Welcome!

from the International Programs Office at California State University, Monterey Bay

Congratulations on being accepted! We look forward to assisting you with a smooth transition to our campus.

We are here to help

Getting adjusted to any study abroad/study away experience can be a challenge. But don't worry, we are here to help!

Please use this guide as your preparation checklist, and if you have questions, feel free to contact us:

- **Mahshid Bozorgnia**: mbozorgnia@csumb.edu
  **Contact for questions about housing, orientation, and arrival**

- **Sugeyth Ronquillo**: sronquillo@csumb.edu
  **Contact for questions about academics and course enrollment**

- **Kasey Scolavino**: kscolavino@csumb.edu
  **Contact for questions about immigration, payments, and health insurance**

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**1. REVIEW IMPORTANT DATES***

- **Course Schedule Available**: MAR. 21
- **Housing Application Deadline**: JULY 15
- **30 Days Before Your Program Start Date**: AUG. 15
- **First Day You Can Legally Enter the U.S.**: AUG. 17
- **Program Cancellation Deadline**: You must notify us if you are not planning to attend CSUMB by this date
- **Arrival/Move-In Day**: AUG. 15
- **Mandatory Orientation**: AUG. 18-19
- **First Day Of Classes**: AUG. 22
- **Fall Break**: NOV. 21 - NOV. 25
- **Final Exams**: DEC. 12 - 16
- **Housing Move-Out**: DEC. 17

*Dates are subject to change
4. APPLY FOR YOUR STUDENT VISA

Entering the U.S.
Once your student visa is approved, you can enter the United States up to 30 days prior to the start of classes. At the port of entry, present your passport with the visa and the valid Form I-20. You must also carry the financial documents you presented during your visa interview and your official CSUMB Admission Letter.

A United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP) official will review your documents. You will be given instructions about how to access your record of admissions (known as an I-94 number) online. The CBP official will stamp your passport with an admission stamp. This stamp is annotated with the date, the class of admission and your duration of status. The CBP official will then return your documents to you and you are free to enter the United States.

Transfer students currently attending a U.S. school or college do not need to apply for a new visa if they're not planning to leave the U.S. The SEVIS record will need to be transferred to CSUMB.

Since you are not a U.S. citizen, you will need to obtain an F-1 student visa to study at CSUMB. Acquiring a student visa can be a lengthy and time-consuming process. The wait times vary by embassy so we recommend that you start the process as early as possible. The U.S. Department of State maintains a list of the current wait times.

You can check current Visa Appointment & Processing wait times at travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/visa-information-resources/wait-times.html.

1. After you receive your I-20, pay the SEVIS Fee
Pay the SEVIS fee (I-901) and make sure to bring a copy of the receipt to the U.S. embassy or consulate for your visa appointment. The SEVIS fee must be paid online at fmjfee.com.

2. Complete your DS-160 Online Nonimmigrant Visa Application
You will receive a Form I-20 from CSUMB, then you will apply for an F-1 visa and will use the campus code listed on your I-20.

The application can be found at ceac.state.gov/genniv

3. Schedule an Interview with your local U.S. Consulate
A list of all U.S. Consulates can be found online at: usembassy.gov Take your I-20 and all other required documents to your visa interview.

*Canadian citizens do NOT need to obtain a visa to enter the U.S.

For other conditions and restrictions regarding maintaining your immigration status as a student including, but not limited to, employment, travel, and more, visit csumb.edu/international/student-resources/immigration

3. UPLOAD YOUR PHOTO

You have to upload your own photo to receive your photo ID card upon arrival. Your Photo ID Card (Otter ID Card) is your student identification card that will allow you to receive a wide range of services including access to your housing building, to the gym, library, your meal plan, and free public transport. Look for an email from "ottercard@csumb.edu" that will give you access to the photo upload link: https://csumb.edu/csc/ottercard/ottercard-photo/

Please follow the instructions in the link to make sure your photo is submittable

YOUR TO-DO LIST:

- Set up your CSUMB account
- Upload your photo
- Pay SEVIS Fee
- Complete your DS-160 Online Nonimmigrant Visa Application
- Schedule an interview with your U.S. Consulate
- OR-
- Transfer your existing SEVIS record

After you have set up your account, log in to csumb.edu/dashboard and try it out!
5. APPLY FOR HOUSING

International students must apply for campus housing to reserve their space.

