



**WESTCLIFF
UNIVERSITY**
Educate. Inspire. Empower.

STUDENT RESOURCE BOOKLET

2023 - 2024



Table of Contents

Table of Contents	2
Welcome to Westcliff University!	2
Airport Pick Up Services	3
Nearby Hotels & Motels	4
Housing Resources	6
Getting a Mobile Phone	8
Health Insurance	10
Local Transportation	11
Opening a U.S. Bank Account	13
Getting a California Driver's License	15
Additional Resources	17
Cultural Areas	19
Emergencies	20
Mental Health Assistance	21
Food Pantry Information	22
Standard American Laws and Culture	23
For International Students	24
Westcliff University Contact Information	26

Welcome to Westcliff University!

Westcliff University values the important role that students play in enriching the life of the university. With students coming from all over the world, our team is committed to providing quality advising services and support for our 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, we have put together a short booklet on how to get acclimated to life in Southern California. Please note that information detailed throughout the whole booklet may apply to various types of students attending on campus.

We encourage you to utilize this booklet to help you navigate through your new journey during this educational period at Westcliff University. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us:

Student Services: studentservices@westcliff.edu

International Affairs: intlservices@westcliff.edu.

You can also schedule an on-campus or phone consultation with an advisor by reaching out to our department. 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,

Office of Student Affairs

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

*For more information regarding transportation options, please refer to the **Local Transportation Section** (pg. 12 & 13).*

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 note, most all transportation services require an online payment. Please come prepared with a form of online or electronic payment (e.g. credit card, debit card, PayPal, ApplePay, etc.)

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>
- Santa Ana Airport (SNA)
<http://www.ocair.com/>
- Long Beach Airport (LGB)
<http://www.lgb.org/>
- San Diego Airport
<http://www.san.org/>

Nearby Hotels & Motels

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

Here is a list of hotels and motels that are near Westcliff University's Irvine and Cerritos campus.

Costa Mesa

**Costa Mesa/Newport Beach Hacienda
Travelodge**
1951 Newport Blvd, Costa Mesa, CA, 92627
(949) 478-0751

Days Inn Costa Mesa/ Newport Beach
2100 Newport Blvd, Costa Mesa, CA, 92627
(949) 642-2670

Travelodge Orange County Airport
1400 Bristol Street, Suite A, Costa Mesa, CA,
92626
(714) 486-0905

Motel 6 Costa Mesa
1441 Gisler Ave, Costa Mesa, CA, 92626
(714) 957-3063

Vagabond Inn Costa Mesa
3205 Harbor Blvd, Costa Mesa, CA, 92626
(714) 557-8360

**La Quinta Inn John Wayne/ Orange County
Airport**
1515 S Coast Dr, Costa Mesa, CA, 92626
(714) 957-5841

Santa Ana

Motel 6 Santa Ana
1623 East 1st Street, I-5/ Santa Ana Freeway at
1st St., Santa Ana, CA, 92701
(714) 558-0500

Motel 6 Irvine- Orange County Airport
1717 East Dyer Road, Santa Ana, CA,
92705
(949) 261-1515

CW Suites Hotel John Wayne Airport
2701 Hotel Terrace, Santa Ana, CA,
92705
(714) 957-9200

Irvine

**Courtyard by Marriott John Wayne
Airport/Orange County**
2701 Main St, Irvine, CA, 92614
(949) 757-1200

Candlewood Suites Irvine
16150 Sand Canyon Ave, Irvine, CA,
92618
(949) 788-0500

Atrium Hotel at Orange County Airport
18700 MacArthur Blvd, Irvine, CA, 92612
(949) 833-2770

Candlewood Suites Irvine East
3 S Pointe Dr, Lake Forest, CA, 92630
(949) 598-9105

Tustin

Fairfield Inn & Suites Tustin Orange County
15011 Newport Ave, Tustin, CA, 92780
(714) 258-9900

