



WESTCLIFF
UNIVERSITY



Student Resource Booklet

2019-2020

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Introduction

Welcome to Westcliff University!

Westcliff University values the important role that students play in enriching the life of the university. With students coming from all over the world, our team is committed to providing quality advising services and support for our students throughout the duration of their program at our university and in the United States.

As a part of the student services that Westcliff University offers, we have put together a short booklet on how to get acclimated to life in Southern California. Please note that information detailed throughout the whole booklet may apply to *various* types of students attending on campus.

We encourage you to utilize this booklet to help you navigate through your new journey during this educational period at Westcliff University.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us:

Student Services: studentservices@westcliff.edu

International Affairs: intlservices@westcliff.edu.

You can also schedule an on-campus or phone consultation with an advisor by reaching out to our department. Again, we invite you to contact our office at any time and we'll be sure to provide you with a prompt and thorough response.

Best of luck to you on your new journey!

Warmest Regards,
April Vuong, Ed.D.

Dean of Student Affairs

Airport Pick Up Services

There are several options that you can look at for an airport pick up service.

- Airport Shuttle/Shared Van
- Taxi
- Mobile Online Transportation
- Relative/Friend

For more information regarding transportation options, please refer to the Local Transportation Section (pg. 15 & 16).

Fares/Prices

Please note that fares will vary depending on your destination.

If your destination in the U.S. is close to your arrival airport, there are transportation options from the airport that you can take at a lower cost.

If your destination is about an hour away, taxis & private mobile transportation devices can range from \$60 to \$120.

If your destination is more than one hour away, you are recommended to look into long distance buses, trains, etc.

Local Airport Websites

Local airport websites will also include information on airport pick up services that are unique to that airport location. Don't be afraid to ask the information desk at the airport!

Los Angeles Airport (LAX)

<http://www.lawa.org>

Long Beach Airport (LGB)

<http://www.lgb.org/>

Santa Ana Airport (SNA)

<http://www.ocair.com/>

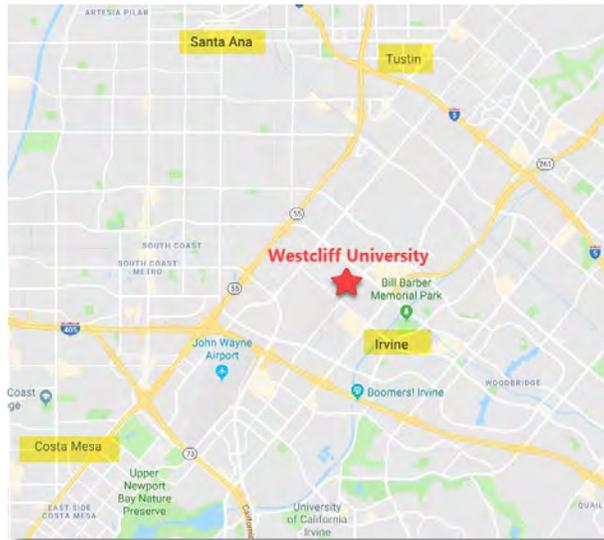
San Diego Airport

<http://www.san.org/>

Nearby Hotels & Motels

Emergency situations can come up and things may not go your way. This is when a list of nearby hotels & motels might come in handy.

Here is a list of hotels and motels that are near Westcliff University's Irvine campus.



Useful hotel websites:

