The university offers a wide variety of housing options, on and off the university campus. While most of the on-campus housing is reserved for the incoming freshman class, there are 20 housing facilities for graduate students in the adjacent North University Park area. Accommodations include apartments, residence halls and suites in a variety of styles, locations and sizes. Amenities include laundry facilities, furnished rooms, faculty involvement, free basic cable and local phone service, free individual Ethernet and phone lines, and a computerized entry monitoring system. All our housing is within walking distance of the main campus. In addition, USC Transportation’s tram service and Campus Cruiser program provide transportation to and from various locations on campus.

You should submit your request as soon as possible, because requests are processed on a first-come, first-serve basis, and rooms fill up quickly. Please be aware that the university does not guarantee the availability of on-campus housing.

Please visit the USC Housing office website at housing.usc.edu for housing options, fees, application process, contact information and more.

**Living in Los Angeles**

USC is located in a thriving city of nearly 4 million people, where more than 200 languages are spoken and no single ethnic or racial group constitutes a majority. Rich in vibrant neighborhoods - from Little Armenia to Thai Town - Los Angeles offers an extraordinary range of cultural and entertainment options.

Directly across the street from the University Park campus are the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County (an active research center and the largest natural history museum in the western United States), the California African American Museum, the California Science Center and IMAX, and the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum.

Three miles from campus, in downtown Los Angeles, are the landmark Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels, the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA), and the Walt Disney Concert Hall (home of the Los Angeles Philharmonic). Two miles north is the Staples Center and the newly completed LA LIVE and Nokia Theatre.

A short drive from USC are night clubs featuring everything from hip-hop to salsa, small theatres, trendy shops and restaurants serving food from around the world. Sports fans enjoy the proximity of Dodger Stadium and Staples Center (home of the city's two basketball teams, the Lakers and the Clippers, and the ice hockey team, the Los Angeles Kings). Other prime cultural attractions in Los Angeles and neighboring cities include the Los Angeles County Museum of Art; The Getty Center; The Getty Villa; the Norton Simon Museum of Art; and the Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Garden.

Mountains, deserts and beaches are each about an hour’s drive from USC. Year-round mild weather - temperatures range from an average low of 48º F (9º C) in December to an average high of 85º F (29º C) in August - is ideal for outdoor activities, from surfing, tennis and team sports to hiking in Griffith Park, the Angeles National Forest or the region's other urban green spaces.

**USC University Housing**

The university offers a wide variety of housing options, on and off the university campus. While most of the on-campus housing is reserved for the incoming freshman class, there are 20 housing facilities for graduate students in the adjacent North University Park area.

Accommodations include apartments, residence halls and suites in a variety of styles, locations and sizes. Amenities include laundry facilities, furnished rooms, faculty involvement, free basic cable and local phone service, free individual Ethernet and phone lines, and a computerized entry monitoring system. All our housing is within walking distance of the main campus. In addition, USC Transportation’s tram service and Campus Cruiser program provide transportation to and from various locations on campus.

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Off-Campus Housing
Although USC has graduate housing, most students tend to live off-campus in rented apartments or houses. There are many private apartment buildings and houses within walking distance of the University. In addition, there are many suitable neighborhoods within a 20–30 minute commute (see page 3 for map of Prospective Neighborhoods).

Studios can be found starting at $700; one bedroom apartments at $850; two bedrooms at $1100. Most landlords will require a security deposit and a some require long-term leases before they will rent. One option to bypass the apartment search is to take over the apartment of a student who is graduating.

Those considering living farther from campus will have many more choices, but transportation should be taken into consideration. Los Angeles is one of the busiest urban centers in the U.S., and traffic can cause long delays; public transportation may be another feasible mode of transportation. If you plan to drive, is crucial that you are comfortable driving before the start of the program.