Key Inn & Suites
1611 El Camino Real, Tustin, CA, 92780
(714) 832-3220

Tustin Motor Lodge
750 El Camino Real, Tustin, CA, 92780
(714) 544-5850

Cerritos/Bellflower

Sheraton Cerritos Hotel
12725 Center Court Dr S, Cerritos, CA 90703
(562) 809-1500

Value Inn Bellflower
10410 Alondra Blvd, Bellflower, CA 90706
(562) 925-5585

Motel 6 Los Angeles - Bellflower
17220 Downey Ave, Bellflower, CA 90706
(562) 531-3933

Artesia

Travelodge by Wyndham Artesia
16905 Pioneer Blvd, Artesia, CA 90701
(562) 521-1740

Days Inn & Suites by Wyndham Artesia
17510 Pioneer Blvd, Artesia, CA 90701
(562) 924-6700

Rodeway Inn Artesia
11854 Artesia Blvd, Artesia, CA 90701
(562) 402-0070

Long Beach

Courtyard by Marriott Long Beach Airport
3841 N Lakewood Blvd, Long Beach, CA
90808
(562) 429-5803

Hampton Inn Long Beach Airport
3771 N Lakewood Blvd, Long Beach, CA
90808
(562) 425-0012

Homewood Suites by Hilton Long Beach Airport
3771 N Lakewood Blvd, Long Beach, CA
90808
(562) 425-0010

Useful hotel websites:

- www.trivago.com
- www.hotels.com

If you have any more questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us through email or by phone. You can also schedule a one-on-one appointment with our advisors.

Housing Resources

Westcliff University does not provide housing for our students, but we do have information that will help students with their placement and search!

There are three different options, and you will find more information attached. Please note that the options listed are for the information and convenience of prospective or current students, and do not constitute endorsement, recommendation, or favoring by Westcliff University.

1. For Apartment placements:

All housing inquiries can now be directed to REXidence Residential Services. They will be operating and managing housing for Westcliff University students moving forward and handling all activities such as leasing, housing placement, applications, billing, etc. The application can be [found here](#) and can also be reached at housing@rexfordence.com. We highly encourage you to reach out to them in order to begin a consistent line of communication and request for more information regarding availability and placement after you have completed an application. [Click here to view the flier.](#)

2. Homestay Arrangements

With a homestay arrangement, you will live with a local family, experience an American family lifestyle, and have the opportunity to practice your English skills on a daily basis. Homestay arrangements allow you to expand your cultural and educational experience, and gain exposure to American families of various racial, ethnic, and socioeconomic backgrounds.

Homestay housing arrangements are not one-size-fits-all. Choices include having your own room or sharing a room with another student; and choosing to eat some or all of your meals with your host family, or taking care of all of your own meals. Prices vary.

Homestays require a 4-week window to process your application and find an appropriate host family. Applications requiring accommodations in less than 4-weeks time are subject to rushed application fees.

- a) **Homestay Match** provides students with the option of (virtually) viewing their potential room prior to paying any deposits or application fees. Homestay Match's algorithm takes into account distance to your school, public transportation and quality of our host rooms. They analyze all those factors so the search results you receive are the most relevant for you.

Email: emerson@homestaymatch.com

Website: <https://www.homestaymatch.com/>

- b) **Universal Student Housing** offers a traditional form of homestay application. After paying an application fee and security deposit, a Housing Coordinator will be dedicated to making sure that you are placed with a host family that best fits your criteria. The Housing Coordinator will make sure that you are informed and comfortable during every step of the process. [Click here to view the flier.](#)

Phone: (310) 824-4908

Email: contact@usaish.com

Website: <http://www.ushestudent.com/>

- c) **Searching Independently**

For students who wish to look for their own apartment, feel free to get your search started with the attached [Alternative Housing Location](#) document.

