



## MOVE-IN GUIDE

The world knows Los Angeles as the land of movies, celebrities, and 300 days of sunshine, and for the next few weeks, months, or even years, this city of rich and diverse culture will be your home. This guide was created to assist you with the transition of moving to Los Angeles and to make your stay in Los Angeles as secure and comfortable as possible. Our guide contains information on Gateway Apartments, banking, grocery and household essential shopping, as well as transportation.



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Section 1		
	What to expect from living at the USC International Academy Gateway Apartments?	3
Section 2		
	Cellphone	4
	How can I set up a cell phone service?	4
	Where can I go to buy a cell phone/set up a phone service?	4
Section 3		
	Banks	4-5
	What do I need to bring to open a bank account? Banks in the neighborhood	
Section 4		
	Buying Food	5
	Where are the local grocery stores?	
	Buying Household Essentials	
	Where can I purchase personal items?	5
	Where can I purchase things for my apartment?	
Section 5		
	Transportation	6-8
	Where can I park my car?	6
	Where can I park my car in Gateway?	6
	Where are USC bus stops?	6
	What is Campus Cruiser? How do I use it?	6
	How can I use USC Lyft?	6
	How do I use public transportation?	7
	How do I get to the airport?	8



# USC International Academy

## What to expect from living at the USC International Academy Gateway Apartments?

### Floor Plan

#### Bedroom

- Each bedroom has two beds and can be shared by up to 2 students. A bed, desk, chair, dresser and individual closet is provided for each student.

#### Bathroom

- Each bedroom has one bathroom that includes a shower and is shared by no more than two students.

#### Living Room

- The living room comes furnished with a sofa, coffee table, chair, entertainment center and 37" HD flat screen TV.

#### Kitchen

- The kitchen is equipped with a stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, microwave, and garbage disposal. Basic cookware and utensils are provided, though students may need to buy additional pots, pans, plates, and other kitchen supplies.

### Living with Others

#### Roommates

You are in a new country and living with people of different races and ethnicities. Although it may seem more comfortable to live with others of the same culture, living with people from different parts of the world is part of the experience! By sharing living space with people who do not speak your language, you will improve your English communication skills faster, and learn about your roommate's traditions and daily habits. Living with other international students means you need to become more tolerant and ready to learn to adjust to different situations. Please remember to speak with your roommates about what you like and do not like. Be open! If there is a problem you have with their behavior, maybe it is because they do not know it bothers you.



### Things you should discuss with your roommate(s):

- Creating a cleaning schedule
- Taking trash out
- Apartment and room quiet hours
- Guest visits
- Sharing or not sharing food and household items

### Cleaning

You are responsible for cleaning your own apartments, bedroom and washing your bedding (and clothes). You need to purchase your own cleaning supplies (dish soap, sponges, toilet bowl cleaner, all-surface cleaning liquid, and laundry soap, etc.). You can do it at the nearby convenience store. Vacuum cleaners can be borrowed from the Cultural Ambassador (and need to be returned as soon as vacuuming is finished).

### Laundry

Multiple washer and dryers are in the building. You need to pay a small amount by debit or credit card. If you need help, please ask a Cultural Ambassador or a USC International Academy staff member.

### Welcome kit

You will receive a welcome kit on Housing Move-In Day. Kits include: Bed linens, one pillow, one small blanket, and one towel. If you did not get your welcome kit, please inform a Cultural Ambassador or USC International Academy staff member, and you will be given one.

## CELL PHONES

### How can I set up cell phone service?

Owning a cell phone is useful while living in Los Angeles. You will have to go to a cell phone provider on your own to purchase a cell phone and service, if you do not already have one.

You might want to choose pay-as-you-go plan that does not require a long-term contract, deposits, or credit check—you keep your phone number from month to month, this is convenient if you are not staying for more than one term.

For smartphones, a prepaid plan like T-Mobile's can start at \$40/month and allow unlimited texts, calls, and data up to 3GB. This might be better if you stay for only one semester.

Chances are, if you already have a phone from home, you will need to unlock it from its previous carrier. If you purchase a new phone, you will not have to worry about that.

### Where can I go to buy a cell phone/set up a phone service?

You can visit to these cell phone providers below:



#### AT&T

3625 S Vermont Ave,  
Los Angeles, CA 90007  
~ 0.5 miles from USC  
(Closest to Parkside Apartments)

#### T- Mobile

2510 S Figueroa St, Suite H  
Los Angeles, CA 90007  
~ 0.52 mile from USC  
(Closest to Gateway Apartments)

## BANKS

During your stay, you will need to open a bank account. Many banks issue debit cards with a MasterCard or Visa emblem, enabling you to use the card to make purchases almost anywhere.

