



CHICO

S T A T E

International Admissions



*Welcome to California
State University, Chico*

www.csuchico.edu/international

2016-2017



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Office of International Education Staff



Dr. Joel Zimbelman
Interim Director of
International Education



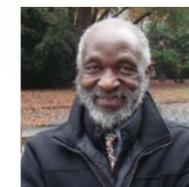
Jennifer Gruber
Coordinator, Study
Abroad and International
Exchange



Cindy McKay
Coordinator, International
Student and Scholar
Services



Dr. Saundra Wright
Director of ESL
Resource Center



James Luyirika-Sewagudde Jr.
International and Exchange
Student Advisor



Rosanne Kenoyer
International Admissions
Advisor



Maria Olson
International Admissions
Advisor



Kirby Swickard
Study Abroad and
International Exchange
Advisor



Yuki Rojas
International Admissions
Advisor



Steve Wildhaber
Study Abroad and
International Exchange
Advisor

Applying for a Student Visa

Apply for F-1 Student or J-1 Exchange Student Visa

To receive a student visa, you must convince U.S. government officials that you intend to return to your home country after completing your education. Be prepared with a short, clear answer that explains how getting an education in the United States will help you achieve your career goals when you return home. You may have only a minute or two to convince the immigration officer, so be prepared!

Apply for a U.S. visa at your nearest U.S. embassy or consulate. Each embassy or consulate has different procedures for applying for a student visa. Check its website for more information. Be sure to follow its instructions on how to apply for a student visa. You are advised to begin this process at the earliest date allowed. You can find a link to your embassy or consulate at www.usembassy.gov.

Your embassy or consulate will have instructions for what you need to bring to your visa interview. These are some of the documents they might ask for:

- Admission letter
- I-20 (F-1 students) or DS-2019 (J-1 exchange students)
- Valid passport (good for six months or longer)
- Proof of finances
- Transcripts from prior educational institutions
- Proof of English proficiency (not required if conditionally admitted)
- SEVIS application fee receipt (I-901)
- Embassy/consulate visa processing fee
- Medical statement from your doctor indicating good health
- J-1 students may need a list of approved CSU, Chico courses

Before your visa interview be sure to pay the SEVIS activation fee. You must take your receipt to your appointment. More information is available at www.fmjfee.com.

Getting to Chico

When purchasing your airline ticket, be sure you arrange to fly into the Sacramento International Airport (SMF). There are no direct flights into Chico. You will need to arrange to take a shuttle from Sacramento to Chico. Details about how to get to Chico are available at www.csuchico.edu/directions/.



“Computer science at Chico State has truly been a learning experience for me. The coursework at my department has helped me grow in both aspects—academically and professionally. Professors here like to encourage students to grow professionally by keeping up with the current industry standards. Clubs like ACM, UPE

(honor society for computer science), Open Source Development, etc., play a significant role in the overall growth of an individual.

Bonnie Varghese
Computer science major
from India



Campus Resources

CSU, Chico is committed to helping you achieve success. A few of the many offices ready to help you are listed below. These services are all **free to students**.

International Student Advising

James Luyirika-Sewagudde Jr., and Cindy McKay welcome and provide support to all new and continuing international students. They can assist you with

- personal welfare or confidential issues.
- housing information.
- language and cultural questions.
- immigration regulations and procedures.
- academic concerns and university rules and regulations.
- employment on or off campus.
- referrals to various offices, individuals, departments, and agencies.

English as a Second Language (ESL) Resource Center

The ESL Resource Center provides tutoring for international students in grammar, reading, pronunciation, TOEFL preparation, homework assistance, classroom presentations, writing research papers, and vocabulary development.

Student Learning Center

The Student Learning Center offers tutoring in many courses, including accounting, biology, business, chemistry, computer science, engineering, economics, foreign languages, math, philosophy, physics, psychology, and more. Also, it conducts workshops on time management, study skills, and test taking. It provides assistance with the process of writing—getting ideas, starting to write, and revision.

Counseling and Wellness Center

The Counseling and Wellness Center provides individual and group counseling services for all students. Some of the many issues they help students explore are stress, loneliness, anger, sadness, relationships, and anxiety.

Student Health Center

The Student Health Center provides free nonemergency medical services to students, including treatment for cold, flu, or other illnesses. Medicine is available for purchase.

