



## **Palomar College Office of International Education**

- (1) Are your F-1 visa documents ready?
- (2) Report to Palomar College Office
- (3) International student orientation
- (4) Money Matters
- (5) Housing around San Marcos
- (6) Transportation around San Diego/San Marcos
- (7) Employment
- (8) Tasks before arriving the United States





## Welcome to Palomar College

Congratulations on your acceptance into Palomar College!

**Mission Statement:** Palomar College respects each of our students' experiences and supports them to achieve academic success. As a community college, we encourage our students to embrace the best version of themselves and prepare them to engage with our local and global communities.

### Change of Plans?

If you decide not to attend Palomar College, please inform us of your change of plans at: [internationalstudents@palomar.edu](mailto:internationalstudents@palomar.edu). Make sure to include your name, Palomar ID number, and if you would like us to move your application to a later semester at Palomar.

### 1. F-1 Student visa forms and requirements

Before you can start classes at Palomar College, you will need:

- **Valid passport from your country of residence**
- **SEVIS I-20 issued by Palomar College**

If you are currently attending another school in the United States, you will need a Palomar SEVIS I-20 prior to starting classes. Check with your current school to ensure your SEVIS I-20 form has successfully transferred to Palomar. Palomar's SEVIS School Code is SND214F00077000.

- **F-1 visa status**

Upon arriving to the United States, international students will need to show their passport with a valid F-1 visa stamp, along with your printed-out SEVIS I-20- form at the port of entry. COPIES OF YOUR I-20 FROM YOUR PHONE OR DEVICE WILL NOT SUFFICE. Students applying for change of status to F-1 will need proof of change of status application or approval.

#### **F-1 visa students at Palomar College agree to maintain F-1 visa requirements:**

- Register and attend a minimum of 12 academic units each semester
- At least 9 units of the 12 must meet in-person (weekly in-class meetings) each semester
- Cannot work without permission from the International Office

**Learn about becoming an F-1 international Student:** <http://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/students/start>

The United States Department of Homeland Security has an informational website to help students prepare for studying in the United States. Please visit the URL above to receive detailed information that will help you understand each step you must take to make it to Palomar College.

## 2. Report to Palomar College International Education Office

When you arrive to California you need to report to the International Education Office located at 1140 West Mission Road, San Marcos, CA 92069. Bring your:

- Passport
- SEVIS I-20 form(s)
- Official high school/university transcripts (for future use)
- Address where you are staying
- Medical and vaccination records (for future use)

## 3. International Student Orientation

You must attend International Student Orientation before classes begin. Check the [Newly Accepted Student website](#) for dates and locations. Failure to participate in all the orientation sessions may result in the cancellation of your classes. Please plan your arrival at Palomar College to attend Orientation.

## 4. Money

You should bring enough money to last you at least one semester (4 months). Do not carry a large amount of cash. It is strongly suggested that you bring a credit card, in addition to cash. Be aware that it can take a week or more to open a bank account, and wire transfers can take 1-2 weeks.

Tuition fees are due at the time of registration. You must pay all the fees on the same day as you complete your registration, or you may be dropped from classes.

- Palomar College accepts credit cards (Visa, MasterCard, and American Express). You can pay by cash, traveler's check in person.
- We also offer a payment plan to divide fees throughout the semester. You can create a payment plan in your MyPalomar account. All fees must be paid before students can register for future semesters.

**The following is an estimate of what it will cost you for one semester at Palomar College:**

	Academic Expenses per semester (can pay by credit card)
\$5,100 minimum	Tuition and fees for 12 units (\$415 per unit). You must take a minimum of 12 units each semester. Most of our students take 12-16 units per semester.
\$500	Textbooks (approximately)
\$15	Student ID/Activity Card (optional but provides bus pass discount)
	Additional Expenses per semester (some credit card, some cash or equivalent)
\$892.50	Mandatory accident/sickness Insurance (12 months=\$2142)
\$46	Parking Permit (if you drive to school)
\$57.60	Monthly bus/train pass when purchased with Palomar Student Activity card.
\$6,000 - \$6,500	Homestay fees for one semester (16 weeks)
\$12,740 - \$15,000	Estimated expenses per semester (Personal expenses are not included)

## 5. Housing around San Marcos

### Homestay

Palomar College does not have any on-campus housing. **You must secure a place to live prior to your arrival.** Homestay programs provide short-term and long-term housing options for international students. You may contact any of the following private homestay service organizations. *Please note: Palomar College holds no responsibility for the posted ads other than a service to the students who desire housing or shared housing.*

**FA Homestay:** [FA Homestay Homestay Services for International Students](#)

**Education Bridge:** [Education Bridge](#)

**Sara's Homestay:** [sarahomestay.com](http://sarahomestay.com)

Airbnb is another option for short-term housing needs.

