Visitor Application for a J-1 Visa

1. General Guidelines:
Once a visitor has been invited by a professor to visit the University of California, Santa Barbara you must apply for a J-1 visa. Obtaining a visa is a lengthy process and we are seeing delays in the U.S. State Department issuing visas, so the Office of International Students and Scholars (OISS) recommends initiating the process 3 to 6 months prior to the date of the visit.

The application process is detailed at Apply for DS-2019

Please pay particular attention to the financial requirements and the insurance requirements. J-1 exchange visitors' dependents (legally married spouse and unmarried children under the age of 21) can enter the U.S. as J-2 Dependents. Other family members (such as parents, siblings or domestic partners) are not eligible for J-2 status, but may be eligible to visit the U.S. as tourists with a B-2 visa.

The U.S. Department of State Exchange Visitor Program Welcome Brochure can be viewed here. If you are not sure if you meet the requirements to be a J-1 Exchange Visitor, please contact the UCSB Office of International Students & Scholars.

Detailed information regarding the J-1 process can be found in the J-1 Scholar Program Handbook.

Each visitor must provide funding for his/her stay in the U.S., funding for his/her lodging, and bring his/her own laptop.

2. Application Procedures
- The prospective visitor will work with the Visitor Coordinator (Karen Doehner) to apply for the DS-2019, which will then enable you to apply for the visa. Please be prepared to submit the required information and documents to the OISS International Scholar UCSBGlobal system. These will include biographical information, copy of the visitor's passport, the letter of invitation, evidence of highest education, proof of financial support, proof of English proficiency, among others.
- English proficiency must be demonstrated by a standardized test (TOEFL, IELTS) taken within the past 5 years, or by an interview with the sponsoring faculty.
- You will be invited to fill in your personal information and submit your documents in the UCSBGlobal system; this will be reviewed for accuracy by the Department of Geography, and then submitted to OISS for further review and approval.
- Once approved by OISS, a DS-2019 will be issued and shipped to the traveler by an overnight carrier. This document is necessary for visa application at a U.S. Consulate or Embassy and must accompany the visitor when he travels. The visitor will be given instructions on how to pre-pay for the overnight shipment of the DS-2019.
- Please check with the consulate offices about the expected delays in processing the visa to make realistic travel arrangements. If there is a delay in receiving the visa or in travel arrangements and he/she can't arrive within 30 days of the date on the DS-2019, he/she must apply for an

amendment of the DS-2019. This request must be made at least 14 days prior to the expiration date of the DS-2019 to give the OISS sufficient time to process the amendment.

- It is advisable to begin looking for accommodations in Santa Barbara once the DS-2019 has been approved. [Craig's list](#) is an online site for finding local resources. Rooms in a private home are used extensively by visitors and students at UCSB; they will be listed here, and they generally run between $800–$1400/month. They tend to be furnished, and have kitchen and laundry privileges.

The Santa Barbara area communities are:

- Isla Vista (closest to UCSB, within walking or biking distance)
- Goleta (adjacent to UCSB, about 5–15 minutes, biking or bus transportation necessary)
- Downtown Goleta (close to UCSB, but biking or bus transportation necessary)
- Santa Barbara (about 10–20 minutes from UCSB, bus or car transportation necessary)
- Montecito (about 20–30 minutes from UCSB, transportation necessary)
- Carpinteria (beachside community, about 30–40 minutes from UCSB, transportation)