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 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 out of state and 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 your data & preferences
- Portable

Local Mobile Phone Providers/Carriers:

T-Mobile

www.t-mobile.com

The District at Tustin Legacy 2837 Park Ave. Tustin, CA 92782
(714) 258-8992

T-Mobile

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

Verizon Wireless

The District at Tustin Legacy 2687 Park Ave., Suite E Tustin, CA 92782
(714) 258-8870

AT&T

www.att.com

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

AT&T

The District at Tustin Legacy 2219 Park Ave., Suite. 8A Tustin, CA 92782
(714) 258-8290

Sprint

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

** J1 SIM Card is a wireless solution designed specifically and exclusively for travelers on a VISA. It is a Free SIM Card with U.S.A Unlimited Mobile Phone Plans*

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 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 students with benefits according to their own needs. International students have the option of choosing health insurance plans that are recommended by Westcliff University or through other agencies.

Please note that Westcliff does not provide, or subsidize, health insurance, health care, or medical care for students. You are strongly urged to secure your own health insurance and keep it active throughout your time at Westcliff. Medical care can be extremely costly and, without adequate coverage, can create huge, unexpected financial burdens.

There are many options, and you should choose a provider and plan you decide is right for you. If you are a nonimmigrant student, you may wish to explore providers and coverages on the CoveredCalifornia website, <https://www.coveredca.com>. Sometimes, students may qualify for subsidized coverage under Medi-Cal Eligibility and Covered CA.

Here are some additional resources that nonimmigrant students may explore for information about coverage possibilities:

1. [Covered California – Information for Immigrants](#)
2. [How Immigration Status Impacts Medi-Cal Eligibility](#)
3. [ISO Insurance](#) | (800) 244 - 1180
4. [International Student Insurance](#) | (904) 758 - 4391
5. [Student Protection \(ISP\)](#) | (877) 738-5787

Local Transportation

The primary forms of transportation in the immediate area are:

- Walking
- Bicycling
- Public Transportation (Bus, Train)
- Carpooling Services (RideMatching, Vanpooling)
- Automobile
- Private Transportation Service (Uber, Lyft)

Local Transportation Services			
Company	Type	Website	Phone
Orange County Transportation Area (OCTA)	Bus	www.octa.net	(714) 636-7433
LA Metro	Bus	https://www.metro.net/riding/guide/	(323) 466-3876
Carpooling Services	Carpool	https://legacy.cityofirvine.org/cityhall/pw/itn_new/carpool/carpool.asp	(949) 724-6288
Vanpooling Services	Vanpool OC	https://legacy.cityofirvine.org/cityhall/pw/itn_new/carpool/vanpool.asp	(949) 724-6288
	Vanpool LA	https://www.metro.net/riding/vanpool/	(213) 922-7003
Private Transportation Services			
Company	Type	Website	Phone
Uber	Rideshare Service	https://www.uber.com	(800) 353-8237
Lyft	Rideshare Service	https://www.lyft.com/	(855) 865-9553
Yellow Cab	Taxi Service	https://www.californiayellowcab.com/	(714) 444-4444
Zipcar	Rideshare Service	https://www.zipcar.com/	(866) 494-7227
Train Services			
Company	Type	Website	Phone
Amtrak Train	Train	www.amtrak.com/	(800) 872-7245
Metrolink	Train	https://www.metrolinktrains.com/	(800) 371-5465

Alternative Transportation			
Company	Type	Website	Phone
REXidence	Bicycle	https://www.rexidence.com/	(949) 449-9919
Trails End Cycling Center	Bicycle	https://trailsendcc.com/Trails_End_Cycling_Center/Rentals.html	(949) 863-1982
Pedego Electric Bikes Irvine	Electric Bikes	https://www.pedegoelectricbikes.com/dealers/irvine/	(949) 274-7944

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)

Additional airport services include:

- **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.

Opening a U.S. Bank Account

Students may find many benefits to opening a bank account in the United States, including convenient money-wiring to and from their home country.

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 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

Required documents to open a bank account differ from institution to institution. Some common ones are:

- Proof of identity
- Social Security Number
- Proof of residency

International Students!

The following are suggested documents to support your request for a bank account:

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.)

