

CSU Systemwide Student Exchange Program Fact Sheet for 2025-26

The California State University (CSU) International Programs Office (CSU IP) administers the CSU Systemwide Student Exchange Program and has student exchange agreements with over 60 institutions worldwide. Our office is located at the CSU Office of the Chancellor in Long Beach, California, which is the headquarters office for the CSU system.

About the California State University System

Exchange administered by	CSU International Programs Office Postal Address: 401 Golden Shore, 2nd Floor Long Beach, CA 90802-4210 USA
Phone number	+1-562-951-4790
Email address	CSUexchange@calstate.edu
Webpage for inbound exchange	calstate.edu/CSU-Exchange
Number of CSU campuses in this exchange	CSU has 23 campuses. Click on the link to view campus locations and website links.
Language of instruction	English, except for non-English language learning courses (French, Spanish, etc.)

Exchange-Related Information

Number of students to be exchanged	Number to be agreed upon each year according to exchange balance and agreement. Email CSUexchange@calstate.edu to confirm.
Duration of exchange	One term up to one academic year. The summer term is not available for exchange except by special arrangement.
Intakes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fall intake. Term begins in August for all campuses except for our San Luis Obispo campus which starts in September. • January intake. Term begins in January. Intake is open to partners by invitation or mutual agreement.

Eligibility and Requirements

Who is eligible to apply for this exchange program?	Degree-seeking undergraduate or postgraduate students from exchange partners who wish to study at the undergraduate level and who are citizens from a country outside of the US. Students may be dual citizens with the US.
Who is not eligible to apply for this exchange program?	U.S. citizens who do not hold a citizenship from another country.
Financial requirements	Click on the link for information (subject to change)
Grade requirements	Click on the link for information (subject to change)
English proficiency requirements	Click on the link for information.
Subject areas which are impacted/closed or restricted/limited	Click on the link for information (subject to change).

Intakes, Nominations and Application Process

Number of students to be exchanged	Number to be agreed upon each year according to exchange balance and agreement. Email CSUexchange@calstate.edu to confirm.
Intakes	Fall: August/September to December. January: January to May/June.

Nominations (for partners only)	<p>Deadline for Fall intake: February 1, 2024</p> <p>Deadline for January intake: July 1, 2024</p>
Application deadline dates	<p>Fall intake: February/early March. Exact dates will be posted on our website by late November-early December. Go to our website for specific campus deadline dates.</p> <p>January intake: August. Exact dates will be posted on our website by mid-June.</p>
Application	Go to our website for information and additional resources.
Campus selection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nominated applicants are asked to list up to four CSU campus choices on the CSU Systemwide Student Exchange Application. • Applicants are applying to the CSU system and can be placed at any one of our campuses based on available places at a campus, academic match, and other factors. • Applicants must be prepared to attend any of the campuses listed on their applications since their top choice(s) may not be available. • Some campuses are very competitive, so it is important for students to be flexible with both campus choice and subject selection. • The CSU International Programs will have the sole discretion in selecting an appropriate campus for each student. To select campuses for exchange, students should explore the many campuses available to them.
Subject/Course selection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students must list at least eight subjects (courses) that they are interested in taking for each campus listed. • Students must meet prerequisites for the subjects listed. • Courses listed on an application does not guarantee access to those subjects; therefore, students must be flexible with selection of subjects.
Business or Film Studies/Production students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must have successfully completed the equivalent of one semester's worth of subjects based on full time studies. • Must be enrolled in a degree program in that subject area at home institution. • Must meet subject prerequisites for subjects listed on their application.
Application material	<p>Students are required to submit the following items when applying to the CSU Systemwide Student Exchange Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CSU Systemwide Student Exchange Application. • Copy of English proficiency test score not more than two years old. The host CSU campus may request original test results. • Copy of student's passport showing student's photo, full legal name and place of birth. • Personal statement • Copy of transcripts from all post-secondary institutions/universities attended. The host CSU campus may request original, official transcripts. • Declaration of Financial Support Form. Financial documents must be sent to the host CSU campus <u>after</u> a student has been placed. • Portfolio may be requested for students who wish to study studio art or architecture. An audition video may be requested for students who wish to study music or dance.
When students will be notified of campus placements	<p>CSU IP will advise exchange partners of campus placements by the dates below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fall intake: By late-March/early-April • January intake: By early September