www.trivago.com

www.hotels.com

Costa Mesa

Costa Mesa/Newport Beach Hacienda Travelodge

1951 Newport Blvd, Costa Mesa, CA, 92627 United States
(949) 478-0751

Days Inn Costa Mesa/ Newport Beach

2100 Newport Blvd, Costa Mesa, CA, 92627 United States
(949) 642-2670

Travelodge Orange County Airport

1400 Bristol Street, Suite A, Costa Mesa, CA, 92626 United States
(714) 486-0905



Motel 6 Costa Mesa

1441 Gisler Ave, Costa Mesa, CA, 92626 United States
(714) 957-3063

Vagabond Inn Costa Mesa

3205 Harbor Blvd, Costa Mesa, CA, 92626 United States
(714) 557-8360

La Quinta Inn John Wayne/ Orange County Airport

1515 S Coast Dr, Costa Mesa, CA, 92626 United States
(714) 957-5841

Irvine

Courtyard by Marriot John Wayne Airport/Orange County

2701 Main St, Irvine, CA, 92614 United States
(949) 757-1200

Candlewood Suites Irvine

16150 Sand Canyon Ave, Irvine, CA, 92618 United States
(949) 788-0500

Atrium Hotel at Orange County Airport

18700 Macarthur Blvd, Irvine, CA, 92612 United States
(949) 833-2770

Candlewood Suites Irvine East

3 S Pointe Dr, Lake Forest, CA, 92630 United States
(949) 598-9105

Tustin

Fairfield Inn & Suites Tustin Orange County

15011 Newport Ave, Tustin, CA, 92780 United States
(714) 258-9900

Key Inn & Suites

1611 El Camino Real, Tustin, CA, 92780 United States
(714) 832-3220



Tustin Motor Lodge

750 El Camino Real, Tustin, CA, 92780 United States,
(714) 544-5850

Santa Ana

Motel 6 Santa Ana

1623 East 1st Street, I-5/ Santa Ana Freeway at 1st St., Santa Ana, CA, 92701 United States
(714) 558-0500

Motel 6 Irvine- Orange County Airport

1717 East Dyer Road, Santa Ana, CA, 92705 United States
(949) 261-1515

CW Suites Hotel John Wayne Airport

2701 Hotel Terrace, Santa Ana, CA, 92705 United States
(714) 957-9200

If you have any more questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us through email or by phone. You can also schedule a one-on-one appointment with our advisors.

Housing Options

Westcliff University provides assistance in seeking a variety of housing options including homestay, private apartments, and shared apartments. There are two main types of options for housing: Homestay and University Housing. Our Housing Department is available as a resource to assist you in finding different accommodations and housing options during your time at Westcliff University, please feel free to reach out to them at housing@westcliff.edu.

Homestay Option

Homestay options are one of the most popular choices for our out of state or international students coming into the U.S. for the first time. Homestays are where students get to stay at the home of a local host or family in a safe community near one of the University's campuses. It allows students to quickly learn the English language and successfully merge into the local culture.

Homestay features include:

- Meal Options: Breakfast/Dinner provided or No meals
- Shared or private rooms
- Utilities included
- Fully furnished
- Friendly American host family
- Safe Community
- Convenient distance to campus

Please refer below for optional (third party) homestay plans:

- StudentLink International
<https://www.istudentlink.com>
- CEH California English Homestay
<http://homestayme.net/>
- Universal Student Housing
<https://www.ushstudent.com>
- Student International Housing Inc.
<http://studentinternationalhousing.com/>



University Housing Option

Housing is another option for students. This allows students to be more independent and learn how to live in a new environment. Most students either rent private rooms or share apartments with roommates or colleagues to save money.

Housing features (based on our third-party options) include:

- Furnishing packages
- Matching roommates
- Private or shared rooms
- Utilities included (for selected options)

For more information, please contact housing@westcliff.edu.

Room/ Roommate Finding Sites

Students can also search for housing options or roommates on their own using Room/Roommate Finding Sites. These sites allow students to customize their search to tailor to their own specific needs.

Websites	Contact Information	Benefits
Easy Roommate	http://www.easyroommate.com/	An easy way to find a roommate or room for rent
U Loop	http://irvine-ca.uloop.com/	Online network of news websites and classifieds College student housing Customize your search for housing Options for apartments & houses, roommates, sublets, storage, and moving

Getting a Mobile Phone

Getting a mobile phone has become a necessity for students to communicate, explore, travel, and get adjusted to their surroundings. Although many students may be familiar with cell phone carriers in their home country, cell phone providers and plans in the United States may function differently.

The most typical mobile phone options in the U.S. are 2-year contracts, pre-paid plans, and purchasing a SIM card.

2-Year Contracts

These are the most common cell phone plans in the U.S. Cell phone providers offer low monthly rates for customers that choose these plans. If you are purchasing a new phone at the same time, the phone cost can often be built into the monthly rate if you do not want to pay the full amount upfront. However, terminating a contract early may result in a large penalty fee.

*Note: Most providers in the U.S. require either a Social Security Number (SSN) or a security deposit (roughly ranging from \$00-\$500).