Nearby banks to the Irvine campus:

Chase Bank

Von Karman Plaza 2244 Barranca Pkwy.
Irvine, CA 92606
(949) 255-1882

Schools First Federal Credit Union

15442 Newport Ave.
Tustin, CA 92780
(800) 462-8328

Wells Fargo Bank

The District at Tustin Legacy 2677 Park Ave.
Tustin, CA 92782
(714) 566-1340

Bank of America

3881 Alton Pkwy., Suite B
Irvine, CA 92606
(949) 752-6822

Nearby banks to the Cerritos campus:

Chase Bank

18801 Gridley Rd.
Cerritos, CA 90703
(562) 865-1839

U.S. Bank

12701 Towne Center Dr.
Cerritos, CA 90703
(562) 924-2350

Wells Fargo Bank

18712 Gridley Rd.
Cerritos, CA 90703
(562) 924-1616

Bank of America

18641 S gridley Rd.
Cerritos, CA 90703
(562) 403-6240

Westcliff University does not endorse or recommend any of the above listed banks. This list is provided as a service only for those requiring information about the banking facilities located near the campus of Westcliff University.

Additional banking facilities can be found via Google search. It is important to open a banking account as soon as possible. A checking account permits the withdrawal of money whenever necessary at an ATM (Automated Teller Machine), and to use checks or a debit card to pay for goods and services. Traveler's checks in U.S. dollars can be used temporarily until a bank account is opened.

Getting a California Driver's License

Application Process

1. Complete an original application DL 44 form (available at the DMV)
 - a) Pay 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/dmv/appointments>

Required Documents:

- Proof of Identity
 - These are original or certified documents establishing birth date, true full name and identity.
- True Full Name
 - Your true full name is your current, complete legal name (first, middle and last name) as it appears on your identity or name change document(s). If the name on your identity document is different from the name you provided on your application, you must submit an additional name change document.
- Social Security Number
- Proof of residency documents (two required)

For International Students!

Required Documents

- I-20 Form
 - 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
- 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 (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.)
- Enrollment Verification Letter from the university (required at some DMVs)
- Proof of Vehicle Insurance (Behind-the-Wheel test only)

- For a complete list of acceptable documents, visit:
https://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/dmv/detail/dl/residency_requirement

Tips for a Faster, Better Experience

- 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.³

For more information, please visit the DMV website here:

https://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/dmv/detail/pubs/brochures/fast_facts/ffd105.

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 a 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.

California-Issued REAL ID

Another form of identification is the new California REAL ID driver license or identification card. The REAL ID is useful for students as it can be used to board domestic flights within the U.S. and is safer than traveling with your passport for domestic travel. Students will be required to obtain the California REAL ID when the new federal identification requirements begin.

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

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)

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

Long Beach DMV (Near Cerritos campus)

3700 E Willow St Long Beach, CA 90815

1-800-777-0133

Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am to 5:00pm

Additional Resources

Student Activities

A great way to learn more about what Westcliff University has to offer is to keep in the loop with upcoming student activities and events on our social media pages.

Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/westcliffuniversity/
Instagram	https://www.instagram.com/westcliffuniversity/
Twitter	https://twitter.com/AskWestcliff
Linkedin	https://www.linkedin.com/school/westcliff-university/
Youtube	https://www.youtube.com/c/westcliffuniversity

Westcliff University offers a variety of different sports teams and students are encouraged to attend games and support the Westcliff Warriors. To keep up to date with game dates and times of all of Westcliff's sports teams, students should check out the athletics page.

<https://www.westcliffathletics.com/>

Local Attractions

The Irvine Campus at Westcliff University is located immediately adjacent to a shopping center. It contains many different types of restaurants, a movie theater, grocery stores, post offices and many more options. Other attractions in Irvine includes:

Irvine Spectrum: An outdoor shopping center located at the southeast edge of Irvine. Its notable features include Edwards Cinema Movie Theater, Nordstrom, Macy's, Barnes & Noble, Dave and Buster's, Target, etc.