	Once student accepts campus placement, the host CSU campus exchange coordinator will contact the student directly.
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Academic Information

Academic calendar information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All campuses operate on the semester system, except the San Luis Obispo campus, which operates on a quarter system. • Three quarters are equal to two semesters or one academic year. • Summer courses are not offered as part of the CSU Systemwide Student Exchange Program. • Refer to the most recent academic year found on our website. Calendar for the upcoming academic year will not be available until the July before the academic year begins.
Fall semester	August-December
Spring semester	January-May
Fall quarter (San Luis Obispo only)	September-December
Winter quarter (San Luis Obispo only)	January-March
Spring quarter (San Luis Obispo only)	March-June
Transcripts	Click on the link to access our webpage for a list of frequently asked questions about final CSU transcripts for incoming exchange students.
Course levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generally, course levels correlate with the difficulty of the course although students may experience challenging courses in each level. • Undergraduate courses are either lower division or upper division rather than categorized as first, second, third, or fourth year courses. • Lower and upper division courses pertain only to undergraduate degrees • Graduate level courses pertain to graduate (post-graduate) degrees. • Exchange students must select undergraduate level courses.
Course numbering system	Varies by campus. Click on the link for information.
Closed and restricted subject areas	Varies by campus. Click on the link for information (subject to change).
Where to find course descriptions	Short course descriptions are found in individual campus catalogs or bulletins. Click on link for information.
Are detailed course syllabi or outlines available?	Generally, no, with some exceptions. Click on the link to view list of campus departments which provides syllabi.
Number of credits/units students must be enrolled at the CSU while on exchange	Minimum: 12 units is regarded full time enrollment. Click on the link for more information. Maximum (though not recommended): 18 units with some exceptions.
Information about subject/course enrollment/registration	Varies by campus. Information will be provided by the CSU host campus after a student has been admitted.

Campus Information

Campus costs and requirements	Varies by campus. Click on the link for information (subject to change).
Subject areas which are impacted/closed or restricted/limited	Varies by campus. Click on the link for information (subject to change).
Is housing guaranteed?	Housing is not guaranteed.

General housing information	Varies by campus. Click on the link for information.
Housing options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-campus housing may be available but is limited at some campuses. • Off-campus housing may be available but varies at each campus. • Specific housing options will be provided by host CSU campus after a student has been admitted.
Health and safety	Click on the link to access our health and safety resources webpage for visiting exchange students for information.
Health insurance	All exchange students are required to have health coverage while in the U.S. Health insurance fees vary by campus. Click on the link for information.
Immunization requirements	Exchange applicants should review immunization requirements at least six months prior to arrival at host CSU campus to schedule any immunization shots necessary. Click on the link for immunization requirements for a specific campus for information.
Grade point average requirements	Varies by campus. Click on the link for information.
Campus profiles	Click on the link to access campus profile information.
Financial requirements	Varies by campus. Click on the link for living costs information (subject to change).

Student Life and Services

Student health centers	Click on the link to access student health center information for a specific campus.
Mental health services	Click on the link to access mental health services information for a specific campus.
Mental health awareness for international students	View a five-minute video courtesy of International Student Insurance.
What services can be expected for students with disabilities?	Click on the link to view campus services for students with disabilities.
Orientation and recommended arrival day	CSU host campus will advise after a student has been admitted.
Student activities	Click on the link to access student activity information for a specific campus.
Buddy programs	Campus will advise after a student has been admitted.
LGBTQIA centers	Click on the link to view LGBTQIA services at each CSU campus.