Welcome to California State University, Chico
www.csuchico.edu/international
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Applying for a Student Visa

Apply for F-1 Student or J-1 Exchange Student Visa

To receive a student visa, you must convince U.S. government officials that you intend to return to your home country after completing your education. Be prepared with a short, clear answer that explains how getting an education in the United States will help you achieve your career goals when you return home. You may have only a minute or two to convince the immigration officer, so be prepared!

Apply for a U.S. visa at your nearest U.S. embassy or consulate. Each embassy or consulate has different procedures for applying for a student visa. Check its website for more information. Be sure to follow its instructions on how to apply for a student visa. You are advised to begin this process at the earliest date allowed. You can find a link to your embassy or consulate at www.usembassy.gov.

Your embassy or consulate will have instructions for what you need to bring to your visa interview. These are some of the documents they might ask for:

- Admission letter
- I-20 (F-1 students) or DS-2019 (J-1 exchange students)
- Valid passport (good for six months or longer)
- Proof of finances
- Transcripts from prior educational institutions
- Proof of English proficiency (not required if conditionally admitted)
- SEVIS application fee receipt (I-901)
- Embassy/consulate visa processing fee
- Medical statement from your doctor indicating good health
- J-1 students may need a list of approved Chico courses

Before your visa interview be sure to pay the SEVIS activation fee. You must take your receipt to your appointment.

More information is available at www.fmjfee.com.

Getting to Chico

When purchasing your airline ticket, be sure you arrange to fly into Chico (Chico Municipal Airport). We offer free airport pick-up (from Chico Municipal Airport only) the week prior to orientation. To take advantage of this service, complete and submit the Arrival Information Form (enclosed) by the deadline. If you aren’t able to use our airport pick-up service, here is a list of some of the taxi cab companies you may call:

- Liberty Cab 530-898-1776
- Chico Cab 530-894-6666
- Checkers Taxi 530-899-9997

“Computer science at Chico State has truly been a learning experience for me. The coursework at my department has helped me grow in both aspects—academically and professionally. Professors here like to encourage students to grow professionally by keeping up with the current industry standards. Clubs like ACM, UPE (honor society for computer science), Open Source Development, etc., play a significant role in the overall growth of an individual. If I had to do my master’s all over again, it would definitely be at CSU, Chico.”

Bonnie Varghese
Computer science major from India
Enrolling at CSU, Chico

Step 1: Activate Your Portal and Wildcat Email Account
You must activate your Portal account so that you have access to your Wildcat student email account. This is important because all communication will be sent to your Wildcat email account. If you haven’t already done this, please do it immediately.

Step 2: Accept Our Offer of Admission
1. Log into your Portal account.
   (There is a link on the university homepage: www.csuchico.edu)
2. Click on the Admissions: Orientation tab
3. Click on the Accept/Decline Admissions link
4. Click Accept

Step 3: Class Registration
Undergraduate Students (Bachelor’s degree)
Your International Admissions Evaluator will register you into classes, after you complete step 2 above. You can make changes to your schedule at or after orientation.

Graduate Students (Master’s degree)
After consulting with the Graduate Coordinator of your program, you are expected to register yourself into classes. Below is the process in order to do so:
1. Obtain class numbers from the class schedule available at www.csuchico.edu.
2. Log into your Portal account and click the Records, Registration, and Finances tab, then click Enter the Student Center.
3. Click the View Enrollment Appointment link on the right side of the page. You will only be able to enroll during these dates.
4. Click Add a Class.
5. Enter the class number and click the Next button. Repeat until all of the classes you want are listed in your shopping cart.
6. Click on the Proceed to Step 2 of 3 button. Click on the Finish Enrolling button.
7. Double check your registration! Go to the Student Center homepage and click My Class Schedule.

Exchange Students (J-1 visas):
Directions for registration will be given to you with your acceptance packet. As an exchange student, you will have slightly different processes than other international students at the University. Therefore, it is very important that you carefully read all directions given to you by the Study Abroad Office.