Academic Advising

The Office of Academic Advising provides personalized advising for undergraduates on course selection, general education requirements, and progress toward degree completion. Each department offers advising in the student's major.

Career Center

The Career Center and Student Employment Office assists students in finding on-campus jobs, searching for internships, or interviewing for jobs. Create a resumé, practice interviewing, search job announcements, or meet with a counselor to find the right career for you.

Office of Graduate Studies

The Office of Graduate Studies provides support and guidance to graduate students throughout their programs, including applying for graduation and thesis work.

Enrolling at CSU, Chico

Step 1: Activate Your Portal and Wildcat Email Account

You must activate your Portal account so that you have access to your Wildcat student email account. This is important because **all communication will be sent to your Wildcat email account**. If you haven't already done this, please do it immediately.

Step 2: Accept Our Offer of Admission

1. Log into your Portal account (there is a link on the university homepage: www.csuchico.edu).
2. Click on the *Admissions & Orientation* tab.
3. Click on the *Accept/Decline Admissions* link.
4. Click *Accept*.
5. International students do not need to pay an Enrollment Confirmation Deposit.

Step 3: Class Registration

Undergraduate students (bachelor's degree)

Your International Admissions Evaluator will register you into classes after you complete step 2 above. You can make changes to your schedule at or after orientation.

Graduate students (master's degree)

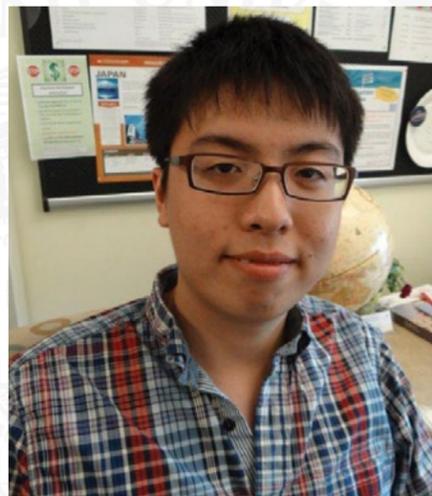
After consulting with the graduate coordinator of your program, you are expected to register yourself into classes. Below is the process in order to do so:

1. Obtain class numbers from the class schedule available at www.csuchico.edu.
2. Log into your Portal account and click the *Records, Registration, and Finances* tab, then click Enter the Student Center.
3. Click the *View Enrollment Appointment* link on the right side of the page. You will only be able to enroll during these dates.
4. Click *Add a Class*.
5. Enter the class number and click the *Next* button. Repeat until all of the classes you want are listed in your shopping cart.
6. Click on the *Proceed to Step 2 of 3* button. Click on the *Finish Enrolling* button.
7. Double check your registration! Go to the Student Center homepage and click *My Class Schedule*.

Exchange Students (J-1 visas):

Directions for registration will be given to you with your acceptance packet. As an exchange student, you will have slightly different processes than other international students at the University. Therefore, it is very important that you carefully read all directions given to you by the Study Abroad Office.

Step 4: Pay Fees by Deadlines to Avoid Being Dropped From Classes (see page 7)



"Chico State has offered me more than just an education. By taking a variety of classes and getting involved in social activities, I discovered who I am and who I want to be. I started off with a health science education major, but now I am pursuing a degree in biochemistry. I enjoy what I am doing and I plan to move onto a graduate school."

Jiayang Hong
Biochemistry major
from China

"I am a transfer student from Butte College. I enjoy every day at Chico State. The professors and staff are always there to help me, and my classes are exciting and meaningful. I am active in a business club I joined called Enactus and participate in volunteer activities. Every day I learn new things and meet new people. It's fun!"

Misato Hanamoto
Business administration major
from Japan





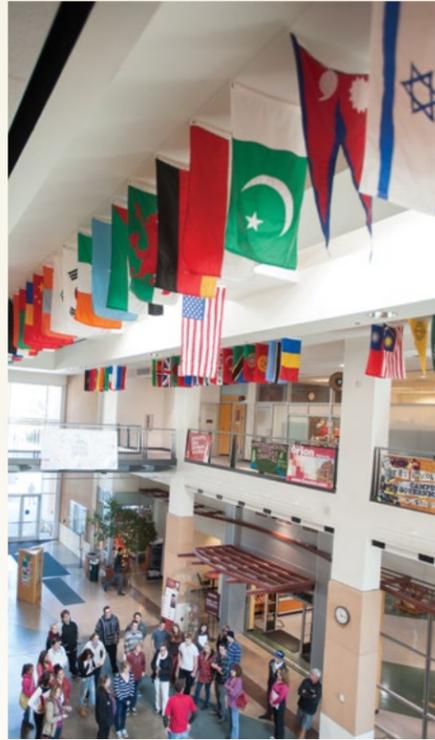
Kendall Hall

Fees and Tuition

All students pay registration fees each semester. Students from outside California, including all international students, must also pay nonresident tuition fees. **If fees are not paid by the deadline, your classes will be dropped!**