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

The District at Tustin Legacy: A shopping and dining destination between Jamboree Road, Barranca Parkway and Tustin Ranch Road. Designed as a festive place for people to dine, shop and play, this plaza features AMC Tustin 14, Bowlmor Lanes, Costco, RA Sushi, Lucille's BBQ, Target, and much more.

<http://thedistricttl.com/>

Fashion Island: An outdoor mall that is located in Newport Beach, California. This shopping center includes many popular stores and restaurants such as Neiman Marcus, Cheesecake Factory, Nordstrom, Whole Foods Market, and much more.

<https://www.shopfashionisland.com/>

Boomers! Irvine: An amusement park that is located between Michelson Drive and Harvard Avenue. This amusement park center includes many features such as mini-golf, go-karts, bumper boats, and arcade games.

<http://www.boomersparks.com/irvine>

South Coast Plaza: An indoor shopping mall that is located in Costa Mesa, California. Many notable features and restaurants include Ding Tai Fung, H&M, Banana Republic, J.Crew, and more.

<https://www.southcoastplaza.com/>

Some attractions in Cerritos include:

Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts

1800 Park Plaza Drive, Cerritos, CA 90703
(562) 916-8501

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

Los Cerritos Center

(Shopping and Dining Center)
239 Los Cerritos Center, Cerritos, CA 90703
(562) 402-7467

<https://www.shoploscerritos.com/>

Cerritos Towne Center

(Shopping and Dining Center)
12731 Towne Center Dr., Cerritos, CA 90703
(562) 522-9230

<https://www.cerritostc.com/>

Cerritos Sports Complex

19900 Bloomfield Ave., Cerritos, CA 90703
(562) 916-8590

http://www.cerritos.us/RESIDENTS/recreation/facilities/cerritos_sports_complex.php

Cerritos Sculpture Garden

183rd St., Cerritos, CA 90703
(562) 860-0311

http://www.cerritos.us/VISITORS/art_in_public_places/cerritos_sculpture_garden.php

For more options:

Yelp: An easy way to connect people with great local businesses through reviews and recommendations that are published by the public. Yelp is available through the website and/or smartphone mobile applications at <http://www.yelp.com/>

Tripadvisor: The world's largest traveling site that offers a wide variety of travel choices and assists in planning and booking the perfect trip around town. Tripadvisor is available through the website and/or smartphone mobile applications at <http://www.tripadvisor.com/>

Popular destinations to visit in Southern California:

Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA)

5905 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90036
(323) 857-6000

www.lacma.org

The Broad Museum

221 S Grand Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90012
Downtown
(213) 232-6200

www.thebroad.org

San Diego Zoo Safari Park

15500 San Pasqual Valley Rd., Escondido, CA 92027
(619) 231-1515

<https://www.sdzsafaripark.org/>

Disneyland Park

1313 Disneyland Dr., Anaheim, CA 92802
(714) 781-4636

<https://disneyland.disney.go.com>

Cultural Areas

California is filled with a diverse cultural population. It offers great opportunities for students to explore and experience different types of cultural communities. More importantly, out of state and/or international students won't feel too far away from their home country with shopping centers, museums, and towns that are distinct to different countries.

Here is a list of a couple of cultural sites that students can enjoy:

Little Tokyo

319 E 2nd St Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 293-5822
<http://www.littletokyola.org/>

Chinatown

Cesar Chavez & N Broadway Los Angeles, CA 90012
Chinatown, Downtown
(213) 680-0243
<http://www.chinatownla.com/>

Koreatown

Wilshire and Western Los Angeles, CA 90010
Koreatown, Wilshire Center
<http://www.yelp.com/biz/koreatown-los-angeles-2>

Historic Filipinotown

Los Angeles, CA 90026
<http://www.visitasianla.org/index.php/historic-filipinotown/things-to-do>

Little Saigon

Bolsa Ave (a long strip on Bolsa Ave between Brookhurst St. and Newland St.)
Westminster, CA 92683
<https://visitanahaim.org/blog/little-saigon-the-vietnamese-heart-of-orange-county>

Little India Village

18792 Pioneer Blvd Artesia, CA 90701
(562) 924-5652
<http://www.artesiaindia.us/>

Emergencies

Emergency Phone Line: [911](#)

In the event of an emergency, students should dial 911. Additionally, students should stay calm and give their name, exact location, and telephone number to the 911 dispatcher. Stay on the line with the 911 dispatcher as long as necessary.