Step 4: Pay Fees by Deadlines to Avoid Being Dropped From Classes (see page 7)

Counseling and Wellness Center
The Counseling and Wellness Center provides individual and group counseling services for all students. Some of the many issues they help students explore are stress, loneliness, anger, radium, relationships, and anxiety.

Student Health Center
The Student Health Center provides free nonemergency medical services to students, including treatment for cold, flu, or other illnesses. Medicine is available for purchase.

Academic Advising
The Office of Academic Advising provides personalized advising for undergraduates on course selection, general education requirements, and progress toward degree completion. Each department offers advising in the student’s major.

Career Center
The Career Center assists students in finding on-campus jobs, searching for internships, or interviewing for jobs. Create a resume, practice interviewing, search job announcements, or meet with a counselor to find the right career for you.

Office of Graduate Studies
The Office of Graduate Studies provides support to graduate students throughout their program, including applying for graduation and thesis work.

Campus Resources
CSU, Chico is committed to helping you achieve success. A few of the many offices ready to help you are listed below. These services are all free to students.

International Student Advising
James Luyirika-Sewagudde Jr. and Cindy Phelps welcome and provide support to all new and continuing international students. They can assist you with:
- personal welfare or confidential issues
- housing information
- language and cultural questions
- immigration regulations and procedures
- academic concerns and university rules and regulations
- employment on or off campus
- referrals to various offices, individuals, departments, and agencies

English as a Second Language (ESL) Resource Center
The ESL Resource Center provides tutoring for international students in grammar, reading, pronunciation, TOEFL preparation, homework assistance, and more.

Student Learning Center
The Student Learning Center offers tutoring in many courses, including accounting, biology, business, chemistry, computer science, economics, foreign languages, math, philosophy, physics, psychology, and more. It conducts workshops on time management, study skills, and test taking. It provides assistance with the process of writing—getting ideas, starting to write, and revising.

“Chico State has offered me more than just an education. By taking a variety of classes and getting involved in social activities, I discovered who I am and who I want to be. I started off with a health science education major, but now I am pursuing a degree in biochemistry. I enjoy what I am doing and I plan to move onto a graduate school.”
Jiayang Hong
Biochemistry major from China

“I am a transfer student from Butte College. I enjoy every day at Chico State. The professors and staff are always there to help me, and my classes are exciting and meaningful. I am active in a business club I joined called Enactus and participate in volunteer activities. Every day I learn new things and meet new people. It’s fun!”
Misato Hanamoto
Business administration major from Japan

Graduate Students (Master’s degree)

Undergraduate Students (Bachelor’s degree)
Fees and Tuition

All students pay registration fees each semester. Students from outside California, including all international students, must also pay nonresident tuition fees. If fees are not paid by the deadline, your classes will be dropped!

Fee Payment Deadlines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fall Semester</th>
<th>Spring Semester</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Registration Fees</td>
<td>July 30, 2014</td>
<td>Dec. 11, 2014</td>
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</table>

Payment Methods

The best payment methods for international students are credit card and wire transfer. You can pay your fees by going to the Student Financial Services website, http://www.csuchico.edu/sfin/payment-info/payment-methods.shtml. Scroll down to the payment method you prefer and follow the links to complete your transaction.

Students Transferring from a U.S. School

Transferring to Chico State from a U.S. high school, college, or university is an easy three-step process:

Step 1
Complete the top portion of the enclosed F-1 Transfer Eligibility Form.

Step 2
Take the completed F-1 Transfer Eligibility Form and a copy of your Chico State admission letter to the International Student Advisor at your current school. Request that he/she transfer your SEVIS record to Chico State at the end of your program.

Step 3
Your new I-20 will be issued after your current school transfers your SEVIS record to Chico State.

Transfer processing must be completed prior to the end of the second week of classes.