### Other housing options (need to apply in-person)

#### Renting an apartment

Renting an apartment in North San Diego County can be very expensive. Some of the sites we usually refer our students include: [www.apartmentguide.com](http://www.apartmentguide.com) and [www.apartments.com](http://www.apartments.com). The zip code for Palomar College is 92069. Be aware that apartments require additional responsibilities for furniture, connecting utilities, and Wi-Fi.

#### Finding a Roommate or Room for Rent

Once you get settled at Palomar and become familiar with the area, you may become interested in sharing an apartment or house with roommates. If you would like to rent a room, you may research availability check online for postings or asking other students.

## 6. Getting Around in the Community

### Airport arrivals

Distance from Palomar College to airports:

- San Diego airport to Palomar College is 40 miles
- Los Angeles airport to Palomar College is 100 miles

### Transportation options from San Diego Airport:

- [San Diego Flyer](#) is a free shuttle bus from the airport to Old Town Transit Center. At the Old Town Transit Center, you can take the [Coaster commuter train](#) to Oceanside (daytime only). From Oceanside, the [Sprinter train](#) to San Marcos.
- [Prime Time Shuttle](#): Offers shared shuttles, private shuttles, black cars, and SUVs
- [SuperShuttle](#): Offers black cars and SUVs
- [GO Airport Shuttle](#): Offers upfront pricing
- Ride Sharing apps such as Uber or Lyft

### Public Transportation around Palomar College


[North County Bus & Train Service](#) is the local public transportation system. Many students take the bus (Breeze) and/or the train (Sprinter) to come to school. Students who purchase a Palomar Student ID/Activity card can receive a discounted transit pass.

## Driving

Some students plan to have a car to drive to school. California requires a valid, current driver's license and insurance to drive a car. We can assist international students qualify for a [California driver's license](#) when you report to Palomar College.

## 7. Employment Opportunities are limited

Employment opportunities for F-1 visa holders are very limited, so make sure that you have enough money for the entire period of your stay. *Do not depend on an on-campus job to pay for your tuition or housing.* It will not be enough. Information on job options and requirements will be discussed during Palomar College's International Student Orientation



**Important**

## 8. Things to Do Before Arriving at Palomar College

- **Purchase Accident/Sickness Insurance**

International students studying at Palomar College are required to purchase the international student sickness/accident insurance policy, even if you have your own insurance policy. No other policy will be accepted. Students must show proof of insurance every semester.

- **Medical/Dental/Vision Check-ups**

You are strongly recommended to have medical, dental, and vision exams before you come to the U.S. The accident/sickness insurance policy does not cover your dental or vision needs, and these services in the U.S. are very expensive. If you have any cavities, make sure that you complete your dental work before you leave home.

- **Register for classes**

Class enrollment begins 3-4 months before the start of the semester. You will follow the steps to create your student account and select classes.

- Complete the math and English/ESL(English as a Second Language) self-assessment. Your placement will be displayed in your [MyPalomar](#) student portal under "[Test Scores](#)" from the "Academics" drop down menu on the left, red column of your Dashboard.
  - Students receive math placement based on the Palomar College application and a self-assessment survey in the [MyPalomar](#) student portal after initially signing in.
  - For English/ESL, students will read [writing examples](#) and [email us](#) letting us know which example (Writing A to D) best matches their current writing skill level. We can then assign English/ESL placement.
- [Review the Palomar College Orientation Presentation](#). We recommend taking notes and write down any questions you may have to ask a counselor.
- Review the current catalog and the general education requirements based on your program goal. You will go over some of these resources together with an academic counselor.
  - [Palomar College Catalog](#)
  - [Associate in Arts Degree General Education Requirements & Supplemental Guide](#) (Two-year degree awarded from Palomar College).
  - [The California General Education Transfer Curriculum \(Cal-GETC\) Starting Fall 2025](#) (General education requirement for both the University of California system and California State University system).
  - [Assist.org](#) is a great resource if you plan to transfer to a university. The site will provide you with a list of major preparation courses.



