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# New Students Guide

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## 1 Immunization And Medication

Please complete the basic immunization requirements asked by Students Health and Wellness Center, UC Davis. Rest of the immunizations including flu shots etc. are available for free with your UC SHIP plan. UCSHIP insurance plan is automatically added to your student account and if you are awarded with GSR/TA appointment, department will pay for your UCSHIP bill. More information may be obtained by contacting UC-Davis Student Health and Counseling Services directly (<http://shcs.ucdavis.edu/>).

In general, at the age that we are at, we don't expect to land in medical complications. This is however a generalization. For those of us who are hale and hearty, it is never a mistake to exercise abundant caution, especially in a new country, understand health insurance, the medical system etc.

We are providing some information in the form of **Q & A** below.

**1. If we pay out of pocket for our tuition etc, can we minimize our health insurance premiums to keep cost of living down?**

The cost of UC SHIP is set for all students. Students who will maintain their own private insurance can consult with an insurance broker to find a plan that both meets all of the UC SHIP waiver requirements and is affordable for the student.

**2. What are the health insurance options for grad students?**

The options for health insurance for grad students are either UC SHIP, or their own private insurance plan. UCSHIP plan is generally recommended for grad students.

**3. Is there a website / YouTube video that explains the concept of health insurance in the USA?**

Students can go to <http://shcs.ucdavis.edu/insurance> to learn more about how UC SHIP works. You can also watch the following you-tube videos

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DBTmNm8D-84>
- [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A4-pklsDT\\_Q](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A4-pklsDT_Q)

**4. How do I manage prescription medications I have from my doctor in India?**

Students who have prescriptions from a provider in India will need to schedule an appointment with a provider in the United States in order to be written new prescriptions as local pharmacies will not fill a prescription from a provider outside of the United States. This can be done at the Student Health and Wellness Center when school starts.

5. **What sort of basic medication should I bring with me when I travel internationally?**

You can carry any basic prescribed medication with you until it satisfies U.S. Customs department's requirements. You must carry the prescription in case of any important personal medication which is unavoidable.

6. **How do I get my medical records from India transferred to USA / UC-Davis / SHCS?**

If you have a chronic medical condition, it is advised that you have your primary care provider in India write up a brief summary of your condition and care history to bring with you and that can be entered into the student's medical record at Student Health and Counseling Services.

## 1.1 Additional information and comments

### 1.1.1 Health Checkups

A complete medical check-up is recommended before leaving India. You can do the same using your UCSHIP plan here.

### 1.1.2 Dental Checkup

Before leaving India for the USA, please have a complete check-up and clean-up done. That being said, you can get annual dental check for free under UCSHIP.

### 1.1.3 Vision Checkup

Get your eyesight checked - get a new prescription. Buy at least one extra pair of glasses or a pair of contact lens, if you use them. Vision insurance is also included under UCSHIP. Just like your dental annual check up, you qualify for a free or highly subsidized annual vision check-up. Please make use of this coverage and go for it!

### 1.1.4 List of medication recommended by a doctor

**Warning:** Do NOT pack your bags with the recommended medications suggested in the list below as though you are planning to start a pharmacy in Davis! That means you need to restrict the quantity of each medication down to something that is clearly ONLY for personal use. You might feel tempted to bring more than you might need. Resist that temptation. Customs department might throw out excess medication unless you prove that you need large quantities of some medication. And do NOT worry UCSHIP does cover prescription medication costs.