University-Owned Housing

If you choose to live in University-owned housing, University Village is recommended for International Students. University Village offers a cluster of four bedrooms, sharing two bathrooms and one kitchen. Students who are admitted to the University can begin applying for University Housing on April 8 for the fall semester and Nov. 4 for the spring semester. For more information and for the online application visit www.csuchico.edu/housing.

University Housing Office
Phone: 530-828-6325, identify yourself as an international student
Email: uhfsdesk@csuchico.edu

University-owned housing is somewhat more expensive than living in non-University-owned housing. However, for freshmen students, especially international students who do not yet know anyone and don’t know the layout of the city, living in University-owned housing can be very useful and convenient. After the first year of college, most students move to private apartments.

Be aware of the conditions of your housing contract! Before you sign, make sure you are willing to abide by its terms.

Non-University-Owned Housing

If you choose this option you will want to arrive in Chico two to three weeks before classes begin to finalize your housing arrangements. There are many privately owned apartments, houses, and rooms for rent available within easy walking or biking distance of the campus. This list of websites may help you research your options before arriving in Chico:

- www.redwoodcovechico.com (furnished)
- www.pomonawest.com (furnished)
- www.rentals.chicoer.com
- www.chico.craigslist.org
- www.reliableproperty.com
- www.hignell.com
- www.craigslist.com

Temporary Housing—Available for Fall Semester Only

For a few days before the beginning of the fall semester, we are able to offer temporary, on-campus housing at a very reasonable price (see the Arrival Information Form in your packet for more information). Only students can stay in on-campus housing. If you will be accompanied by family members, you will need to make hotel reservations in advance of your arrival. To find hotels in Chico, do a Google search using, “Hotels in Chico CA.”

International House

Six international students and U.S. students have the opportunity to live together in an on-campus dorm, Konkow Hall. This is a great opportunity for International and American students to live, study, learn, and make friends with each other. If you are interested in this program, let us know! Send an email to iss@csuchico.edu.
Life in Chico

Chico is a friendly community where you can feel safe and at home. The campus is located downtown within a few minutes’ walk of restaurants, shops, and entertainment. Chico has a vibrant cultural life, with concerts, art exhibits, theatre and dance performances, and international-themed events both on and off campus.

Stores include major department stores and small specialty boutiques. In the downtown area and throughout Chico, there is an extensive selection of books, hardware, bicycles, electronics, household goods, gifts, and clothes. Among the many restaurants, you will find Italian, French, Indian, Chinese, Japanese, Thai, Middle Eastern, and of course—American!

Running through the center of CSU, Chico’s campus is Big Chico Creek. Students enjoy eating and studying alongside the rushing water. A path runs alongside the creek for more than 10 miles, from the CSU Chico campus to the hills outside of town. Many students run, walk, and bike on the trail that runs alongside it.

Chico’s Bidwell Park, one of the largest city-owned parks in the United States, offers picnic sites, swimming, sports grounds, and hiking trails. There are many places to enjoy the scenery, go for a quiet walk, or sit and read by the creek. You can also have a barbecue with friends, play a game of soccer, or go for a bike ride.

Getting around Chico is easy. Many students walk or bicycle through downtown and the surrounding areas. Students can also ride the city bus to locations outside the downtown area, like to Chico Mall, or other shopping and entertainment venues. The city bus is free for CSU, Chico students!

Campus Activities

CSU, Chico is a residential campus. This means that most students live within 1.5 miles of campus. This creates a unique and dynamic atmosphere, with the campus being the center of social and cultural activity for students and community members alike.

Because Chico is a college town, arts and entertainment are an important part of our city’s culture. The Chico Performances series brings world-class performers to CSU, Chico year-round. In addition to enjoying performing arts and entertainment, students also like to join campus clubs (we’ve got over 200!), volunteer for community service organizations, and participate in student-led recreational outings. At CSU, Chico, there are countless ways to get involved, make friends, and create lasting memories.

“My best experience here was working as an intern in an art gallery downtown. Chico is a small college town, which helps with your studies. During holidays and weekends you can always drive to the big cities.”