Please be aware that we will try to place you according to your housing preference, but we cannot guarantee that space will be available in all housing options. Housing options and rates can be compared at csumb.edu/housing.

Note: Unless you are a Junior or Senior, or are a Graduate student, you must live on campus. If you choose to live off-campus, you will not be provided housing assistance. Please notify the International Programs Office if you do not require on-campus housing.

Housing Options
- Residence Halls (on main campus)
- North Quad (on main campus)
- Promontory (~.5 miles/.8 km from main campus)
- East Campus (~2 miles/3.2 km from main campus):
  - Priority given to students with families (proof of dependents required) or Degree students with 60 or more transferable units completed (Junior, Senior & Graduate Students). Other students may be considered on a space-available basis.
  - Please note: East Campus is very sparsely furnished. If you choose this option, expect to purchase more household necessities than if you were to live on Main Campus (kitchen supplies, cleaning supplies, Internet router & modem, etc.).

Dining Options
Compare meal plan options to decide what’s right for you at csumb.edu/housing/rates If you live on campus, you will automatically be assigned a meal plan, but you may select your preferred plan when you apply for housing.

Meal Plan Required (no kitchen in accommodation):
- Residence Halls – Cypress, Asilomar, Willet, Manzanita, Avocet, Tortuga, Yarrow and Sanderling
- North Quad – Pinnacles and Vineyard Suites

Meal Plan Not Required (kitchen in accommodation):
- North Quad – Strawberry Apartments
- Promontory
- East Campus Apartments

How to Apply for Housing

1. After setting up your CSUMB account, log in at csumb.edu/dashboard
2. Click “MY HOUSING”

Apply for housing from csumb.edu/dashboard. Once logged in to the dashboard, click on MYHOUSING which will take you to your housing dashboard. Tutorials are available at csumb.edu/housing. Select APPLICATION from the menu bar at the top of the page.

Roommate Requests
If you would like to request a roommate or a housing assignment change, you can do so in your MYHOUSING application. Requests will be considered on a space-available basis.

Housing Application Fee & Reservation Fee
If you intend to live on campus, you must pay a non-refundable $50 housing application fee and a $150 reservation fee when you submit your application. The housing reservation fee will be applied to your housing fee.

If you cancel your housing before June 10, you can receive a refund on your $150 housing reservation fee.

Housing Assignment Notification
If you have submitted your application on time, your housing placement will be finalized by mid July, and you will be notified of your assignment via email from Student Housing & Residential Life.

YOUR TO-DO LIST:
- Apply and pay housing application and reservation fees by July 15
6. SELECT YOUR COURSES

Degree-Seeking Bachelor & Master’s:

Degree-Seeking Undergraduate & Graduate Students:

Students will self-enroll through your csumb.edu/dashboard student account. Before enrolling, visit https://csumb.edu/advising/advising-appointments and locate the advisor designated for your major. After you have paid your $100 Enrollment Confirmation Fee, schedule an advising appointment with your advisor to select classes. You will be able to self-register for classes using a system called “OASIS”. Visit csumb.edu/oasis/add-classes for steps on how to register. Review the “How to Use the Course Schedule” section for more information of how to search classes. Check your “@csumb.edu” email frequently for important updates.

English and Math Requirements:

All undergraduate students must meet the A2 Written Communication and B4 Mathematics General Education requirements. Students not transferring credit which meet these two requirements must be taken at CSUMB. Students can meet the A2 requirement in an accelerated one-semester course or in a two-semester sequenced course. To help you determine which communication course is best for you, complete the online experience “Write to register” on iLearn. To help you determine which first-year mathematics/statistics course is best for you, complete the online experience “Choosing your first-year mathematics/statistics course” on iLearn, accessible from csumb.edu/dashboard.

Online Pre-Arrival Orientation:

All new degree seeking students are expected to attend New Student Otter Orientation (in person or virtually) prior to beginning their first semester at CSUMB. There is a mandatory $140 orientation fee. Students may register for orientation after they have confirmed enrollment and after receiving an email from the Office of Admissions to begin the registration process. For students residing in the U.S. prior to the start of the semester, an in-person orientation session will be available. For students residing outside of the U.S. prior to the start of the semester the online orientation experience is encouraged. All students have access to the online orientation experience via csumb.edu/orientation. The New Student Otter Orientation is separate and will not replace the mandatory International Programs orientation.