- Crocin tablets (paracetamol 500 mg) - 3 strips - For fever, body ache, and headache.  
Better alternatives : Alerid (cetirizine) or Neoloridin (loridine) - less sedation and little to no side effects
- Azithromycin 500 mg tablets (aziwin) - 3 strips. One tablet once a day for at least 3 days. Use if you have a bacterial cold or Respiratory infection ...(most common symptom being dark yellow colored mucus, fever, etc.). NOT NEEDED FOR ordinary cold (white mucus, watery secretions)
- Sporidex 500mg capsules - 2 strips. One tablet twice a day when necessary as advised (please don't use on your own. This stuff needs a prescription to be used properly ... meant only for persistent troublesome infections)
- Avomine tablets - 1 strip for air/ motion sickness. One tablet as necessary (causes drowsiness)
- Lomotil/ Andial tablets- 15 (for diarrhea) - But remember the best treatment for diarrhea is plenty of fluids, some good rest and bland food.
- Omeprazole 20 mg. For gastritis i.e. stomach acidity. Can be taken once or twice a day
- Digene tablets- 20 mg. For stomach discomfort. One each, three times a day.
- Spasmoproxyvon capsules - 3 strips for abdominal colic pain, backache, menstrual pain etc.
- Domstal tablets - 10. For vomiting, has to be taken at least half an hour before food.
- Electral powder - 2 packets. One teaspoonful mixed with drinks to make up loss of electrolytes after vomiting & diarrhea.
- Novalgin - 2 strips for headache & body ache. One tablet as necessary.
- Brufen 600mg tablets - 2 strips. For arthritic joint pain. One tablet three times a day after food.
- Avil Tablets - 1 strip for allergy (use cetirizine/loridin for less sedation), One tablet as necessary.
- Relaxyl ointment - 1 tube to be applied as pain balm.
- Band Aid assorted - 12
- Soframycin skin ointment - 1 tube

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- Ciplox capsules 500 mg. 2 strips.1 capsule twice a day. For Infective diarrheas
  - Vitamin B-complex capsules .Just in case you are starving yourself out there!

## 2 Booking Flight Tickets

You can book your ticket browsing the following websites.

- <https://www.google.com/flights/>
- <https://www.studentuniverse.com/flights>
- <https://www.kayak.com/flights>

Google flights and student universe allow you to see price trend if your dates are flexible and might help you save some dollars. You are allowed to carry two 23kg check-in bags without any extra cost for most of the international travel. Check this information with your airline. Direct flights are preferred to avoid hassle, baggage is usually safe with a single airline. Check if the airline takes care of baggage transfer as for some airlines you may have to personally carry it. Get travel insurance if you can afford, it will help you in unfortunate circumstances like baggage loss, rescheduled flights due to weather conditions. Some airlines have student concessions make sure to take advantage of that. Do a thorough survey on different websites before you book your flight to get the best deal.

Typical Flight Charges: Rs. 40,000 - Rs. 50,000/- (Varies from Airline to Airline). The Davis Wiki has an information page about this service that includes customer tips and reviews.

**Note:-** Some flights do allow three 23kg bags on their first visit to US for a student Visa. So they should either go to the website or call the flight officials to confirm that. For example, we have heard that Emirates allows three bags.



## 3 Transportation from Airport to Davis

UC Davis is located near two international airports - Sacramento International ([https://localwiki.org/davis/Sacramento\\_International\\_Airport](https://localwiki.org/davis/Sacramento_International_Airport)) and San Francisco International ([https://localwiki.org/davis/San\\_Francisco\\_International\\_Airport](https://localwiki.org/davis/San_Francisco_International_Airport)). Depending on where you are coming from, you will likely fly into one of these airports and then take ground transportation to Davis. There are a number of transportation options from each airport depending on how much money and time you wish to spend.

### 3.1 Getting to Davis from Sacramento International Airport (SMF)

#### 3.1.1 Davis Airporter Van Service

You can make arrangements ahead of time for the Davis Airporter van service to pick you up at SMF and deliver you to your address in Davis. These rides are shared with other SMF passengers and you can make reservations through its website or by phone (+1-530-756-6715 or +1-800-565-5153). Davis Airporter Service requests that you call their 800 number upon arrival at the airport and they will contact the driver to confirm your arrival. If your flight is late, telephone as soon as possible and a vehicle will be sent for you.

