NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE FROM
YOU BELONG HERE

CALIFORNIA
STATE UNIVERSITY, CHICO

GUIDE FOR NEWLY ADMITTED INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS
YOU’VE MADE A GREAT CHOICE

Small Class Size =
PERSONAL ATTENTION

23:1
STUDENT /FACULTY RATIO


Forbes Best Value College
TOP 10% of all colleges for quality, affordability, alumni success

Best Colleges for your Money
Top 7% in 2020 — Money Magazine
Charming College Town
Our picturesque campus is conveniently located right next to downtown Chico—rated a “Top-10 Best College Town” by Matador Network in 2017. Most of our students enjoy Chico’s natural beauty, welcoming atmosphere, and live within walking or biking distance of the University.

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www.csuchico.edu/international
Submit Your Intent-to-Enroll
By submitting your Intent-to-Enroll, you are officially accepting our offer of admission. Only those students who notify us of their intent-to-enroll will be registered into classes.

There are two ways to submit your Intent-to-Enroll:
1. Use your Student Portal
   a. Log into your Portal account
   b. Go to your Student Center
   c. Click on Accept/Decline link at the bottom of the page
   d. No enrollment deposit is required from international students
2. Complete and email the enclosed Intent-to-Enroll form to apply@csuchico.edu.

U.S. Transfer Students
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 CSU, Chico admission letter to the International Student Advisor at your current school. Request that they transfer your SEVIS record to us at the end of your current program.
Step 3: Your new I-20 will be issued after your current school transfers your SEVIS record to us. Transfer processing must be completed prior to the end of the second week of classes.

Need to Go Home Before We Can Issue Your New I-20?
Don’t worry. We can send your I-20 to you in your home country. Send an email to us at apply@csuchico.edu to inform us of your travel plans. The admissions advisor assigned to your file will provide you with the appropriate information needed to receive your I-20 at home.

For Students Living Outside the U.S.
Once you know for sure that you will attend CSU, Chico, you must activate your new SEVIS record. Using the SEVIS ID# listed on your I-20 or DS-2019 form. Pay the SEVIS activation fee at www.fmjfee.com. You should do this at least 72 hours before your visa interview.
US Visa: Tips for Success

To receive a student visa, you must assure 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 speak with the immigration officer, so be prepared!

Be Prepared to Take These Items to the Embassy:

Your embassy or consulate will have instructions for what you need to bring to your visa interview. These are some of the documents they may 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 financial support while studying
- Transcripts from prior educational institutions
- Proof of English proficiency (not required if conditionally admitted)
- Receipt showing payment of SEVIS activation fee
- Embassy/consulate visa processing fee
- Medical statement from your doctor indicating good health
- J-1 students may need a list of approved CSU, Chico courses

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

Apply for your visa at the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate. You can do this up to 120 days before the beginning of the semester for which you have been admitted. Each embassy or consulate may have slightly different procedures for applying for a student visa. Check its website for detailed information. You are advised to begin this process at the earliest date allowed. Find a link to the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate at www.usembassy.gov.
Class Registration

Undergraduate Students
After you submit your Intent-to-Enroll, you become eligible for class registration. International Admissions registers all new students into their first semester classes. If you do not submit your Intent-to-Enroll, we will not register you into classes.

Classes are selected based on program requirements. If students wish to change their class schedules, Admission Advisors will be available to assist during Orientation.

Graduate Students
After consulting with the Graduate Coordinator of your program, you are expected to register yourself into classes. If you have difficulty with this process, please contact your Graduate Coordinator for assistance.

1. Obtain class numbers from the class schedule available at www.csuchico.edu/schedule.
2. Log into your Portal account and click the Records, Registration, & 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.

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 provided to you by the Study Abroad Office.

Tuition and Fees
All students pay registration fees each semester. Because the California State University is supported by taxes paid by California residents, non-resident students must pay additional tuition of $396 per unit. For details regarding fees and tuition costs, visit https://www.csuchico.edu/sfin/student-accounts/index.shtml.

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

Fee Payment Deadlines
Fall Semester
Registration Fees Early December
Nonresident Tuition 2nd Friday of Semester
Spring Semester
Registration Fees Late July
Nonresident Tuition 2nd Friday of Semester
Insurance and Immunizations

Health Insurance Coverage
You are required by California State University to have adequate medical, medical evacuation, and repatriation insurance coverage by the start of your program at CSU, Chico and at all times thereafter while you hold an F-1 or J-1 visa.** For J-1 visa holders, failure to purchase such insurance is a violation of your immigration status and may result in the cancellation of your DS-2019 form and your disenrollment from the University.