ASSISTANCE FOR CHOOSING CLASSES:

1. Visit csumb.edu/planning/class-schedule and click the Browse/Search classes link.
2. Select Fall 2022, choose a subject, and select “undergraduate” under course career. If you are a graduate student select “Post-Baccalaureate” under course career.
3. Click Search.
4. Click on the course you are interested in taking.
5. Read the course description, enrollment requirements, for any prerequisites, and the class availability to view available seats.
6. To enroll in this class note the following course info class number, course, section, etc.

How to Use the Course Schedule:

CATALOG VS. CURRENT COURSE SCHEDULE:

You will need to check the current course schedule for your semester to make sure the classes you intend to take are available. Do not use the course catalog to choose your courses.

CLASS LEVEL:

- Courses numbered 100-299 are considered “lower division” (for 1st & 2nd year university students) and are usually introductory in nature and have fewer prerequisites.
- Courses numbered 300-499 are considered “upper division” (for 3rd and 4th year university students) and generally have more prerequisites.
- Courses numbered 500-699 are considered graduate-level courses and are restricted from exchange students.
- Check the course description to see if your courses have prerequisites. Be sure that you have met equivalent prerequisites with prior coursework before requesting these courses.

Degree-Seeking Bachelor & Master’s:

Students will self-enroll through your csumb.edu/dashboard student account. Before enrolling, visit https://csumb.edu/advising/advising-appointments and locate the advisor designated for your major. After you have paid your $100 Enrollment Confirmation Fee, schedule an advising appointment with your advisor to select classes. You will be able to self-register for classes using a system called “OASIS”. Visit csumb.edu/oasis/add-classes for steps on how to register. Review the “How to Use the Course Schedule” section for more information of how to search classes. Check your “@csumb.edu” email frequently for important updates.

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All Students:

COURSE LOAD:

- Students usually take between 12-16 units (3-5 courses) per semester.
- For each unit of class time, you should plan to spend at least 2-3 hours per week studying outside of class.
- Undergraduate F-1 visa students are required to register for a minimum of 12 units (8 units for Graduate students) to maintain immigration status.
- Tuition will vary by number of units taken, so check csumb.edu/cost for an accurate total.

How to Use the Course Schedule:

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4. Click on the course you are interested in taking.
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6. To enroll in this class note the following course info class number, course, section, etc.

Your to-do list:

- Schedule an online advising appointment
- Complete the Math (B4), Communication (A2), Online Pre-Arrival Orientation online experiences in iLearn
- Enroll in your courses using OASIS
HOW TO SEE YOUR ITEMIZED CHARGES DUE
Go to csumb.edu/dashboard and click on “OASIS” (in the navigation bar) to view your Student Center.
1. Look at the Finance Section of your Student Center.
2. Click on the “Other Financial” drop-down menu, select “Charges Due,” and select the arrow to continue. Here you will see a breakdown of the charges you owe. Make a note of these charges, as you will need to enter them into Flywire when paying.

HOW TO MAKE PAYMENTS
CSUMB has contracted with Flywire to offer an innovative and streamlined way to make a payment from your home country.

Founded by a former international student, Flywire’s mission is to save money for international students and their families that would otherwise be lost on bank fees and unfavorable foreign exchange rates.

1. Log in to your CSUMB Dashboard/OASIS to make your payment.
2. From the main menu select, Self-Service, Student Center and then Finances.
3. Under the finance tab, Select the “Make a Payment” link
4. In CashNet, Click “Make a Payment” on the left side column
5. Select the type of payment you would like to make
6. Enter the payment amount and click “Add to payment”
7. Either click “Add more” if you have additional items to pay or “Pay Now” if that is the only item. Click “Continue”
8. You will then be given four payment options. For FlyWire, select “International Payment”. Click “Continue”
9. Click International Payment. This will take you to the Flywire page to begin the payment process.
10. Enter the country you will be sending funds from and the amount you will be sending to CSUMB in USD.
11. Then select your preferred payment method from the options provided. Options may include bank transfer, debit/credit card in your home currency, electronic payment, or other local options.
12. Enter some basic information to initiate your payment booking.
13. Follow the instructions provided to send funds to Flywire. For bank transfers, follow the instructions provided to send your funds. Depending on your bank, payment may be made online, in person, or over the phone. For debit/credit card payments, enter your card details online to complete your payment in your home currency.
   Note: Additional local payment options may be available depending on the country you are paying from.
14. Track your payment by logging into your Flywire account at any time. Receive text and email status updates each step of the way, including a confirmation when your payment has been delivered to your institution.