#### 3.1.2 Yolobus

Yolobus offers direct bus service to Davis from the Sacramento International Airport (<http://yolobus.com/news/airport-service.php>). The #42B bus (<http://yolobus.com/routes/index.php/42B>) leaves the Sacramento Airport every hour at 20 minutes after the hour between 5am and 10pm and arrives at the Memorial Union ([https://www.transit.wiki/UC\\_Davis\\_Memorial\\_Union](https://www.transit.wiki/UC_Davis_Memorial_Union)) on the UC Davis campus about 45 minutes later. No reservations are required. Although inexpensive, this bus will not deliver you to a specific address in Davis and may not have space for extra baggage.

#### 3.1.3 Taxi Service

Taxi service ([http://www.sacramento.aero/smf/to\\_and\\_from/taxis/](http://www.sacramento.aero/smf/to_and_from/taxis/)) is also available at the airport.

### 3.2 Getting to Davis From San Francisco International Airport (SFO)

#### 3.2.1 Davis Airporter Van Service

You can make arrangements ahead of time for the Davis Airporter (<https://www.davisairporter.com/index2.html>) van service to pick you up at SFO and deliver you to your address in

Davis. These rides are shared with other SFO passengers and you can make reservations through its website or by phone (1-530-756-6715 or 1-800-565-5153). Davis Airporter Service requests that you call their 800 number upon arrival at the airport and they will contact the driver to confirm your arrival. If your flight is late, telephone as soon as possible and a vehicle will be sent for you. The Davis Wiki has an information page ([https://daviswiki.org/Davis\\_Airporter](https://daviswiki.org/Davis_Airporter)) about this service that includes customer tips and reviews.

### **3.2.2 BART (Bay Area Rapid Transit) and Amtrak/Capital Corridor**

A less expensive (but longer travel time) option for reaching Davis from SFO is to take BART directly from the airport train station that is located in the International Terminal (Level 3: Departure/Ticketing Level Near Boarding Area G) to the Richmond station. From Richmond you can then take one of Amtrak's daily Capital Commuter trains which run between San Francisco and Sacramento, including a stop in Davis. Please note that the Davis train station is downtown, so you will need to arrange transportation from there onto your final destination.

## **3.3 Airport Transportation for the UC Davis Medical Center**

### **3.3.1 Sacramento International Airport**

You can make arrangements ahead of time for a van service to pick you up at SMF and deliver you to your address in Sacramento. These rides are shared with other SMF passengers. At present there are two companies serving SMF. You can make reservations either by calling them or through their websites: SuperShuttle (<https://www.supershuttle.com/>) (1-800-BLUE-VAN or 1-800-258-3826), Davis Airporter: 1-530-756-6715 or 1-800-565-5153 and Taxi service is also available at the airport. You can also book uber or lyft from airport too.

### **3.3.2 San Francisco International Airport**

At present the only van service running between Sacramento and SFO is Davis Airporter. Please check their transportation rate sheet for the cost of service between SFO and Sacramento.

### **3.3.3 BART (Bay Area Rapid Transit) and Amtrak/Capital Corridor**

A less expensive (but longer travel time) option for reaching Davis from SFO is to take BART directly from the airport train station (<http://www.bart.gov/stations/sfia>) that is located in the International Terminal (Level 3: Departure/Ticketing Level Near Boarding Area G) to the Richmond station. From Richmond you can then take one of Amtrak's

daily Capital Commuter trains (<http://www.capitolcorridor.org/>) which run between San Francisco and Sacramento, including a stop in Davis. You have book Amtrak ticket beforehand. Please note that the Davis train station is downtown, so you will need to arrange transportation from there onto your final destination.

### 3.3.4 Zimride - Ride Sharing Service

UC Davis website includes the Zimride Service (<https://www.zimride.com/ucdavis/>), where you can register to share rides with other people from UC Davis. Once you've registered with Zimride, you can add when you're heading to the airport (either Sacramento or San Francisco) to connect with people who can either give you a ride or share the cost of a taxi with you. You can also book a ride through UC Davis ride-sharing facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/UCDavisRideSharing/>).

