



WESTCLIFF
UNIVERSITY
Educate. Inspire. Empower.

International Booklet 2016

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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 .

Here is some additional contact information:

April Vuong (Director of International Affairs)
aprilvuong@westcliff.edu

Heidi Nam (International Affairs Representative)
heidinam@westcliff.edu

You can also schedule an on-campus or phone consultation with an International Affairs 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,

The International Affairs Department
Westcliff University

Social Security Number (SSN)

What is a Social Security Number?

A Social Security Number is assigned by the US government to track the earnings of a worker's

Why do international students need a SSN?

A Social Security Number may be required to apply for a Social Security Number in order to:

- Receive authorization to work in the US (on or off-campus)
- To open a bank account (in certain banks)
- To open up certain mobile phone plans
- To receive a state driver's license or a state identification card (not necessarily needed for F-1 students)





How do you apply?

- 1) Complete an original application for a Social Security card (available at the office)
- 2) Bring documents:
 - I-20 form (Active status)
 - Valid passport or birth certificate
 - Original I-94 arrival/ departure Record
 - Enrollment verification letter signed letter by Westcliff University
 - [unclear]



Contact

Website: www.socialsecurity.gov
Toll-free number: 1-800-772-1213
General hours: 7:00 AM – 7:00PM

Housing

Homestay Option	Benefits
<p>❖ StudentLink International (424) 250-0775 http://www.istudentlink.com/</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homestay options (Standard, Premium, Deluxe) • Low monthly rate • Comprehensive Student Services (Driver's License, Bank Account, Car Insurance, Airport Service) • Online application • Convenient access to and from school
<p>❖ CEH California English Homestay (949) 207-3395 http://homestayme.net/</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homestay options (Intensive English option, private options, unique specific options) • Careful screening process • American family experience • Providers usually credential teachers or university graduates
<p>❖ Kapi Residences 949-565-5693 949-565-6593 info@kapiresidences.com</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fully furnished apartments • All bills included • Located near shopping, dining, and entertainment centers • Irvine, Newport Beach, Los Angeles, Long Beach
<p>❖ Student International Housing Inc. http://studentinternationalhousing.com/ shousing3@gmail.com</p> 	<p>\$900/4 weeks (normal price \$975/4 weeks) Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private Room • Two meals per day <p>(Self-prepared continental breakfast and dinner by host) *Prices will vary w/ specific food preference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Utilities and WiFi <p>Around \$100 less w/o meals Bus stops in walking distance Walking distance from school (Peterson, Campus Drive – app.4 miles)</p> <p>Orientation for assimilation and acculturation</p> <p>Fees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$200 Placement fee • \$250 Refundable Security

Other useful links

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

Getting a California Driver's License

Obtaining a driver's license can be a complicated process. Follow these easy steps to make this tedious process less "painful"!

Things to remember before applying for a California Driver's License:

- Wait at least **10 days** after your first day of attendance (This is to ensure that your immigration status and documents are updated and processed)
- Gather required immigration documents & paperwork

Documents to bring:

- 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 and print out a copy
- Valid passport (with your visa, if applicable)
- Social Security Number or proof of birth/legal presence documents
- Proof of residence (US Bank account statement – mailed to your home address)
- Utility Bill (ex. Electric or phone bill with your name on it)
- Enrollment Verification Form (required at some DMVs)

Nearest DMV offices:

Laguna Hills DMV office
(Near Irvine Campus)
2353 Moulton Parkway
Laguna Hills, CA 92653
1-800-777-0133
(8:00am to 5:00pm
Weekdays only)

Bellflower DMV office
(Near Cerritos campus)
9520 East Artesia Blvd
Bellflower, CA 90706
1-800-777-0133
(8:00am to 5:00pm Weekdays
only)

To apply:

- 1) Make an appointment before visiting the DMV office
<https://dmv.ca.gov/portal/dmv/detail/portal/foa/welcome>
- 2) Complete an **original** application DL 44 form (available at the DMV) & pay \$33 application fee
- 3) Thumb print & picture will be taken
- 4) Pass a vision test and a traffic laws & signs test
- 5) If you pass, make an appointment for a driving test
 - Call 1-800-777-0133 or online
 - Proof of insurance (financial responsibility)

*You have three chances to pass the driving test. If you fail, you can make another appointment. There is no waiting period, but you will be subject to pay a fee for each additional driving test afterwards.

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 a lot safer to carry around an ID card than your passport on a regular basis.