Benefits:

- Low monthly rates
- Low prices on new phones

Prepaid Plans

These are often an easier option for out of state and international students because they do not require a Social Security Number (SSN) and/or a credit check. Prepaid plans also give you the flexibility to pick plans that allow you to pay by the month, day or minute without the worry of ending a contract early for a large fee.

Benefits:

- Does not require SSN and/or credit check.
- No contract/deposit
- No early-termination penalty fee

SIM Cards

For students that already have a phone, and are planning on using it in the U.S., SIM cards are a great option. However, before doing so you will need to make sure that your mobile phone (mainly GSM & CDMA) is unlocked so that it can be used by another cell phone provider. You will then need to set up a monthly payment plan.

Benefits:

- No contract
- Secure your data & preferences
- Portable



Local Mobile Phone Providers/Carriers:

T-Mobile

www.t-mobile.com

The District at Tustin Legacy
2837 Park Ave.
Tustin, CA 92782
(714) 258-8992

AT&T

www.att.com

Harvard (Harvard Place Auto Plaza)
17675 Harvard Ave Ste B,
Irvine, CA 92614
(949) 622-8240

T-Mobile

Culver & Alton
3995 Alton Pkwy Suite B,
Irvine, CA 92606
949-251-1576

AT&T

The District at Tustin Legacy
2219 Park Ave., Suite. 8A
Tustin, CA 92782
(714) 258-8290

Verizon Wireless

www.verizonwireless.com

Park Place
2981 Michelson Dr
Irvine, CA 92612
(949) 756-3515

Sprint

www.sprint.com

Crossroads
3992 Barranca Pkwy, Irvine,
CA 92606
(949) 654-8000

Verizon Wireless

The District at Tustin Legacy
2687 Park Ave., Suite E
Tustin, CA 92782
(714) 258-8870

Sprint

Tustin (The District)
2871 Park Ave
Tustin, CA 92782
(714) 247-2200

SIM Card Provider:

J1 SIM

www.j1simcards.com

J1 SIM Card is a wireless solution designed specifically and exclusively for travelers on a VISA.

- Free SIM Card ▶ U.S.A. Unlimited Mobile Phone Plans

\$25/month	\$45/month
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unlimited Nationwide Talk, Text & Data(2GB/month at 4G LTE speed then 128 kbps) • Unlimited International SMS • Unlimited audio streaming at 4G for iTunes, Pandora, Spotify and other music services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unlimited Nationwide Talk & Text • Unlimited Data at 4G LTE • Unlimited International SMS • Unlimited Audio & Video Streaming • Unlimited Talk, Text & Data in Canada & Mexico

Health Insurance

Medical accidents and injuries can unexpectedly happen and medical expenses can get very costly in the United States. Westcliff University strongly recommends that all students are covered by a health insurance plan during the student’s educational period at the school.

What is health insurance?

Health insurance protects you by decreasing the cost of medical charges you may encounter during your period away from your home country.

What can health insurance do for international students?

Medical costs can get expensive especially during a time of medical emergency. A sound health insurance plan can provide coverage of costly medical expenses such as doctor appointments, accident costs, prescription costs, injuries, etc.

Where can I find affordable health insurance?

There are a variety of health insurance agencies and plans that can provide international students with benefits according to their own needs. International students have the option of choosing health insurance plans that are recommended by Westcliff University or through other agencies.

All students must complete Westcliff University’s health insurance form before the first day of class. Students must certify that all the information on the form is accurate information. Westcliff University is not liable for any incurred medical cost, loss of health insurance premiums for not following the insurance policy guideline, or loss of academic privileges due to inaccurately completed waivers.

Note: Please refer to the appendix for information on Westcliff University recommended health insurance plans.

Please refer below for optional (third party) health insurance plans:

Company	Options	Contact Information
ISO Insurance – International Student Organization (multilingual services)	COMPASS Gold COMPASS Silver ISO Med Shield	http://www.isoa.org/ Phone Number: (800) 244-1180
International Student Insurance	Student Secure Plan	http://www.internationalstudentinsurance.com/schools/westcliff-university.php Phone Number: (904) 758-4391

Local Transportation

The primary forms of transportation in the immediate area are:

- Walking
- Bicycling
- Public Transportation (Bus, Train)
- Carpooling Services (RideMatching, Vanpooling)
- Automobile
- Private Transportation Service (Uber, Lyft)