**Note:-** The option which has worked best for people in the the previous years is the Davis Airporter due to its convenience in the pickup and drop off locations. If you can coordinate your flights on the same day and book Davis Airporter Van Service together, then you can get a good deal. So, try to coordinate among yourselves to get the bookings done.

## 4 Shopping Time!! Things To Bring From India

It can be really confusing to decide on what items to carry as many of you may be traveling overseas for the first time. If you have decided on house mates, coordinate your shopping in India with them, this will save both: space in packing, as well as money in India / Davis. In this section, we have listed the most common things students carry. Realize, these are guidelines and so please customize them to your needs based on space in your bags, financial situation and personal taste. Some items like clothes and shoes (especially formal wear), are relatively expensive in the USA. Therefore, we recommend that you go through this list and decide what you would like to bring with you from India versus what you would prefer purchasing in or around Davis

### 4.1 Clothes

The weather in Davis is similar to northern India with summers being hot and winters cold. So bring clothes accordingly. Summary of the recommended clothes:

- Jeans: 4 to 6 pairs
- Shorts: 6-8
- T-shirts: 6-8
- Cotton shirts: 4-5
- Night clothes: 2-3 pairs
- Formal suit and Ties - 1-2 pairs. (Useful for interviews and other formal ceremonies)
- Undergarments- 10-15 pairs (laundry is usually done once in two weeks)
- Socks- 4-5 pairs
- Weather proof Jacket - 1
- Traditional clothes would be good during Cultural meets etc.
- Turkish towels and two napkins.
- 2 thin single bed sheets.
- One air pillow
- Sunglasses
- Umbrella and Raincoats (it rained intermittently for 2-3 months over winter break and quarter)
- Travel charging adapter (Most important)

### 4.2 Footwear

- **Sport Shoes** :: 2 pairs. Sports shoes are real cheap in US, moreover in Christmas sales etc. So do not spend too much money on these. Get some moderately priced and good ones so that you need not buy them immediately after coming to US.

- **Leather Shoes** :: Get good and strong leather shoes, shoes that have good grip are preferred. This is for snowy regions. It's difficult to walk on snow with shoes of flat sole. Firm grip helps to keep fit, prevents breaking head, bones.
- **Slippers** :: two pairs
- Kolhapuris, they serve good purpose in the summer.

### 4.3 Personal Accessories

- Hangers for clothes.
- Wallet, one that has space for cards. You normally don't carry much cash with you.
- Shaving kit & Blades (get a good stock, they are costly In US).
- Brush & toothpaste (these are also expensive in US).
- Soap (get a couple of bars of bathing soap till you go for the first groceries in US).
- Combs & hair oil (if you use hair-oil get a year's supply of your favorites).
- Small mirror (just in case even if you are not a narcissist!).
- Nail cutter.
- Small scissors, Safety pin bunch.
- Mini-sewing kit with some buttons (important !!)

#### 4.3.1 Summarizing your Personal accessories list:

- |                     |                               |
|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Soap 6 no.        | • Toothpaste 2 no.            |
| • Shampoo 3 bottles | • Tooth brush 4 no.           |
| • Towels 2 no.      | • Shaving tube 2 no.          |
| • Napkin 6 no.      | • Mach 3 razor 2 no.          |
| • Body spray 3 no.  | • Blades 20 no. (mach3)       |
| • Perfume 2 no.     | • Blanket 1 no.               |
| • After shave 1 no. | • Duster 4 no. (for cleaning) |

- Scrub 2 no.
- Sponge 2 no.
- Bedsheets 2 thick + 2 thin
- Pillow 1 no.
- Comb 2 no.
- Nail cutter 2 no.
- Rubber band 1 packet
- Scissors 1 pair
- Calculator 1 no.
- Passport and stamp size photos 12 each,
- Medicines + first aid kit
- Back pack
- Key Chains
- Mirror
- Soap box

#### 4.4 Utensils

Depends on whether you guys plan to cook alone or with your housemate. Please remember that most of us don't get time to cook daily, stuff is generally prepared for two days at a go. Therefore, keep this in mind when you buy vessels.