In the case of crisis specific emergencies, please refer to the immediate hotlines below:

Immediate Suicide Hotlines:

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline	1-800-273-8255
Didi Hirsch (LA Program) Suicide Crisis Helpline	1-877-727-4747
Crisis Text Line	Text HOME to 741741

Immediate DV Hotlines:

National Domestic Violence Hotline	1-800-799-7233
Human Options (OC Program) Domestic Violence Hotline	1-877-854-3594
Laura's House (OC Program) Domestic Violence Hotline	1-866-498-1511
Interval House (OC Program) Domestic Violence Hotline	1-800-978-3600

Other Immediate Referrals:

OC LINKS Helpline	1-855-625-4657
OC Resource Line	211

Students in need of a more extensive list of resources should contact their Student Services Advisor. If you have any more questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us through email or by phone. You can also schedule a one-on-one appointment with our advisors.

Mental Health Assistance

Being a student can be challenging and it can be frustrating when personal problems surface; or when you are feeling stressed, maybe near burn-out, and it is unclear where to turn for help. When challenges arise in our life that are difficult to deal with, it is comforting to have someone to talk to.

IMPACT Student Life Assistance Program

Westcliff University is proud to make available to you the IMPACT Student Life Assistance Program, offering confidential support when you need it most.

Through this program, professional support is available on an unlimited basis, offering you support 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Counseling (in-person, video, phone, or chat) is also available, with up to 3 sessions included per concern. Additional services include:

- Financial Counseling
- Legal Assistance
- Identity Theft Prevention and Recovery Services
- Resource and Referral Services for Child and Eldercare
- Life/Wellness Coaching
- Medical Advocacy

For live and immediate assistance, call 866-780 0855 to speak to a licensed professional counselor available 24/7 support. [Click here to view the flier.](#) Please contact your Student Services Advisor by email: studentservices@westcliff.edu or call us at 888-491-8686 for more information. Click [here](#) to request services.

Additional Mental Health Resources

Westcliff University has also gathered nearby community and mental health resources to further support students with options. [Click here for the resources.](#)

Additionally, 211 is a local, private, non-profit organization that provides resources and assistance for a wide range of topics, such as mental health, food, housing, transport, and more. 211 operators can help narrow down resources in the area based on a student's needs and circumstances. For more information, you can call 211, text their zip code to 898211, or take a look at their website here: <https://www.211oc.org/mental-health.html>

Lastly, students in need of mental health assistance should first contact their health insurance provider to request a summary of benefits and coverage. Many health insurance plans include mental health services with a pre-determined copay charge.

Food Pantry Information

Food pantries are non-profit charitable centers that distribute food or provide resources for those that may struggle with purchasing enough to avoid hunger. Local food pantries are available in many areas of Southern California, including Irvine, Tustin, Anaheim, and Costa Mesa areas. For more options, please also visit <https://www.211.org/about-us/your-local-211> or text 898211 the zip code of interest.