- 1) Make an appointment with the DMV office
- 2) Complete original DL 44 application (available at the DMV- copies are not accepted)
- 3) Thumb print & picture will be taken
- 4) Pay the application fee \$28 and provide Social Security Number or acceptable birth date/ legal presence documents
 - I-94 form, I-20 form, passport, birth certificate

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:

Option 1:

ISO Insurance – International Student Organization (multilingual services)

- COMPASS Gold
- COMPASS Silver
- ISO Med
- Shield

Contact information:

- <https://www.isoa.org>
- (800)244-1180

Option 2:

International Student Insurance

- Student Health Advantage Plan

Contact Information:

- <http://www.internationalstudentinsurance.com/schools/westcliff-university.php>
- (904)758-4391

How to open up a U.S. Bank Account

Types of Bank Accounts

Checking Account

This type of account allows you easy access to your funds to meet your daily transactional needs.

When opening this account, you will receive a bank card. Depending on the bank, you will most likely be required to pay a monthly fee (around \$10).

Additional information:

International students may only need a checking account during their stay in the US.

Savings Account

If you are planning to save and earn interest, a savings account will allow you to do so. It is also a simple way to securely store your money.

Additional information:

You will most likely be required to transfer a certain amount of money each month.

Checklist of required documents

- A document including your full name, home address, personal telephone number, your university telephone number, and university address (Ex. Utility bills, apartment contract, etc.)
- Valid passport
- I-94 Arrival/Departure Record
- I-20 Form
- Enrollment verification letter from the university
- Secondary form of identification (Ex. Birth certificate, student ID card, state driver's license, etc.)

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

4101 MacArthur Blvd,
Newport Beach, CA 92660

Bank of America

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

Getting a Mobile Phone

Getting a mobile phone has become a necessity for students to communicate, explore, travel, and get adjusted to their surroundings. Although many students might be familiar with cell phone carriers in their home country, cell phone providers and plans in the United States may function differently.

Major mobile phone plans in the US:

- Two-Year Contracts
- Prepaid plans
- Buying a SIM card

Two- Year Contracts

Most common cell phone plans in the US. Cell phone providers offer low monthly rates for customers that opt for this plan. However, terminating a contract early may result in customers paying a large penalty.

*Note: Most providers in the US require either a Social Security Number (SSN) or a high security deposit (roughly ranging from \$400 to \$500)

Benefits:

- Low monthly rates
- Low prices on new phones

Prepaid plans

An easier option for international students because it does NOT require a social security number and/or credit history check. This cell phone plan allows you to pay by the month, day or minute without the worry of ending a contract with a large fee.

Benefits:

- Does not require social security number and/or credit check
- No contract/deposit
- No penalties

Buying a SIM Card

For students that plan on using their own cell phone from their home country, buying a SIM Card will allow you to do so. Before purchasing a

SIM card, please be sure that your mobile phone (mainly GSM and CDMA) is unlocked so that it can be used by another cell phone provider. In terms of plans, this type of service will require a month by month payment plan.

Benefits:

- No contract
- Secure your data and preferences
- Portable

Local Mobile Phone Providers/Carriers:

T-Mobile

www.t-mobile.com
University Town Center
4237 Campus Drive Suite B158
Irvine, CA 92612-2758
949-509-7413

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

Verizon Wireless

www.verizonwireless.com
Park Place
2981 Michelson Dr
Irvine, CA 92612
(949) 756-3515

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

AT&T

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

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

Sprint

www.sprint.com
Crossroads
3992 Barranca Pkwy, Irvine,
CA 92606
(949) 654-8000

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

Local Transportation

Public Transportation Services:

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 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

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 Service: 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)

Airport Shuttle Services:

Shuttle to LAX <http://shuttletolax.com/>

Super Shuttle <http://www.supershuttle.com/>

Nearby Hotels & Motels

Costa Mesa

Costa Mesa/Newport Beach Hacienda Travelodge

From \$64/night

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

Travelodge Orange County Airport

From \$67/night

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

Vagabond Inn Costa Mesa

From \$63/night

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

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 East

From \$98/night

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

Days Inn Costa Mesa/ Newport Beach

From \$59/night

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

Motel 6

From \$60/night

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

La Quinta Inn John Wayne/ Orange County Airport

From \$65/night

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

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

Tustin

Fairfield Inn & Suites Tustin Orange County

From \$99/night
15011 Newport Ave, Tustin,
CA, 92780 United States, 866-
582-3258

Tustin Motor Lodge

From \$59/night
750 El Camino Real, Tustin,
CA, 92780 United States, 866-
925-8676

Key Inn & Suites

From \$60/night
1611 El Camino Real, Tustin,
CA, 92780 United States, 866-
573-4235

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

CW Suites Hotel John Wayne Airport

From \$89/night
2701 Hotel Terrace, Santa
Ana, CA, 92705 United States,
866-539-9234

Motel 6 Irvine- Orange County Airport

From \$70/night
1717 East Dyer Road, Santa
Ana, CA, 92705 United States,
866-538-6252

Phone: 949-825-5999
Website: <http://www.westcliff.edu>