Students may purchase insurance policies from any insurance provider as long as the following criteria are met:

• Accident/Injury medical benefits—at least $100,000 per accident or illness
• Repatriation of mortal remains—at least $25,000
• Medical evacuation—at least $50,000
• A deductible not to exceed $500 per accident or illness
• The insurance company must be underwritten by an insurance corporation with an A.M. Best rating of “A–” or above.

**Students with government scholarships do not need to purchase additional insurance if insurance coverage is provided by their sponsor.

Immunizations and Tests
Proof of immunization against Measles and Rubella (MMR) and that you are negative for Tuberculosis (TB) is required. You may bring proof of your negative TB test to Orientation, provided the test has been performed within 90 days of Orientation and is written in English. Turn these documents in to the Student Health Center (SHC) during your Orientation on campus.

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 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 immunizations against Hepatitis B or complete the series of injections after you arrive. There is a fee for this injection series.
Student Support Services

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

International Student Advising
Cindy McKay and Tasha Alexander in the Office of International Education welcome and support new and continuing international students. They can advise you regarding:
• 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

Academic Advising
The Office of Academic Advising provides personalized advising for undergraduates on course selection, general education requirements, and progress toward degree completion. Each academic department also offers major advising.

English as a Second Language (ESL)
Support Services
The ESL Support Services provides free tutoring for international students in grammar, reading, pronunciation, TOEFL preparation, homework assistance, classroom presentations, writing research papers, and vocabulary development. We are the only California State University that offers this special assistance to international students!
Student Learning Center
The Student Learning Center offers tutoring in many courses, including accounting, biology, business, chemistry, computer science, engineering, economics, foreign languages, math, philosophy, physics, psychology, and more. It also conducts workshops on time-management, study skills, and test taking. It provides assistance with the process of writing—getting ideas, starting to write, and revision.

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.

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, homesickness, sadness, relationships, and anxiety.

Finding a Job
The Student Employment Office assists students in finding on-campus jobs if you want to work while completing your degree.

The Career Center helps students search for internships and find a job for Optional Practical Training (OPT) after graduation. Create a résumé, practice interviewing, search job announcements, or meet with a counselor to find the right career for you.
CSU, Chico is a residential campus, with most of its students living within 2.5 km of campus. This creates a unique and dynamic atmosphere with the campus at the center of social and cultural activities for students and community members alike.

Students at CSU, Chico have the option to live on- or off-campus. For comprehensive information about university-owned housing, please visit www.csuchico.edu/housing. We have provided more extensive housing information in the International Student Housing Guide in your packet.

Because Chico is a college town, arts and entertainment are an important part of our city’s culture. 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.
“Chico State is a place where you can be part of the community. I think that was one of the best parts for me because I felt welcomed into the society. I had no knowledge of American culture prior to coming to Chico, but I have met the best people and they taught me valuable things.”

—Rushi Thakkar, Computer Science major from India

City of Chico

Chico is a friendly community where you can feel safe and at home. The campus is located downtown within a few minutes’ walk to 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.

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 bike 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!
Orientation is Required

You are about to embark on a great journey! Even though exciting things are to come, we know it can be hard to take that first step of leaving home to attend Orientation. Is it really that important that you attend? Yes!

Both you and your family have worked very hard so that you have the opportunity to study abroad. At Orientation, you will learn the essentials for success at CSU, Chico and how to get help when you need it.

We strongly recommend that you arrive in Chico a few days prior to Orientation. This will give you adequate time to settle in to your new environment, buy some essential items for your room, and adjust to the time difference. Having a rested body and an alert mind will help you understand the information we provide during Orientation. Each day of Orientation is busy and full of information that is necessary for your success.

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Pre-Departure Check List

- Let us know you are coming! **Submit your Intent-to-Enroll immediately** (online or via email). This is required before registration into classes is possible.
- Pay SEVIS I-901 fee.
- Make your visa interview appointment early.
- Secure housing accommodations.
- Pay registration fees by the deadline. Registration fees must be paid by the deadline or your classes will be dropped. [https://www.csuchico.edu/sfin/student-accounts/deadlines.shtml](https://www.csuchico.edu/sfin/student-accounts/deadlines.shtml)
- Get required immunizations and tests.
- Purchase health insurance.
- Make safe financial decisions. Travel with under $5,000 in cash and obtain an international credit card before coming to the United States.
- Pack light. Reduce stress by traveling light. Much of what you need can be purchased after you arrive.
- Arrive in Chico before Orientation.
- **ATTEND ORIENTATION!**