Khulood Mulla
Management information systems major from Saudi Arabia

Chico Area Population: 105,000
Chico was Ranked No. 1 on Forbes Magazine’s list of “Best Places to Live in America.”
Chico is home to a synagogue, an Islamic Center, a Hindu temple, and 33 denominations of Catholic and Protestant churches.
Chico experiences four distinct beautiful seasons. The temperature rarely falls below freezing in winter.

Official Campus Name: California State University, Chico
Students: 15,408
International students from over 40 countries
Student Organizations: 200+•
Medical Concerns

The Student Health Center (SHC) provides free medical services to students. For the SHC to best serve you, please bring copies of your medical and immunization records with you, so they will have a clear understanding of your medical history.

You are required to show proof of immunization against Measles and Rubella (MMR). Additionally, you must demonstrate that you are negative for Tuberculosis (TB). You may bring proof of your negative TB test to orientation, providing the test has been performed no longer than 90 days prior to orientation and it is written in English.

If you do not have these records at orientation, you will need to visit the SHC during orientation week to receive the required immunization or test. The MMR vaccination costs approximately $60, and the TB test costs approximately $55.

If you are under 19 years of age as of the first day of the semester, you must also present proof of immunization against Hepatitis B or complete the series during orientation week to receive the required immunization or test. The MMR vaccination costs approximately $60, and the TB test costs approximately $55.

Health Insurance

International Students are required by the California State University Chancellor's Office to have valid health and accident insurance policies at all times. A registration hold will be placed on your student record if you do not submit, to the Office of International Education (SIC 440), proof of insurance coverage by the end of the second week of the semester.

Your insurance policy must have these areas of minimum coverage:

- $50,000 per accident or illness
- $10,000 medical evacuation
- $7,500 separation and return of mortal remains

You are free to purchase any policy that meets these minimum requirements. However, some students find it difficult to decide which insurance company to use. Below are the top health and accident insurance providers used by Chico State students.

ISO Student Health Insurance
Student Secure
Compass
Anthem BlueCross

If you purchase a policy in your home country be sure to bring proof of this coverage, in English, to submit to the International Student Advisors for review and approval.

Money

Banking

In the United States, banks are insured by the U.S. federal government and are highly trusted by Americans. This may be an uncommon practice in your home country. However, while studying in the United States, the safest way to store and manage your money is to deposit it into a bank account. Your international student advisors can give you banking recommendations after you arrive.

Carrying Money While Traveling

Upon your arrival, things like housing deposits and rental fees, food, books, items for your room, and tuition/fees will need to be paid. We estimate that you will need to bring approximately $2,000–$3,000 USD with you for these initial expenses. It may take you a few weeks to set up a bank account, so having this amount of readily available money will be very useful.

Carrying a combination of cash, traveler’s checks, and an international credit card is the best option. For safety, please do not carry more than $500 USD in cash when you travel to the United States.

Important Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall 2014</th>
<th>Spring 2015</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Student Registration</td>
<td>July 28–30, 2014 (Bachelors')</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Registration Fee Due</td>
<td>July 21–30, 2014 (Masters')</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>First Day of Classes</td>
<td>July 30, 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonresident Tuition Due</td>
<td>Sept. 5, 2014</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Health and Insurance Information

Checklist

- Log in to your Portal account and accept our offer of admission. Completion of this step is required before registration into classes is possible.
- Make your visa interview appointment early.
- Pay registration fees by the deadline (see page 7). Registration fees must be paid by the deadline or your classes will be dropped. [Link to payment instructions]
- Secure housing accommodations.
- Get required immunizations and/or bring International Student Health Certificate (enclosed) with you to Chico.
- Submit New International Student Arrival Form (enclosed) by the deadline.
- Purchase health insurance coverage—MANDATORY.
- Make safe financial decisions. Travel with under $500 in cash and try to obtain an international credit card before coming to the United States.
- Arrive in Chico before orientation.
- ATTEND ORIENTATION!
- Pack light. Reduce stress by traveling light. Much of what you need can be purchased after you arrive.