Fee Payment Deadlines

Fall 2016 Semester		Spring 2017 Semester	
Registration Fees	July 27, 2016	Registration Fees	Dec. 8, 2016
Nonresident Tuition	Sept. 2, 2016	Nonresident Tuition	Feb. 3, 2017



Payment Methods

The best payment methods for international students are **credit card** and **wire transfer**. You can pay your fees by going to the Student Financial Services website, <http://www.csuchico.edu/sfn/>. Scroll down to the payment method you prefer and follow the links to complete your transaction.

Students Transferring from a U.S. School

Transferring to CSU, Chico from a U.S. high school, college, or university is an easy three-step process:

Step 1

Complete the top portion of the enclosed F-1 Transfer Eligibility Form.

Step 2

Take the completed F-1 Transfer Eligibility Form and a copy of your Chico State admission letter to the International Student Advisor at your current school. Request that he/she transfer your SEVIS record to Chico State at the end of your program.

Step 3

Your new I-20 will be issued after your current school transfers your SEVIS record to Chico State.

Transfer processing must be completed prior to the end of the second week of classes.

Need to Go Home Before We Can Issue Your New I-20?

Don't worry. We can send your I-20 to you in your home country. Send an email to us at iss@csuchico.edu to inform us of your travel plans. The admission evaluator assigned to your file will provide you with the appropriate information needed to receive your I-20 at home.

Housing—Apply Early!

University-Owned Housing

If you choose to live in University-owned housing, University Village is recommended for International Students. University Village offers a cluster of four bedrooms, sharing two bathrooms and one kitchen. Students who are admitted to the University can begin applying for University Housing on April 12 for the fall semester and Nov. 1 for the spring semester. For more information and for the online application visit www.csuchico.edu/housing. If you have housing questions after reviewing the website please contact:

University Housing office
Phone: 530-898-6325, identify yourself as an international student
Email: uhfsdesk@csuchico.edu

University-owned housing is somewhat more expensive than living in non-University-owned housing. However, for freshmen students, especially international students who do not yet know anyone and don't know the layout of the city, living in University-owned housing can be very useful and convenient. After the first year of college, most students move to private apartments.

Be aware of the conditions of your housing contract! Before you sign, make sure you are willing to abide by its terms.

Non-University-Owned Housing

If you choose this option you will want to arrive in Chico two to three weeks before classes begin to finalize your housing arrangements. There are many privately owned apartments, houses, and rooms for rent available within easy walking or biking distance of the campus. Visit our housing information page to find a place that will suit your needs: www.csuchico.edu/international click on *Housing*.

Temporary Housing—Available for Fall Semester Only

For a few days before the beginning of the fall semester, we are able to offer temporary, on-campus housing at a very reasonable price. Only students can stay in on-campus housing. If you will be accompanied by family members, you will need to make hotel reservations in advance of your arrival. To find hotels in Chico, do a Google search for, "Hotels in Chico CA."



University Housing

Students can begin applying for University housing on:

Fall Semester	Spring Semester
April 12, 2016 at 6 p.m. PST	Nov. 1, 2016 at 10 a.m. PST