Summarizing the Utensils that may be needed. (Keep in mind the space restrictions and prioritize)

- Pressure Cooker - 1
- Kadai - 1
- Non stick tawa - 1
- Spoons - 6
- Chapati fork/tong - 1
- Laddle for poori - 1
- Knives- 2
- Peeler -1
- Serving spoons (for dal, curry and rice)- 3
- Forks- 4
- Sauce pan 2 no.
- Rolling Pin/ Belan (to make rotis) - 1
- Plates -2
- Katori - 3
- Glasses- 2
- Cutting board- 1
- Butter knives -2
- Small size plastic spoons for masala -1
- Tea strainer- 1
- Masala organizer -1

## 4.5 Food Items

Some of the common food items that students carry are:

- Spices, Tea leaves, Masalas, Haldi, Dhania, red chillies, Instant masalas, etc.
- Mustard packet.
- Tamarind paste
- Different dals in small quantity for initial use.
- Asafoetida powder.
- Indian instant coffee + Indian tea (it takes time to get used to the American stuff)
- Elaichi, clove, cinnamon
- Masalas and tea/coffee powder, if you are a regular drinker (until somebody shifts to beer.)
- Get a couple of bags each of haldi, red chilly powder, Garam masala, Dhania, Pickle bottles , rice, Moong Dal. Bring approx. 1-month supply of
- Masalas. Most Indian food stuffs are available here at International market. Don't come loaded with foodstuffs as you may have problem with customs. Try to get "instant" stuff, as people don't have much time for cooking in the US.

Summarizing your Masala list:

- |                                   |                                |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Dhania and jeera 200gm         | 4. Powdered Garam Masala 200gm |
| 2. Chilli powder $\frac{1}{4}$ kg | 5. Salt 500gm                  |
| 3. Haldi $\frac{1}{4}$ kg         | 6. Sugar $\frac{1}{2}$ kg.     |

## 4.6 Stationary

Although cheaper options are available in Davis at Dollar One tree shop, if possible some of the stationary items that could be packed are

- White sheets 10 no.
- Mechanical pencil 10 no.
- Erasers 4 no.
- Blade 2 no.
- Stapler 1 no.
- Stapler pins 1 packet

- Pens 4 blue + 4 black (ball pens)
- Scribbling Pad 2 no.
- Glue stick 1 no.
- Pencil Box 1 no.
- Ruler - 12" 1 no.
- Stick on pad 2 no.
- Cello tape 1 no.
- Needle 1 packet
- Thread : Black 1 reel, White 1 reel , Blue 1 reel (must)
- Safety pins 1 dozen



## 5 Money To Be Taken With You

**Please carry around \$500 – \$1500 (depending on your need) cash apart from rent and expenses for first month with you in different denominations.** Don't forget to carry \$1 and \$5 bills as you might require it for using public transport. Distribute cash in different places like wallet, carry-on baggage, trouser pockets etc. Carry at least one international credit card or forex card with you and you can thus avoid carrying large cash on you. As soon as you get here (to USA) you should open an account in local bank (preferably one affiliated with your university) and transfer your money to it. Make sure you have access to your money through debit/ATM card.

## 6 In The Last Week

Get ready for long travel. Try to adjust your sleep schedule so that you don't feel jet-lagged when you arrive. Find out the name of the person who is coming to pick you up at the airport. Remind those people of the flight timings, airline no, your name. Inform all these to your people at home. Relax the day before journey, and check all the documents you are taking with you once again. It's good to have a passport holder/document manager. Arrange for the conveyance if you don't have a car to get to the departure airport.