Food Pantry	Details
<p>South County Outreach (949) 380-8144, ext. 207 7 Whatney, Suite B Irvine, CA 92618 clientinfo@sco-oc.org</p>	<p>Hours: Monday to Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and Friday 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. What to Bring: Photo ID for all adults in the home, proof of address, verification of household income. *Students can visit the Food Pantry once a month. *To visit, download and submit the application to clientinfo@sco-oc.org.</p>
<p>Mariners Church 949-769-8131 5001 Newport Coast Dr Irvine, CA 92603 cc@marinerschurch.org</p>	<p>Food Pantry Hours: Tuesday to Friday 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. Thrift Store Hours: Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm.</p>
<p>Share Our Selves Food Pantry (949) 270-2100 1550 Superior Avenue Costa Mesa, CA 92627</p>	<p>Hours: Monday to Friday 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. What to Bring: Photo ID, Proof of Orange County Residency</p>
<p>Cool Water Ministries 949-292-6425 760 Victoria Street Costa Mesa, CA 92627 Email: coolwaterministries@gmail.com</p>	<p>Costa Mesa: 10:00 am-12:00 pm Second Saturday of each month *Sign-in at distribution, Must pre-register, Reservations open on Monday the week of the distribution, People who do not pre-register will not be served; *Provides a mobile food pantry that distributes fresh fruits, vegetables, and other goods.</p>
<p>Families Forward (949) 552-2727 8 Thomas, Irvine, CA 92618 info@families-forward.org</p>	<p>Monday-Thursday, 10am-2pm. * Live in Orange County, provide Photo ID and register to participate. Register HERE</p>

Standard American Laws and Culture

Alcohol

U.S laws concerning the sale and consumption of alcohol may seem very liberal or very conservative depending on the person and their nationality. In the United States it is illegal to purchase and consume alcoholic drinks, including beer and wine, until one reaches the age of twenty-one (21) years-old.

Smoking

In many parts of the United States, all public buildings are designated “smoke free,” meaning that one cannot smoke in any part of the building. Other buildings have designated spaces for smokers. If one is a guest in someone’s home, room, or apartment, always ask permission before smoking. At Westcliff University, our campuses are all smoke free; however, one can smoke outside the buildings.

Practicing Personal Religion

The United States is a multicultural society founded on tolerance and mutual respect. People are encouraged to seek out opportunities to practice their religious beliefs. There are usually a variety of denominations and religious groups in every community. Although America has a higher rate of church attendance than most other western societies, many Americans are uncomfortable discussing religion. If the student is in a religious situation or discussion in which s/he is uncomfortable, it is acceptable to excuse themselves or explain their perspective.

Holidays Celebrated in the U.S.

Six major national legal holidays in the United States:

- New Year’s Day (January 1st)
- Memorial Day (4th Monday in May)
- Independence Day (July 4th)
- Labor Day (1st Monday in September)
- Thanksgiving (4th Thursday in November)
- Christmas (December 25th)

Some additional holidays in the U.S. are not only celebrated by state but also by certain diverse groups depending on their cultural background. Additional celebratory days include:

- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (January).
- Valentine’s Day (February 14th).
- President’s Day (February)
- St. Patrick’s Day (March 17th)
- Easter (March or April)
- Passover (March or April)
- Memorial Day (May)
- Ramadan (June)
- Veteran’s Day (November 11th)
- Halloween (October 31st)
- Hanukkah (late November or early December)

For Westcliff University’s Observed Holidays, [click here](#).

For International Students

International students! Please note that throughout the booklet there are details that also applies to you other than the information below (i.e., driver's license, bank account, etc.). Please review the entire booklet to find resources that will support your various needs.

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 admissions@westcliff.edu or the International Affairs Department 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 as an initial international student, make sure you have all of your important travel documents on hand such as:

- Original copy of I-20
- Valid Passport
- Valid F-1 Student Visa
- University Admissions Acceptance Letter
- Receipt of SEVIS I-901 fee
- Financial documents
- Other documents:
 - o Health & immunization records
 - o Transcripts
 - o Degrees, diplomas, certificates
 - o Immigration Process at the U.S. Port of Entry: <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov>.

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 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:
 - Active Form I-20
 - Valid Passport or Birth Certificate
 - Original I-94 Arrival/Departure Record
 - Enrollment Verification Letter from Westcliff University
 - 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.

Social Security number:

Website: www.ssa.gov/ssnumber/

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



Westcliff University Contact Information

Phone: 1-949-825-5999

Website: www.westcliff.edu