- Schedule an academic counseling appointment via Zoom. You can request an appointment by emailing us at [internationalstudents@palomar.edu](mailto:internationalstudents@palomar.edu) and we will let you know the dates/times available (Pacific Standard Time). Once you are scheduled, you will receive a Zoom link for your session sent to your Palomar email. The counselor will develop an educational plan for you, recommending classes based on your program and major.
- [Follow the steps](#) to purchase the [school health insurance policy](#). The International Education Office will receive notification once purchased and will remove the hold to allow you to enroll in classes.
- Enroll in your classes through your [MyPalomar](#) student portal. View the [how to select classes](#) tutorial.
  - REMINDER: SELECT 9 UNITS IN PERSON AT THE MAIN CAMPUS IN SAN MARCOS.
  - Use the [Plan Your Schedule Sheet](#) to avoid classes that overlap or are offered at other campuses.

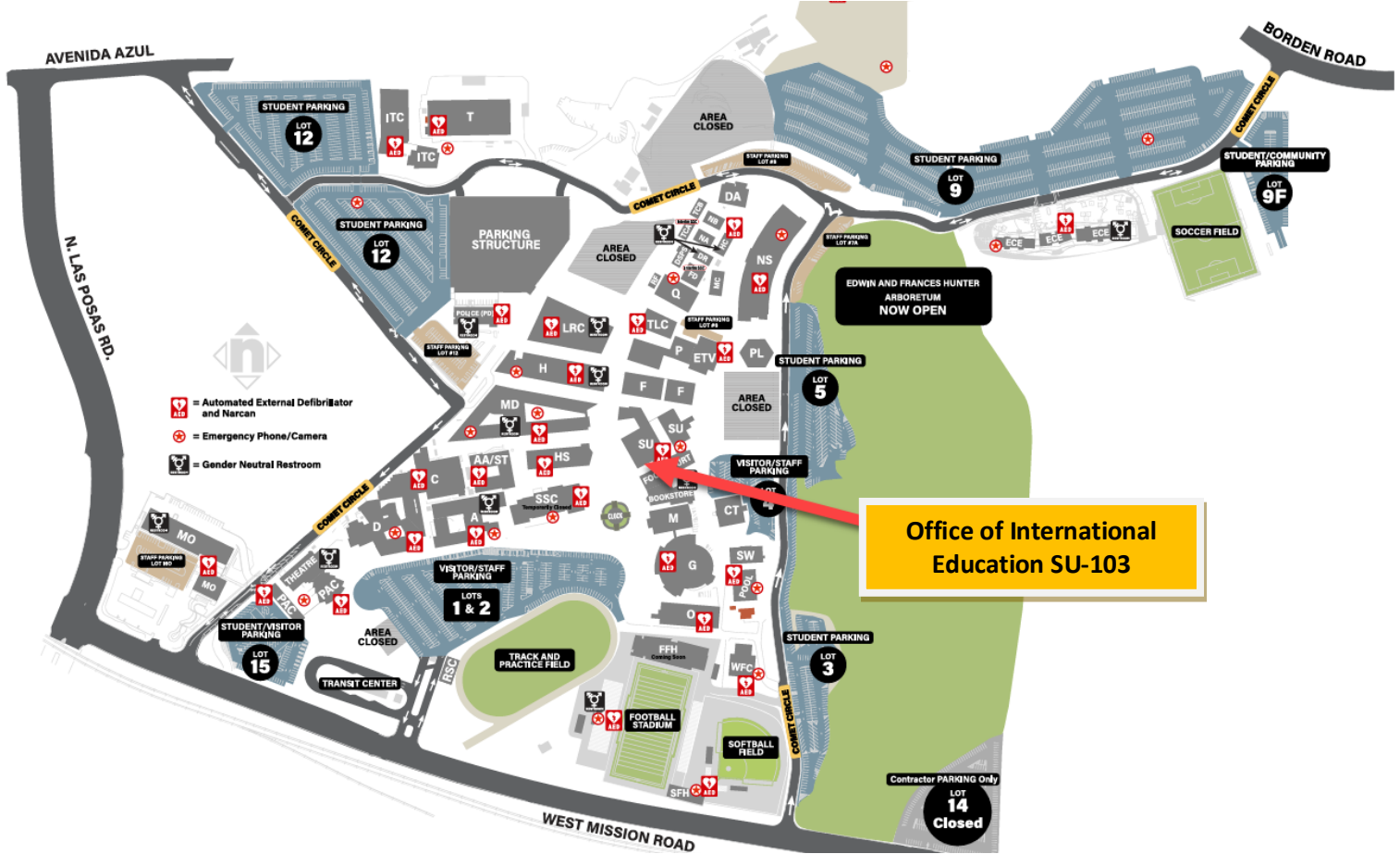
If you have difficulties, you can refer to [Students MyPalomar Instructions](#) or [Student Help Videos](#).