Local Transportation Services			
Company	Type	Website	Phone
Orange County Transportation Area (OCTA)	Bus	www.octa.net	(714) 636-7433
LA Metro	Bus	https://www.metro.net/riding/guide/	(323) 466-3876
Carpooling Services	Carpool	https://legacy.cityofirvine.org/cityhall/pw/itn_new/carpool/carpool.asp	(949) 724-6288
Vanpooling Services	Vanpool OC	https://legacy.cityofirvine.org/cityhall/pw/itn_new/carpool/vanpool.asp	(949) 724-6288
	Vanpool LA	https://www.metro.net/riding/vanpool/	(213) 922-7003
Private Transportation Services			
Company	Type	Website	Phone
Uber	Rideshare Service	https://www.uber.com	(800) 353-8237
Lyft	Rideshare Service	https://www.lyft.com/	(855) 865-9553
Yellow Cab	Taxi Service	https://www.yellowcab.com/	(714) 999-9999
Zipcar	Rideshare Service	https://www.zipcar.com/	(866) 494-7227
Train Services			
Company	Type	Website	Phone
Amtrak Train	Train	www.amtrak.com/	(800) 872-7245

Metrolink	Train	https://www.metrolinktrains.com/	(800) 371-5465
Alternative Transportation			
Company	Type	Website	Phone
REXidence	Bicycle	https://www.rexidence.com/	(949) 449-9919
Trails End Cycling Center	Bicycle	https://trailsendcc.com/Trails_End_Cycling_Center/Rentals.html	(949) 863-1982
Pedego Electric Bikes Irvine	Electric Bikes	https://www.pedegoelectricbikes.com/dealers/irvine/	(949) 274-7944

Within the metropolitan area, there are several airports and train stations. The primary airports are:

- Los Angeles International-LAX (Los Angeles)
- John Wayne (Santa Ana)
- Long Beach (Long Beach)
- LA/Ontario International (Ontario)

Additional airport services include:

- **Shuttle2LAX**
<http://shuttletolax.com/>
*Note: This shuttle only operates to and from Los Angeles Airport (LAX)
- **SuperShuttle**
<https://www.supershuttle.com>
*Please note that prices will vary by location.

Opening up a U.S. Bank Account

Students may find many benefits to opening a bank account in the United States, including convenient money-wiring to and from their home country. Account holders can feel secure about their money- all FDIC-insured banks have a standard insurance on up to \$250,000 per holder.

The 2 most common types of bank accounts are Checking Accounts and Saving Accounts.

Checking Account

This type of account allows you easy access to your funds in order to meet your day-to-day transactional needs.

- Many students will only need a checking account during their stay in the U.S.

Savings Account

This type of account is for individuals that are planning to save money and earn interest as their account value builds. It is also a simple way to securely store your money.

Fees

1. It is possible to set up free Checking and Savings Accounts; however, banks will typically have clauses that you need to meet in order to avoid monthly maintenance fees.
 - a) Examples: If you have a certain balance, if you have automatic deposit set up, etc.
2. In order to prevent misuse, many banks charge a fee if you withdraw from your savings account more than a certain determined amount of times per month.

Required Documents

Required documents to open a bank account differ from institution to institution. Some common ones are:

- Proof of identity
- Social Security Number
- Proof of residency

International Students!

The following are suggested documents to support your request for a bank account:

1. Valid Passport
2. Current, active I-20
3. I-94 Arrival/Departure Record
4. A document including your full name, home (US) address & personal telephone number (i.e. utility bills, leasing agreement, etc.)
5. Enrollment verification letter from the university (including university address & telephone number)
6. Secondary form of identification (i.e. birth certificate, student ID card, driver's license, etc.)

Nearby banks to the Irvine campus:

Financial Institution	Locations
Chase Bank	Von Karman Plaza 2244 Barranca Pkwy. Irvine, CA 92606 (949) 255-1882
Schools First Federal Credit Union	15442 Newport Ave. Tustin, CA 92780 (800) 462-8328
Wells Fargo Bank	The District at Tustin Legacy 2677 Park Ave. Tustin, CA 92782 (714) 566-1340
Bank of America	3881 Alton Pkwy., Suite B Irvine, CA 92606 (949) 752-6822

Westcliff University does not endorse or recommend any of the above listed banks. This list is provided as a service only for those requiring information about the banking facilities located near the campus of Westcliff University.