Housing Near USC University Park Campus
Listed below are property management companies that have housing options around the University Park Campus:
- Autumn Leaf Apartments: www.uscapartmentrentals.com
- CDI Management: www.uscspots.com
- City Park Apartments: www.cityparkusc.com
- First Choice Housing: www.firstchoicehousing.com
- GP Property Group: www.gfpropertygroup.net
- Malin Assess Management: www.malinapts.com
- Nupac Apartments: www.nupac.com
- Robinson Residences: www.robinsonresidences.com
- R.W. Selby & Co.: www.tuscanyonfig.com
- Southern Assets: www.uscliving.com
- Stern Property Management: www.sternmanagement.com
- Stuho Student Housing Management: www.stuho.com
- University Gateway: www.campusapts.com/gateway/

Other housing search websites:
- Craigslist: losangeles.craigslist.org
- USC ScholarList: usc.scholarlist.com
- USC.forsale: http://groups.google.com/group/usc.forsale/topics
- Westside Rentals: www.westsiderentals.com

Transportation
Getting around LA is possible without a car but requires planning and is much easier if you live near mass transportation.

USCTransportation
- USCTransportation offers daily and meter parking, as well as monthly and semester long permits. USCTransportation provides tram service around the University Park Campus area, to and from LA Union Station and the Health Sciences Campus. USC Campus Cruiser Service offers either a walking or vehicle escort to your destination, on or around University Park Campus or Health Sciences Campus. For more information about USCTransportation or USC Campus Cruiser Service visit: transnet.usc.edu
- Many students ride bicycles on and around campus. Consult USC Department of Public Safety (DPS) for information about semester bicycle sale, bicycle registration and safety at capsnet.usc.edu/DPS

Metro Buses, Subways, and Trains
- Metro Buses/Trains and Trip-Planner: www.metro.net
- Commuter Express and Dash Bus Lines: www.ladottransit.com
- Metrolink Trains: www.metrolinktrains.com
*Student may be eligible for a discount on public transit passes. Consult USCTransportation.

Other Transportation-Related Websites
- California Department of Motor Vehicles: www.dmv.ca.gov
- Access Para-transit: www.asila.org
- Super Shuttle: www.supershuttle.com
- Prime Time Shuttle: www.primetimeshuttle.com
Prospective Neighborhoods

A. Arcadia/Pasadena/Glendale
Home to many malls and parks, this area is a great area for families with children. Arcadia is considered one of the best school districts of Los Angeles. Arcadia is a 40—70 minute commute to USC, Pasadena and Glendale being less time (30—60 minutes).
www.ci.arcadia.ca.us
www.ci.pasadena.ca.us
www.ci.glendale.ca.us

B. San Fernando Valley
The San Fernando Valley offers an incredible array of fine dining, shopping, and attractions. Located 20—30 miles north of USC, many students find the San Fernando Valley to be an escape from the major metropolitan area.
www.valleyofthestars.org

C. Echo Park/Silver Lake/Los Feliz
Conveniently located less than 10 miles from USC, this area is home to many attractions, including Griffith Park and Observatory, the Los Angeles Zoo and Dodger Stadium.
www.thesilverlakenews.com
www.losfelizvillageonline.com

D. Downtown Los Angeles
Downtown Los Angeles living offers easy access, with freeway and transportation hubs. Downtown LA offers a great deal for those that like to keep busy, including the recent completion of LA LIVE. Within downtown there are several neighborhoods and districts that each has its own style and excels in its own specialty.
www.downtownla.com

E. Koreatown/Mid-Wilshire/West Hollywood
This area is along the Wilshire Blvd. corridor as you head towards West Los Angeles. Each community has nice areas and cultural characteristics worth seeking out.
www.experiencela.com/Adventures/Koreatown.htm
www.weho.org

F. West LA/Culver City/Palms/Venice/Santa Monica
Located less than 15 miles from USC and a 20—40 min. commute, this area has many apartment buildings, some of which are reasonably priced. Prices may increase as you get closer to the beaches.
www.downtownculvercity.com
www.smgov.net

G. Marina del Rey/El Segundo/Westchester
This area is minutes from the beach. It is often crowded on weekends. Also close to LAX airport. Located 16 miles from USC and a 30—40 minute commute.
www.visitmarinadelrey.com
www.elsegundo.org

H. Torrance/Redondo Beach/Manhattan Beach
These communities are also near beaches, and offer lots of shopping. This area also has houses that are as affordable as apartments to rent.
www.ci.torrance.ca.us
www.ci.manhattan-beach.ca.us
www.redondo.org

I. San Pedro/Palos Verdes/Rolling Hills
Located 20-25 miles away, this area offers condos, apartments and houses available for rent or lease.
www.sanpedrochamber.com
www.palosverdes.com/rpv
www.palosverdes.com/pve