### 6.1 Things to be left at home

Your US address, contact information of your roommates and some seniors. Contact information of your department and adviser. One copy of all your important documents. Don't forget to keep a color photocopy of passport and Visa at home. Scanned copies are also good. A copy of all relevant parts of medical history files.

**Note :-** Vegetarians should call the flight officials a couple of days before the flight to actually order a hindu-meal or a vegetarian meal for themselves to make sure and avoid any confusion and complication on the day of flights.

## 7 On The Day of Flight And On-Board

Since it is going to be a long flight, you should wear something comfortable (cotton dress + full hand shirt). Wear your shoes - in flight you can remove them (some airlines give in flight shoes - else relax in socks). Check all the documents once again and keep them at appropriate places. Be at the airport 3-4 hours before the departure. Relax during flight, sleep as much as possible.

For vegetarians - watch out before you eat - you may get non-veg even if you had asked for veg. Veg food is generally bland - fruits/juices are good choices. (Before ordering anything, you can ask the airline official).

Please check with your particular airline to confirm the number of check-in bags they allow. Please ask them if they allow 3 check-in bags for first time student traveler to US. Make sure you do not carry extra baggage and run into trouble. You might be asked to pay extra for that. Also be sure to stick address tags and contact information on either side of baggage. This is to ensure that your bags reach their destination in case they are misplaced. If you are staying with a senior at UC Davis, confirm with them and provide their address. If you are staying elsewhere for the first few days, make sure the address is reliable and that your bags will be safe there.

### 7.1 Things to carry in hand

At all times, please remember to carry your passport and I-20 with you. Do not keep them in the pockets in front of your seats in the flight or leave it unattended while visiting the restroom.

- Carry few dollars to buy refreshments or make calls while in transit.
- Passport, I-20 and Admission letter.
- At least two sets of clothing.
- Telephone / Address book.
- Cash / Traveler's checks.
- Medication for air sickness if you need it.
- Phone numbers of relatives in US, seniors at UC and University officials

## 7.2 Flight Journey

Please be present at the departing airport at least 2.5-3 hours prior to departure. Once you finish checking in your luggage, you should inquire with the desk for immigration forms. They are also available at the immigration counters. Fill them up and proceed towards immigration. Clear immigration and security check and proceed towards your designated gate.

If you will be continuing your journey by air, check in at the appropriate airline counter as soon as you are through with customs. In most airports, you might have to change terminals to board your connecting flight. Please ask the airline representative at the counter about changing terminals or just follow the directions. You might have to use the Airport Transport System to do so. These counters are, usually, right outside the customs area. Remember, it is your responsibility to collect your baggage after passing through immigration, clear it through customs, and get it checked in again for the onward connection.

For very busy airports and since many of you might be first time fliers, it is advisable that you should book your flights such that you must have plenty amount of time to clear customs, check-in and go to your respective gate. In case your baggage does not arrive (common for many airlines) on the same flight as you do, do not waste too much time hunting for it. Mention it to the airline representative and give them a forwarding address with phone number where you can be reached.

In any event, do not miss your connecting flight. In case your flight came in late or the onward flight is canceled, it is the responsibility of the airline in which you flew into the country or the airline that canceled its flight to make arrangements for another flight. If the delay involves an overnight stay, then the airline has to put you up for the night and also pay for your meals. Do not let the airline representative convince you otherwise.

## 7.3 Immigration and Customs

You will have to go through customs and immigration at your port of entry, i.e. the first US City where your aircraft lands. Before the plane lands, the flight attendant will distribute customs declaration forms and immigration forms (you should keep your passport and **I-20/DS-2019** with you at all times - do not put any of your immigration papers in your check-in luggage). Fill these out on the plane. You will submit them to the appropriate US Customs officer after you land. If you do not understand a form, you can ask the flight attendant for assistance anytime. Even if your luggage is booked through to your final destination, it will be off-loaded at your port of entry.

