process easier.

To better assist you, we have gathered many of the frequently asked questions we receive from new students and we have posted the answers to those questions on our website. We recommend you review those questions [here](#) first, before reaching out to our office.

CONTACT US

The Center for International Education is open Monday through Friday. For email and phone contact information, visit [Staff Contacts](#).

The office is closed during all campus [academic holidays](#).

CSULB Campus Location:
Foundation Building [[MAP](#)]
Suite 185B
562-985-2919

Helpful Contact Information

For admissions documents and immigration questions:

International Admissions

cie-admission@csulb.edu

Immigration Advising

cie-student@csulb.edu

I-20 Questions

i20@csulb.edu

For tuition payments, immunization requirements, and on-campus housing questions:

Student Financial Services (tuition payments)

studentaccounts@csulb.edu

Student Health Services (immunizations)

shs-vaccine@csulb.edu

Housing

housing@csulb.edu



INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ENROLLMENT CHECKLIST

- ☐ 1. Activate Student Email Account
- ☐ 2. Accept Admission Offer
- ☐ 3. Clear Immunization Requirement
- ☐ 4. Complete the "Next Steps" List
 - a. First Year Students
 - b. Transfer Students
 - c. Graduate Students
 - d. Credential Students
- ☐ 5. Confirm your On-Campus Housing (First Years Only)
- ☐ 6. Purchase Health Insurance
- ☐ 7. Sign up for SOAR (First Years and Transfers Only)
- ☐ 8. Pre-Arrival Online Session (Invite will be emailed)
- ☐ 9. Clear Registration Holds in MyCSULB Account
- ☐ 10. Complete Immigration Check-In within 3 days of entering the US
- ☐ 11. Attend International Orientation