

MOVE-IN GUIDE WELCOME TO LOS ANGELES

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 Cardinal Gardens 3

SECTION 2 - Cellphone

How can I set up a cellphone service? 4

Where can I go buy a cellphone & set up a phone service? 4

SECTION 3 - Banks

What do I need to open a bank account? 4

Banks in the neighborhood 5

SECTION 4 - Buying Food & Personal Items

Where are the local grocery stores? 5

Buying household essentials 5

Where can I purchase personal items 5

Where can I purchase things for my apartment? 5

SECTION 5 - Transportation

Where can I park my car? 6

Where can I park my car in Gateway? 6

Where are the USC bus stops? 6

What is Campus Cruiser & how do I use it? 6

How do I use public transportation? 7

How do I get to the airport (LAX)? 8

USC Cardinal Gardens

What to expect from living at the USC Cardinal Gardens?

Floor plan



Bedroom

- Each bedroom is furnished with 2 beds, 2 desks, 2 chairs and a closet.

Bathroom

- Each apartment has one bathroom that includes a shower and is shared by up to four students.

Living Room

- Living/dining area includes a dining table and chairs, sofa, coffee table and TV set.

Kitchen

- The kitchen is equipped with a stove and a refrigerator. Students should purchase their own cookware and utensils.

Laundry

- There are three laundry rooms – one in the CSC building, one in Building B, and one in Building H. The \$1.50 washing and \$1.00 drying costs are paid using major credit and prepaid cards.

Meal Plan

- The meal plan, loaded on the student's USC ID card, includes 60 meals at any of the three residential restaurants: Everybody's Kitchen, Parkside Restaurant & Grill and USC Village Dining Hall.

Living with others

Roomates

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.

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.

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 USC International Academy staff member, and you will be given one.

Things you should discuss with your roommate

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

CELL PHONES

How can I set up cellphone service?

Owning a cellphone is useful while living in Los Angeles. You will have to go to a cellphone provider on your own to purchase a cellphone 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 cellphone/set up a phone service?

You can visit these cellphone providers:



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



2510 S Figueroa St, Suite H
Los Angeles, CA 90007
~ 0.52 miles 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.

BANKS *Continued*

Banks in the neighborhood



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



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



Own Your Future

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

BUYING FOOD & PERSONAL ITEMS

Groceries *(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.



3131 S Hoover Street
Los Angeles, CA 90089
Located at USC Village



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



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

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

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



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

TRANSPORTATION



Parking your car on campus

Public parking in the parking garages is \$14 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/

Parking your personal car/bicycle at Cardinal Gardens

Cardinal Gardens has a large parking lot (#43) surrounding the buildings located within the complexes gated and walled perimeter. Permits are purchased from USC Transportation. Secure bicycle racks are conveniently located throughout the facility.

The USC Bus stops on the west side of the building. For more information about parking, visit <https://transnet.usc.edu/index.php/how-to-purchase-a-permit-2/>

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>.

Campus Cruiser

Lyft is now available at HSC and UPC and will cover classic rides! Campus Cruiser will remain closed for the Fall 2021 semester. While we are closed, Lyft will be providing our Safe Ride services to students, faculty and staff. Lyft at UPC is open 5 PM to 2 AM, seven days a week. Lyft at HSC is open 3 PM to midnight, Monday through Friday only.

HOW TO REQUEST A RIDE:

- Through our web request interface at usc.ridecell.com
- Within the free iPhone app available in the iTunes store, or the Android app available at: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.ridecell.platform.leonidas.usc>
- By calling dispatch at 213.740.4911

SIGN UP IN 2 SIMPLE STEPS:

1. Sign up using your valid @usc.edu email address (only valid @usc.edu accounts are authorized) at usc.ridecell.com or within the Campus Cruiser app.
2. Enter the 3-digit verification code that gets sent to your email account.

REQUEST A CRUISER IN 3 SIMPLE STEPS:

1. Specify the address or building code of your pick up location, your drop-off location, and any special equipment required [NOTE: Campus Cruiser does not handle the following types of calls: to or from a commercial location, locations out of the service boundary, and calls that are along the USC Bus routes.]
2. Receive a confirmation notification once you're assigned to a Cruiser
3. Track your Cruiser real-time within the smartphone or web interface!

TRANSPORTATION *Continued*

Maven and Enterprise Rent-a-Car partnerships

Need to get somewhere quick? USC has partnered with General Motor's Maven and Enterprise car rental.

For more details, go to
<http://transnet.usc.edu/index.php/getting-around/>

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. 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/ for many guides on the buses and rails that run around USC (see USC Pocket Guide and Expo College Guide).

TRANSPORTATION *Continued*

Airports

U.S. 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.



U.S. Domestic & International flights