After passing through the immigration area, you will collect your baggage and then, with your baggage, pass through customs. A customs inspector will inspect your bags and review the customs form you have filled out on the airplane. Penalties for concealing declarable items can be severe, so be honest and make a full declaration.

As far as edibles go, please remember that there should be no fruits, vegetables or any-

thing raw. Pickles, Spices etc will be allowed in as long as they are packed properly and sealed. Spices are usually classified as non-perishable and dehydrated and you may declare them as such. If custom inspector asks about the masala powder tell them that they are dried Indian spices to make traditional Indian food like curry. If asked about "vib-huti", tell them that it is a holy Hindu powder.

**Note:** In most cases, you will not be asked to open your boxes at all and you will be simply waved through.

Custom and immigration officer might ask a few questions like :- Is this your first time in the US? Student? F-1 Visa? Which Univ.? They will attach an I-94 card to your visa.

#### 7.4 Informing seniors

Now go and wait at the nearest exit for the travels who are supposed to pick you up. If nobody turns up after some time (say 0.5 hour), make a call to your mentor or any senior, your Prof, department international students' office, admissions office. Never leave your baggage unattended. Don't go out of the airport until somebody comes and picks you up. If you have doubts about the guy who comes to pick you up, don't hesitate to ask for his ID. (All this is of course being a little extra cautious).

Once you reach your friend's house (or your intended destination) you can call home/any relatives and inform them of your reaching safely.

## 8 Things To Do Once You Reach at Your Apartment

There are certain primary things to be done on reaching US. Keep a record of your details (passport, visa details etc). Your mentor will contact you and get the primary things done like bank account, mobile sim-card, campus tour etc.

### 8.1 Bank Account

There are two types of bank accounts in the U.S., Checking and Saving, where the later is to save some money for future.

#### 8.1.1 How to choose a bank

Every bank in the US offers different services to students. Don't get blindsided by freebies, and make sure you read the small print so you're fully aware of what service fees they charge.

Anyway, you're mentor will assist you in all these things. Find out which banks are closest to you, as most university campuses will have at least one or two on-site.

#### 8.1.2 Questionnaires for bank

- How much does the bank charge per month when you open an account?
- What's the minimum balance required on the account?
- Are there extra fees if the balance goes below the minimum?
- What are the monthly service fees?
- Are there transaction limits?
- What is the service charge for wire transfer?
- Does the bank offer online and mobile banking?

#### 8.1.3 Documents you'll need to open a bank account

- Current passport and Visa
- Proof of address (e.g., utility bill, apartment contract/lease).
- Remember, some banks may ask for additional documentation to establish your identity, such as:

- I-94 card
- I-20, DS-2019
- Another form of identification, such as a foreign driver's license or credit card
- Form W-8 BEN if you're not eligible for an SSN or ITIN.

If you don't have a mentor, please contact any senior if they are free and willing to assist you in these things. There are many telephone carriers available and have a good coverage in Davis. Mainly you will look for national calls/texts schemes as well as data charge. You can get service with decent price if you get included in a family plan. Therefore, it's advised to form a group and start a family/group plan. You can choose any of carriers and plan as per your budget.

#### **8.1.4 Campus Visit and Orientation**

Now, it's time to visit our beautiful UC Davis campus. Meet your prof if you have got an RA or a TA. Please attend the complete orientation program (both university and department) and get your student ID first. SISS will discuss about getting your Social Security Number (SSN). You can also double check your registration requirements before the classes start.

## 9 IGSA Contact Information

IGSA officers can be reached out if you have questions or concerns about anything. Please feel comfortable to contact us. The contact details of IGSA members, who are available on campus during last week of August - first two weeks of September are as follows.

- **Satybrata Sarangi**
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Now it's time to start your grad studies at UC Davis.

ALL THE BEST !!!

IGSA board is always with you.