$100 Enrollment Confirmation Fee*
Confirming your enrollment reserves your spot at Cal State Monterey Bay, it’s easy and only takes a few minutes! You confirm your enrollment by paying the $100 enrollment deposit. The enrollment deposit is applied toward your first semester tuition fees and is non-refundable. You can make this payment in your OASIS Student Center.

Payment plans may be available for degree-seeking students. Contact international@csumb.edu for more information.

ADVICE
Financial planning is an integral part of a successful study abroad experience. You’ll want to have enough U.S. currency to cover initial expenses like meals, taxi/bus fare, etc. but not so much that you feel uncomfortable. We recommend having some U.S. dollars, but please be sure to carry it safely.

If you are unable to obtain U.S. currency prior to arrival, you may try to exchange your own country’s currency at the airport or use an ATM (bank withdrawal machine). Be aware that both of these methods are less reliable than bringing U.S. cash with you.

Prior to leaving, inform your bank that you are traveling for an extensive period and ensure that:
» Your banking activities will not be mistaken as fraudulent
» You will be able to access your funds and use your bank card in the U.S.
» Your daily withdrawal limits are high enough to accommodate your needs
» There are alternate methods of accessing funds available to you (traveler’s checks, etc.)

Many students find it easiest and most convenient to open a bank account in the U.S. You will have the opportunity to meet with local banks during orientation.

YOUR TO-DO LIST:
- Pay $100 Enrollment Confirmation fee
- See charges due and make payments in July

Flywire customer support
Phone: +1 (617) 207-7076
US Toll-Free: 1-800-346-9252
Email: support@Flywire.com
Web: Flywire.com/help
Federal and state laws require that international students maintain adequate health insurance while attending CSUMB. A single day of hospitalization can cost thousands of dollars. A good insurance policy gives you access to medical facilities and provides protection against the enormous costs of health care.

International students will be automatically enrolled in the CSUMB healthcare plan prior to arrival, extending through the last day of the month in which the semester ends. You will be automatically re-enrolled in the insurance plan each semester. The cost will be billed to your student account in July 2022 (see previous page for how to view/pay).

Supplemental/Travel Insurance
If you arrive in the U.S. before the effective date of the CSUMB insurance plan or depart after the expiry date, you are encouraged to purchase your own supplemental insurance for this uninsured period, including grace periods, and Optional Practical Training.

Campus Health Center
CSUMB provides healthcare to students at the Campus Health Center (Building 80). Students enrolled in CSUMB health insurance should first visit the Campus Health Center before visiting an outside doctor or medical facility to avoid paying an additional copay unless it’s an emergency or the Campus Health Center is closed.
Website: csumb.edu/health
Phone: (831) 582-3965

In addition to the Campus Health Center, our Health & Wellness Services include the Personal Growth & Counseling Center, a Campus Chaplaincy, Sexual Assault Advocacy, and Student Disability Resources.

Online Trainings
All new CSUMB students are required to complete online trainings for Title IX and Alcohol Awareness. You will receive an invitation to your CSUMB email to complete these trainings. Please complete these before your arrival to campus to avoid having a hold placed on your account.

Your Insurance Plan
Your healthcare is provided by Relation. The online Coverage Brochure available at 4studenthealth.com/csumb, will help you understand what is covered, current plan costs, and how to file a claim.

You will receive an email to set up your health insurance account in December. We strongly recommend printing your insurance card and bringing it with you in your carry-on luggage. It will be available for download after August 1.

You will have to download and print a new card each semester.