Alumni Glen

Life in Chico

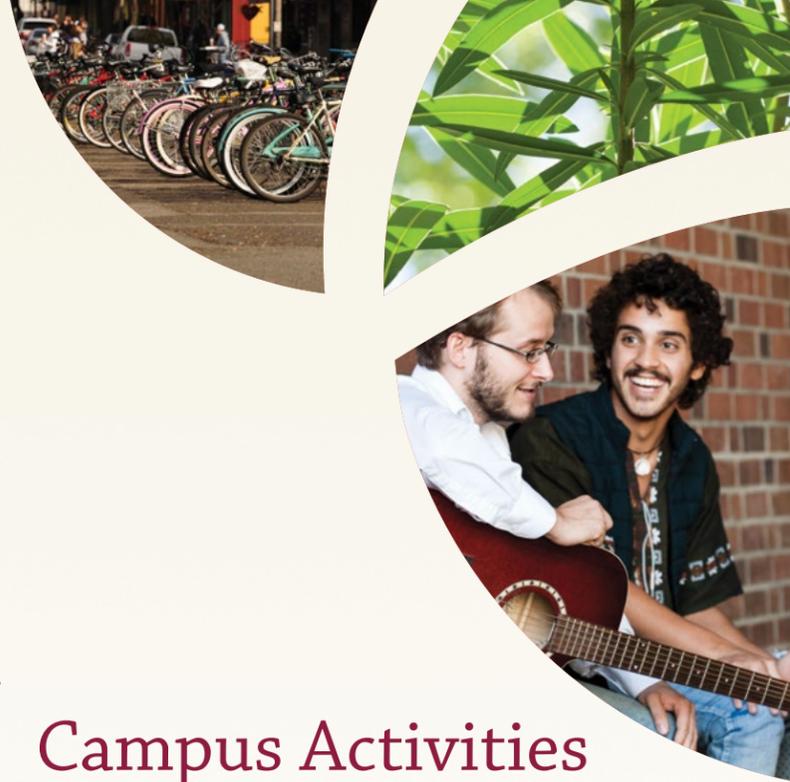
Chico is a friendly community where you can feel safe and at home. The campus is located downtown within a few minutes' walk of restaurants, shops, and entertainment. Chico has a vibrant cultural life, with concerts, art exhibits, theatre and dance performances, and international-themed events both on- and off-campus.

Stores include major department stores and small specialty boutiques. In the downtown area and throughout Chico, there is an extensive selection of books, hardware, bicycles, electronics, household goods, gifts, and clothes. Among the many restaurants, you will find Italian, French, Indian, Chinese, Japanese, Thai, Middle Eastern, and of course—American!

Running through the center of CSU, Chico's campus is Big Chico Creek. Students enjoy eating and studying alongside the rushing water. A path runs alongside the creek for more than 10 miles, from the CSU, Chico campus to the hills outside of town. Many students run, walk, and bike on the trail that runs alongside it.

Chico's Bidwell Park, one of the largest city-owned parks in the United States, offers picnic sites, swimming, sports grounds, and hiking trails. There are many places to enjoy the scenery, go for a quiet walk, or sit and read by the creek. You can also have a barbecue with friends, play a game of soccer, or go for a bike ride.

Getting around Chico is easy. Many students walk or bicycle through downtown and the surrounding areas. Students can also ride the city bus to locations outside the downtown area, like to Chico Mall, or other shopping and entertainment venues. The city bus is free for CSU, Chico students!



Campus Activities

CSU, Chico is a residential campus. This means that most students live within 1.5 miles of campus. This creates a unique and dynamic atmosphere, with the campus being the center of social and cultural activity for students and community members alike.

Because Chico is a college town, arts and entertainment are an important part of our city's culture. The Chico Performances department brings world-class performers to CSU, Chico year-round. In addition to enjoying performing arts and entertainment, students also like to join campus clubs (we've got over 200!), volunteer for community service organizations, and participate in student-led recreational outings. At CSU, Chico, there are countless ways to get involved, make friends, and create lasting memories.

Chico Area Population: 105,000

Chico was Ranked No. 1 on *Forbes* magazine's list of "Best Places to Live in America."

Chico is home to a synagogue, an Islamic Center, a Hindu temple, and 33 denominations of Catholic and Protestant churches.

Chico experiences four distinct beautiful seasons. The temperature rarely falls below freezing in winter.

Official Campus Name:
California State University, Chico

Students: 17,000

International students from over 40 countries

Student Organizations: 200+

"My best experience here was working as an intern in an art gallery downtown. Chico is a small college town, which helps with your studies. During holidays and weekends you can always drive to the big cities."

Khulood Mulla
Management information systems major
from Saudi Arabia



For more information, go to:

www.csuchico.edu/about/

www.csuchico.edu/pa/chico-facts.shtml

Health and Insurance Information

Medical Concerns

The Student Health Center (SHC) provides free medical services to students. For the SHC to best serve you, please bring copies of your medical and immunization records with you, so they will have a clear understanding of your medical history.