You need to open a checking account. Checking accounts allow you to frequently deposit and withdraw money. They are a great way to pay your monthly bills. When you open a checking account, it usually comes with a checkbook and debit card. There may be minimum monthly balances and service fees. These vary depending on the type of account you open.

### What do I need to bring to open a bank account?

- Your full name, local address, home phone/cell phone number, USC International Academy's number address and contact information (i.e. 3415 S Figueroa St, Los Angeles, CA 90089, and 213-740-0080)
- Valid, unexpired passport
- I-94
- I-20, or DS-2019, or I-797 approval notice
- Another form of identification (i.e. your USC ID card, birth certificate, driver's license)
- Your Acceptance/ Admissions Letter from USC International Academy
- You will also need the funds you want to deposit and open the account with. Every bank has slightly different requirements (you usually need min. USD \$200)

It is a good idea to visit a bank (or bank's website) to ask about the documents you need to open an account.

# USC International Academy

## **BANKS continued**

### **Banks in the neighborhood**

#### **Chase**

3335 S Figueroa Street, Suite C  
Los Angeles, CA 90007  
(Located in same building as the Gateway Apartments; on the ground floor)

#### **USC Credit Union**

3601 Trousdale Pkwy  
Los Angeles, CA 90007  
(ON CAMPUS)  
(Closest to Parkside Apartments)

#### **Bank of America**

3400 S Vermont Ave  
Los Angeles, CA 90007  
(ON CAMPUS)

## **BUYING FOOD (Local Supermarkets)**

Refrigerator empty? Food running low on pantry items? Here's a list of nearby supermarkets where you can restock on produce, meats, and packaged foods, or even grab a sandwich to snack on between classes.

#### **Trader Joe's**

3131 S Hoover Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90089  
Located at USC Village  
(More Expensive)

#### **Ralph's**

2600 S Vermont Ave  
Los Angeles, CA 90007  
~ 1.0 mile from USC  
(Mid-Range Prices)

#### **Smart & Final**

3607 S Vermont Ave  
Los Angeles, CA 90007  
~ 0.6 mile from USC  
(Cheaper)

## **BUYING HOUSEHOLD ESSENTIALS (Personal Items & Furniture)**

Running out of shampoo or other toiletries? Looking to buy a new vacuum or desk lamp? The following stores are big and have everything you need, from beauty and health items like soap and medicine to items for your apartment like shower curtains, plates, and paper towels. Some even have snacks and food.

#### **Target (LA Central)**

735 S Figueroa St, Los Angeles, CA 90017  
(Accessible by Metro Expo Line)

#### **CVS Pharmacy**

3335 S Figueroa St  
Los Angeles, CA 90007  
(Located in same building as the Gateway Apartments)



# USC International Academy

## TRANSPORTATION

### Parking Your Car on campus

Public parking in the parking garages is \$12 a day. The meters around campus are \$1 per hour for up to 3 or 4 hours, depending on where you park. USC Parking passes can be purchased from the Transportation office located in Royal Street Parking Structure (PSX), or online. Prices vary depending on the pass. Visit the website at [www.usc.edu/parking/](http://www.usc.edu/parking/)

### Parking your personal car at Gateway parking structure

If you live at the Gateway Apartments, you have the option to park your car in the Gateway parking structure with a valid permit. The structure is located on rear side of the building. It is only available to the Gateway residents and costs \$400 per semester. Please go to the Student Services office at the International Academy to purchase the parking permit.



### USC Buses

The University Park Campus has three bus routes that you can use to get around the area. Routes A, B, and C all stop in front of the JEP House, on the corner of Trousdale Parkway and 34th Street every thirty minutes before making other various stops to specific USC Housing locations or shopping centers (i.e. Ralph's, CVS). To see the specific schedules and stops of each bus, visit <http://transnet.usc.edu/index.php/bus-map-schedules/>. You can also track specific buses' movements on <http://transnet.usc.edu/index.php/track-a-bus>.

An Intercampus Shuttle services from 7:00 AM to 9:20 PM, Monday-Friday. The Intercampus Shuttle travels from UPC (main campus) to Union Station and HSC (Health Sciences Campus).