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<tr>
<th>INSURANCE COVERAGE DATES:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Fall: August 1 – December 31</td>
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<td>Spring: January 1 – May 31</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summer: June 1 – July 31</td>
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Student Disability Resources
Student Disability Resources (SDR) are appropriate for students who have:
- a physical condition for which accessible, on-campus housing or classroom accommodation might be needed
- a documented disability which may require academic accommodation (e.g. note takers, taped texts)
- a medical condition which might require immediate attention during exchange
- a condition which might affect emotional or mental well-being

If any of these apply to you, you must contact student_disability_resources@csumb.edu prior to coming to campus. More information is available at csumb.edu/sdr

Immunizations
International students must provide proof of immunization to the Campus Health Center. For more information about the immunization requirement and about how to submit your proof of immunization please visit csumb.edu/health/immunization.

Required Immunizations & Screenings:
All Students
- COVID19 vaccination
- Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR)
- Varicella (Chickenpox)
- Tetanus-Diphtheria-Pertussis (Tdap)
- Meningococcal Disease (Serogroups A, C, Y, W-135)
- Tuberculosis Screening/Risk Assessment (TB)
- 18 years or younger only
- Hepatitis B (Hep B)
Booking travel arrangements is both a stressful and exciting process. When looking at flights, be sure to compare all of your options in terms of price, how long you want to sit at airports during layovers, whether you will have enough time to catch a connecting flight should the first one be delayed, what your backup plan will be in case you miss the shuttle (“Airbus”) to CSUMB, and whether you want to arrive early to explore the sights prior to move-in.

**WHAT TO PACK**

**Documents**
- COVID Vaccination Proof
- Negative COVID test results from within 3 days of departure (Contact Airline for details and latest information)
- Form I-20
- Your passport, valid for at least six months beyond the date of admission
- Your valid F-1 visa in your passport
- Copy of SEVIS fee receipt
- Copy of Admission Letter and financial documents
- Address and phone number of the international office (Gavilan Hall 201, Room 207, Seaside CA 93955 USA; +1 831-582-4778)
- Health insurance card
- This acceptance packet to help during your first days

**Linens/Towels**
If you want to save some money, you may consider packing towels, twin XL sheets, a pillow, and a duvet cover from home. Please note, linen sizes are different in the U.S. You will also have an opportunity to buy linens during orientation.

**Medication**
Don’t forget your medication and bring enough for your first two months. This will allow you time to find a local doctor or pharmacy.

**Planning to Ship a Package Ahead of Time?**
If you would like to ship some things ahead of time, send them to the following address **no earlier than 30 days** before you arrive:

Student’s First Name and Last Name  
3116 Inter-Garrison Rd  
100 Campus Center  
Seaside, CA 93955, USA

**YOUR TO-DO LIST:**
- Gather your documents
- Book your flight
- Arrange transportation to campus to arrive for housing check-in Aug 17, 9:00 AM – 7:00 PM
- Start packing!
- Check your @csumb.edu email at least weekly for important updates & arrival registration information

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**AIRPORT ARRIVAL**

**Arrival to Campus:** August 17, 9:00 AM – 7:00 PM  
**Housing Move-In:** 1 – 7 PM  
More information will be provided prior to move-in.

There are three recommended airports within a reasonable distance to campus:

**Monterey Regional Airport (MRY):** The closest airport to CSUMB; 20 minute taxi ride to campus.

**San Jose International Airport (SJC):** About an hour from CSUMB. Shuttle service is available through Monterey Airbus for approx $57 (details below).

**San Francisco International Airport (SFO):** About 2 hours away from CSUMB. Shuttle service is available through Monterey Airbus for approx $67 (details below).

*Oakland International Airport (OAK): We do NOT recommend flying into Oakland International due to the difficulties of transportation to Monterey. If you fly into Oakland, you will be responsible for arranging your own transportation plans. Keep in mind that while flights to OAK may be less expensive, transportation costs to get to campus may negate these savings.

**TRANSPORTATION TO CSUMB**

**Monterey Airbus**
The Monterey Airbus provides convenient & comfortable transportation to Monterey from SFO and SJC. When booking, ensure that you have at least 1-2 hours to deplane, go through U.S. Customs & Border Control, collect your baggage, and walk to the Airbus pickup location with time to spare. 7:00 PM is the latest arrival time into Monterey that will accommodate housing check-in.

Book your reservation at bit.ly/1Lv0Q2w immediately after booking your flight to ensure a spot.