J. Long Beach
Located 25 miles from USC, Long Beach is home to many attractions, shopping and an active night life.
www.longbeach.gov
www.visitlongbeach.com

K. East Los Angeles/Alhambra/Monterey Park
Located minutes away from USC Health Science Campus, East LA is one of Los Angeles’ oldest communities. Alhambra features converging cultures and artistic expression. Monterey Park has a significant Asian community.
www.cityofalhambra.org
ci.monterey-park.ca.us
www.cityofmontereypark.org
International Students

Office of International Services (OIS)
The Office of International Services (OIS) serves the needs of international students and visiting scholars at USC through a variety of advising services, programs, and information resources. OIS is a resource center for the USC international community, and staff are available to assist with issues related to immigration regulations, personal and academic concerns, employment in the U.S., adjusting to life in the U.S., and more. OIS also provides additional information about temporary housing (including temporary campus housing and nearby hotels), and locating a rental apartment or house near USC or elsewhere in the Los Angeles area.

3601 Trousdale Parkway, Student Union 300
www.usc.edu/ois
(213)740-2666

Driving in Los Angeles
Visitors to California who are over the age of 18 and have a valid driver's license from the home country may drive in California without getting a California driver's license, as long as the home country license remains valid. When purchasing a motor vehicle and auto insurance, most insurance companies require a valid California Driver's license.
The DMV office located closest to the USC main campus:
3615 S. Hope St.
Los Angeles, CA 90007
(800)777-0133

*OIS advises USC international students to visit this office not only because it is the office closest to campus, but also because they are familiar with assisting the USC international community.

Popular Activities

Attractions
Los Angeles Zoo and Botanical Garden
5333 Zoo Dr.
Los Angeles, CA 90027
(323) 644-4200
www.lazoo.org

Universal Studios Hollywood
1000 Universal Center Dr
Universal City, CA 91608
www.universalstudios.com

Beaches
Cabrillo Beach
3720 Stephen M. White Dr.
San Pedro, CA 90731

Malibu Beach
23050 Pacific Coast Hwy.
Malibu, CA 90265

Santa Monica Pier
200 Santa Monica Pier
Santa Monica, CA 90401
santamonicapier.org

Venice Beach
3100 to 2700 Ocean Front Walk
Venice, CA 90291

Entertainment
Ford Amphitheatre
2580 W. Cahuenga Blvd.
Hollywood, CA 90068
(323)461-3673
www.fordamphitheatre.com

Greek Theatre
2700 N. Vermont
Los Angeles, CA 90027
(323)665-5857
www.greektheatrela.com

Hollywood Bowl
2301 North Highland Avenue
Hollywood, CA 90068
(323)850-2000
www.hollywoodbowl.com

House of Blues
8430 Sunset Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90069
(323)848-5100
www.hob.com

Howl at the Moon
1000 Universal Center Dr.
Universal City, CA 91608
(818) 755-9970
www.howlatthemoon.com

LA Live
800 Olympic Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90015

Lucky Strike Lanes and Lounge
(213) 542-4880
www.bowluckystrike.com

Los Angeles Galaxy Soccer
www.lagalaxy.com

Los Angeles Kings Hockey
www.lakings.com

Los Angeles Lakers Basketball
www.nba.com/lakers

Los Angeles Sparks Women’s Basketball
www.wnba.com/sparks

Howl at the Moon
1000 Universal Center Dr.
Universal City, CA 91608
(818) 755-9970
www.howlatthemoon.com

LA Live
800 Olympic Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90015

Nokia Theatre LA Live
www.nokiatheatrelalive.com

Club Nokia
(213) 765-7000
www.clubnokia.com

The Conga Room
(213)749-0445
www.congaroom.com

Laugh Factory
8001 W. Sunset Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90017
(323)656-1336
www.laughfactory.com

Walt Disney Concert Hall
111 South Grand Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(323)850-2000
www.laphil.com

Sports
Chivas USA
www.cdcchivasusa.com

Los Angeles Clippers Basketball
www.nba.com/clippers

Los Angeles Dodgers Baseball
dodgers.mlb.com

Los Angeles Galaxy Soccer
www.lagalaxy.com

Los Angeles Kings Hockey
www.lakings.com

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www.lagalaxy.com

Los Angeles Kings Hockey
www.lakings.com

Los Angeles Sparks Women’s Basketball
www.wnba.com/sparks

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