### Campus Cruiser

Campus Cruiser is USC's safe ride program which provides students, faculty, and staff with free and efficient transportation within a three-mile radius of campus. Hours of operation are slightly different at different times of the year. During the fall and spring (not summer), cruiser will run from 5pm to 2:45am; however, summer service operates only from 6pm to 12:45am.

To request a campus cruiser, you will need to give your name, starting address (where you are now), destination (where you want to go), and the number (and sometimes gender) of passengers. The cruiser will usually arrive within 5-10 minutes. You can request a ride online, by phone, or by using the smartphone app.

To request online, simply visit <https://usc.ridecell.com/request>. You will need your USC NET ID to log-in to the website.

You can also request a ride by dialing the number 213-740-4911. If the operator is currently busy taking other calls, you may have to wait a few minutes for your call to be taken.

Campus Cruiser also has a smartphone app which can be downloaded via the App Store. Simply search for "USC Campus Cruiser" and download the app with the cardinal and gold (red and yellow) car logo. Follow the instructions on the interface to request a ride.

# USC International Academy

## **TRANSPORTATION continued**

### **Lyft Partnership**

If Campus Cruiser wait times exceed 15 minutes, you can take Lyft for free. Please download the Lyft app on your smartphone or mobile device. Any rides that begin and end within the USC Campus Cruiser boundary will be paid for by USC between the hours of 7:00pm-2:00am every night during the Fall and Spring semesters (not summer).

For the most up-to-date information, visit the USC Transportation website at <http://transnet.usc.edu/index.php/campus-cruiser-program/how-to-use-lyft/>.

### **Maven and Enterprise Rent-a-Car Partnerships**

Need to get somewhere quick? USC has partnered with General Motor's Maven and Enterprise car rental. Go to <http://transnet.usc.edu/index.php/getting-around/> for more details.

### **Public Transportation – Metro**

Buying and Loading your TAP Card

There are many metro bus lines that travel around the USC campus, as well as two high-speed Metro Rail stations – Expo Park/USC and Jefferson/USC. Regardless of which you choose to ride, the regular buses or the rail, you will need to purchase a \$1 TAP card and fill it with money before you travel. The cost of a one-way trip on the Metro (no transfers) is \$1.75, but we suggest that you load at least \$5, which is enough to cover more than the trip there and back.

You can purchase a new TAP card or reload one that you have already purchased at the Metro Rail stations at Expo Park/USC and Jefferson/USC. There, you will see ticket machines. Follow the instructions on the screen by pushing the buttons next to the statements of what you would like to do (e.g. purchase a TAP card or reload TAP card). You can also use the machine to check your balance.

Then, simply tap your loaded card before boarding the Metro bus or at the podiums before entering the Metro Rail platforms. Reminder: The Jefferson/ USC Train stop is closest to Parkside apartments. The Expo Park/ USC Stop is closest to the Gateway Apartments.

### **Planning Your Trips on the Metro**

To plan your trip on the Metro, just visit their website at [www.metro.net](http://www.metro.net). In the right column of the home page, you will see a box labeled “Metro Trip Planner” where you can enter your current location's address and the address of your destination, as well as the time and day you will need to arrive by. This will provide you with a schedule of which lines or stations to take.

Also available on this site are a wealth of resources including Metro timetables and maps. The timetables provide you with the estimated time that trains or buses will be arriving, while the maps show you the closest stations to you. You can also visit [www.metro.net/riding/colleges/usc/](http://www.metro.net/riding/colleges/usc/) for many guides on the buses and rails that run around USC (see USC Pocket Guide and Expo College Guide).

# USC International Academy

## **TRANSPORTATION continued**

### **Airports**

#### *US Domestic*

Want to travel to New York for the weekend? Or maybe Florida for Spring Break? The airports below offer flights from these airlines: Alaska, American, Delta, JetBlue, Southwest, United, and US Airway.

#### **Bob Hope Airport**

2627 N. Hollywood Way  
Burbank, CA 91505  
(818) 840-8840  
Airport code: BUR  
[www.bobhopeairport.com](http://www.bobhopeairport.com)

#### *US Domestic and International Flights*

#### **Los Angeles International Airport**

1 World Way  
Los Angeles, CA 90045  
(310) 646-5252  
Airport Code: LAX  
[www.lawa.org](http://www.lawa.org)  
[www.los-angeles-lax.com](http://www.los-angeles-lax.com)