**Taxi/Ride Sharing Services**
If you would like to take a car from the Monterey Airport, there are many options available. The ride to campus takes about 20 minutes and the cost is around $45 for a taxi.

Yellow Cab +1 (831) 646-1234
Central Coast Cab Co. +1 (831) 626-3333
Monterey Yellow Cab +1 (831) 333-1234

Or download the “Uber” or “Lyft” apps on your smartphone to arrange/pay for transportation through the app.

**EARLY OR LATE ARRIVAL**

If you plan to arrive to CSUMB outside of the arrival to campus time, you will not be able to check in to your on-campus housing and must arrange accommodations at your own cost.

If you experience delays on your day of travel, please call us to let us know. You will be responsible for arranging your own accommodations and transportation:

**8 AM – 5 PM:** +1 831-582-4778
**After 5 PM:** +1 831-582-7656
Your CSUMB Email
Email is the primary and official means of communication from CSUMB to students. Students are required to check CSUMB email on a regular basis to avoid missing important information. You can access your email by logging into csumb.edu/dashboard with your Otter ID and password.

Activities and Organizations
CSUMB proudly recognizes 80+ student clubs and organizations representing interests from anime to men’s volleyball. There are clubs devoted to culture, politics, art, sports, leadership, academics, religion, and more. There’s even a thriving International Club! Plus, new clubs form every year, so if you don’t see a group you want to join, you can always start your own. Learn more at csumb.edu/clubs

Events
A wide range of events happen on campus every day - athletic events, guest lectures, concerts, cultural celebrations, even group camping trips. Once on campus, you will receive both the “Otter Be Involved” and the International Programs Important Updates eNewsletter to keep you informed about what’s happening around campus and within the International Programs office. Also be sure to keep an eye on the CSUMB calendar (csumb.edu/calendar) for events, practices, performances, lectures, and more.

CSUMB International Programs also organizes excursions and cultural events specifically designed for International/NSE students to explore California and understand U.S. culture! csumb.edu/international/student-resources/isss-life/

Fitness & Recreation
The Otter Sports Center
The Otter Sports Center hosts various events, including open fitness training and recreation, intramural sports, health & wellness classes, intercollegiate athletics competitions, and more. csumb.edu/recreationalfacilities/otter-sports-center

Outdoor Recreation
With Outdoor Recreation, you are able to sign up for kayaking, hiking, skiing/snow boarding, rock climbing, stand up paddling, backpacking, challenge courses, and camping trips for a very low cost. This is an excellent opportunity to explore California and make lots of friends quickly! csumb.edu/recreation/get-involved/

Transportation
All CSUMB students have the privilege of using the Monterey-Salinas public transportation system (MST) for free using your OtterID. mst.org.

Students also have the opportunity to rent bicycles through the Otter Cycle Center for quick getaways, or for the whole semester! The CSUMB campus and surrounding areas are very bike-friendly, and we highly recommend this mode of transportation. Biking is a great way to get to the beach and back on a sunny afternoon. csumb.edu/transportation/bicycling

You may wish to rent or buy a car while at CSUMB. For rentals, we recommend you check out the on-campus option, ZipCar. You will be required to purchase a parking permit to park on campus and a separate permit for your housing accommodation. csumb.edu/transportation/zipcar/

Safety
Safety is our #1 priority. Our Student Affairs staff and campus police work closely with the community to ensure a safe and secure campus. csumb.edu/life/safety-conduct

Internet Access
Internet and cable service are included in your tuition.

If you live on main campus, North Quad, or The Promontory, you can access wifi and cable television in your dorm. Wifi can be accessed by logging in with your Otter ID and password.

If you live off-campus or in East Campus apartments, you will need to purchase a modem and router to access the internet. These can be bought at Best Buy (near campus) or through an online vendor like Amazon. For a complete list of recommended/not recommended modems, visit https://csumb.teamdynamix.com/TDClient/1846/Portal/KB/ArticleDet?ID=33695

We can’t wait to meet you!
We hope your preparations go smoothly and that you are just as excited about coming to CSUMB as we are to have you here. Your presence on our campus is incredibly valuable to the entire CSUMB community, and we look forward to welcoming you in person. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact our office at international@csumb.edu or visit us at csumb.edu/international. See you soon!