**We'll see you here for orientation!**  
**Room SU-103**



**Palomar College**  
**Office of International Education**  
1140 West Mission Road  
San Marcos, CA. 92069  
Phone: (760) 744-1150 Ext. 2167  
Email: [internationalstudents@palomar.edu](mailto:internationalstudents@palomar.edu)  
Website: [www.palomar.edu/internationalstudents](http://www.palomar.edu/internationalstudents)

# PALOMAR COLLEGE SAN MARCOS CAMPUS



## Building Department/Office

A	Cashier, Fiscal Services, Finance & Administrative Services Division Office, Information Services, Budget/ Payroll, Purchasing, Contract Services and Human Resources, Mailroom
AA/ST	Career Technical & Extended Education Division Office (Dean and Associate Dean), Continuing Education, EOPS, Foundation, Human Resources, Instructional Services, Pride Center, Research, Planning & Grants, Veterans Resource Center, Vocational Programs, TRIO North County Educational Opportunity Center (NCEOC)
C	Art Complex
Career Center (MC-1)	Career Counseling, Work Based Learning, Service Learning, Employment Readiness & Assistance
CLOCK	Clock Tower
CT	Area Closed
D	Boehm Gallery, Music Complex, Performing Arts
DA	Drafting Technology, Machining Technology
DR	Disability Resources
DSPS	Disability Resource Center
ECE	Early Childhood Education Lab School
F	Math, Photography
FD	Temporary Location for: Admissions, Financial Aid, Records & Evaluations
FFH	Football Field House—Coming Soon
FOOD COURT	Hot and cold food service and beverages for purchase
G	Gymnasium/Dome
H	English/Humanities, ESL, Journalism, Reading, Speech/Forensics/American Sign Language, World Languages, Academic Technology Resources Centers and Lab
HC	First Aid/Student Health Services
HS	Dental Assisting, Nursing Education
ITC	Auto Body Technology, Automotive Technology, Diesel Mechanics Technology
LRC	Library/Learning Resources Center, Access Technology Center, Governing Board Meeting Room, President's Office, Public Affairs Office, Tutoring Center, Writing & Reading Center, Math/STEM Tutoring
M	Men's Locker Room, Athletics Counseling

## Building Department/Office

MC-1	Work Experience, Service Learning, Job Developer, Career Center
MD	American Indian Studies, Behavioral Sciences, Business Administration, Child Development, Computer Science and Information Technology, Creative Services, Economics, Graphic Communications, History, Journalism, Multicultural Studies, Political Science, Print Services, Social Sciences
MO	Facilities, Warehouse
NA	Disability Resource Center, Disability Resources
NB	Behavioral Health Counseling Services
NS	Biology, Chemistry, Earth, Space and Environmental Sciences, Engineering, Life Sciences, Math, Physics
O	Athletics, Weight Room, Women's Locker Room, Health, Kinesiology and Recreation Management
P	Mathematics, Media Studies, Educational Television (ETV), Apprenticeships
PAC	Performing Arts Complex, Howard Brubeck Theatre
PD	Police Department
PL	Planetarium
Q	Electronics, Telecommunications, Digital Broadcast Arts, KKSM Radio Station
RF	Vacant
RSC	Rising Scholars Center
SSC	Temporarily closed
SU	Associated Student Government (ASG), Basic Needs Hub, Dreamer Success Program, Stan and Anita Maag Food & Nutrition Center, Student Access & Engagement Center, Student Life and Leadership, Carivzo Dream Village, International Student Program, Puente Project, UMOJA
SW	Swimming Pool, Locker Rooms
T	Cabinet Furniture Technology, Public Works Management, Water & Wastewater Programs, Welding Technology
TCA	Temporary Location for: Counseling Services, Transfer Center
TCB	Grant Funded Student Support Programs: TRIO Student Support Services, TRIO Upward Bound
TLC	Teaching And Learning Center; Palomar Promise, Dual Enrollment, Office of Student Recruitment and Outreach
WFC	Wellness/Fitness Center