You are required to show proof of immunization against Measles and Rubella (MMR). Additionally, you must demonstrate that you are negative for Tuberculosis (TB). You may bring proof of your negative TB test to orientation, providing the test has been performed no longer than 90 days prior to orientation and it is written in English.

If you do not have these records at orientation, you will need to visit the SHC during orientation week to receive the required immunization or test. The MMR vaccination costs approximately \$60, and the TB test costs approximately \$55.

If you are under 19 years of age as of the first day of the semester, you must also present proof of immunization against Hepatitis B or complete the series of injections after your arrival. There is a fee for this injection series.

Health Insurance

International students are required by the California State University Chancellor's Office to have valid health and accident insurance policies at all times. Full details on the health insurance requirement can be found at www.csuchico.edu/international/.

Money

Banking

In the United States, banks are insured by the U.S. federal government and are highly trusted by Americans. This may be an uncommon practice in your home country. However, while studying in the United States, the safest way to store and manage your money is to deposit it into a bank account. Your international student advisors can give you banking recommendations after you arrive.

Carrying Money While Traveling

Upon your arrival, things like housing deposits and rental fees, food, books, items for your room, and tuition/fees will need to be paid. We estimate that you will need to bring approximately \$2,000–\$3,000 USD with you for these initial expenses. It may take you a few weeks to set up a bank account, so having this amount of readily available money will be very useful.

Carrying a combination of cash, traveler's checks, and an international credit card is the best option. For safety, please do not carry more than \$500 USD in cash when you travel to the United States.

Important Dates

	Fall 2016	Spring 2017
New Student Registration	Undergraduate: Office of International Education will register you. Graduate: July 18–27, 2016	Nov. 28–Dec. 2, 2016
Registration Fee Due	July 27, 2016	Dec. 8, 2016
First Day of Classes	Aug. 22, 2016	Jan. 23, 2017
Add/Drop Classes	Aug. 1–Sept. 2, 2016	Jan. 2–Feb. 3, 2017
Nonresident Tuition Due	Sept. 2, 2016	Feb. 3, 2017



Orientation

At California State University, Chico, you will find many people ready to assist you in making your experience enjoyable and successful. Your welcome begins at orientation where you will meet U.S. and international students and the many people on-campus who will support you during your stay. Invest in your success by attending orientation. This is a mandatory orientation for all international students. If you are unable to attend, notify us at iss@csuchico.edu.

Fall 2016

Aug. 16–17, 2016

Check-in begins at 8 a.m.

Spring 2017

Jan. 17–18, 2017

Check-in begins at 8 a.m.

During the Mandatory Orientation

- Learn about the registration process and finalize your class schedule.
- Meet the international student advisors.
- Tour the Chico State campus.
- Get a Chico State ID card.
- Learn about employment opportunities.
- Learn about Chico State rules and policies.
- Learn about immigration procedures.
- Learn about sports, activities, and clubs on-campus.
- HAVE FUN AND MAKE FRIENDS!

We recommend that you arrive in Chico five to seven days prior to orientation. This will give you adequate time to settle in to your new environment, buy some essential items for your room, and adjust to the time difference. Having a rested body and an alert mind will help you understand the information we provide during orientation. Each day of orientation is busy and full of information that is necessary for your success.

During orientation, we will cover everything you need to know about getting settled in Chico. If you have any questions or problems before orientation begins, please send us an email at iss@csuchico.edu.

We are so pleased that you have chosen CSU, Chico and look forward to meeting you!

Checklist

- Log in to your Portal account and accept our offer of admission.** Completion of this step is required before registration into classes is possible. (see page 4)
- Make your visa interview appointment early.** (see page 1)
- Pay registration fees by the deadline (see page 7).** Registration fees must be paid by the deadline or your classes will be dropped. <http://www.csuchico.edu/sfn/>
- Secure housing accommodations.** (see page 8)
- Get required immunizations and/or bring International Student Health Certificate (enclosed) with you to Chico.** (see page 11)

- Purchase health insurance coverage—MANDATORY.** (see page 11)
- Make safe financial decisions.** Travel with under \$500 in cash and try to obtain an international credit card before coming to the United States.
- Arrive in Chico before orientation.**
- ATTEND ORIENTATION!**
- Pack light.** Reduce stress by traveling light. Much of what you need can be purchased after you arrive.