Additional banking facilities can be found via Google search. It is important to open a banking account as soon as possible. A checking account permits the withdrawal of money whenever necessary at an ATM (Automated Teller Machine), and to use checks or a debit card to pay for goods and services. Traveler's checks in U.S. dollars can be used temporarily until a bank account is opened.

Getting a California Driver's License

Application Process

1. Complete an original application DL 44 form (available at the DMV)
 - a) Pay application fee
2. Thumb print & picture will be taken
3. Pass a vision test
4. Complete the "Knowledge Test" (written exam, roughly 20 minutes long)
 - a) Note- the DMV will NOT administer the written exam after 4:30pm.
5. If you pass, make an appointment for a driving test
 - a) Call 1-800-777-0133
 - b) Online at <https://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/dmv/dmv/appointments>

Required Documents:

- Proof of Identity
 - These are original or certified documents establishing birth date, true full name and identity.
- True Full Name
 - Your true full name is your current, complete legal name (first, middle and last name) as it appears on your identity or name change document(s). If the name on your identity document is different than the name you provided on your application, you must submit an additional name change document.
- Social Security Number
- Proof of residency documents (two required)

International Students!

Required Documents

- I-20 Form
 - Wait at least 10 days after your I-20 record has been registered on SEVIS. This is to ensure that your immigration status and documents are updated and processed
- I-94 Arrival/Departure Record
 - You will either have it on your passport or you can access the electronic record: www.cbp.gov/i94 and print out a copy
- Valid passport (with your visa, if applicable)
- Social Security Number or proof of birth/legal presence documents (if you have one)
- Proof of residence
 - Examples: Rental Agreement, utility bills, U.S. bank account statement (mailed to your home), insurance documents (medical, dental, vehicle, etc.)
 - For a complete list of acceptable documents, visit:
https://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/dmv/detail/dl/residency_requirement
- Enrollment Verification Letter from the university (required at some DMVs)

- Proof of Vehicle Insurance (Behind-the-Wheel test only)

Tips for a Faster, Better Experience

- Walk-In vs. Appointments
 - Walk-In: You will be waiting in the DMV office for longer, but you can go any day you choose.
 - Appointment: Your time in the DMV office will be much shorter, but often the next available opening is weeks away.
- Be aware that it is not uncommon to fail your Driver's test on your first try.
 - If you do fail, you must pay another test fee and wait 2 weeks before you can take the driving test again.
 - If you fail 3 times, you will have to start the application process over again.³

For more information, please visit the DMV website here:

https://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/dmv/detail/pubs/brochures/fast_facts/ffdl05.

California-Issued Identification Card

If you do not plan to drive, you can apply for a California Identification Card. This is useful when you want to apply for traveler's check and if you need to prove your residence. It is also much safer to carry an ID card than your passport on a regular basis.

California-Issued REAL ID

Another form of identification is the new California REAL ID driver license or identification card. The REAL ID is useful for students as it can be used to board domestic flights within the U.S. and is safer than traveling with your passport for domestic travel. Students will be required to obtain the California REAL ID when the new federal identification requirements begin.

Nearest DMV offices:

Bellflower DMV

(Near Cerritos campus)

9520 East Artesia Blvd

Bellflower, CA 90706

1-800-777-0133

Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am to 5:00pm

Laguna Hills DMV

(Near Irvine Campus)



2353 Moulton Parkway
Laguna Hills, CA 92653
1-800-777-0133
Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am to 5:00pm

Costa Mesa DMV
(Near Irvine Campus)
650 W. 19th St
Costa Mesa, CA 92672
Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am to 5:00pm (Wednesday opens at 9:00am)

Additional Resources

Student Activities

A great way to learn more about what Westcliff University has to offer is to keep in the loop with upcoming student activities and events on our social media pages.

Facebook	https://www.facebook.com/westcliffuniversity/
Instagram	https://www.instagram.com/westcliffuniversity/
Twitter	https://twitter.com/AskWestcliff
Linkedin	https://www.linkedin.com/school/westcliff-university/
Youtube	https://www.youtube.com/c/westcliffuniversity

Westcliff University offers a variety of different sports teams and students are encouraged to attend games and support the Westcliff Warriors. To keep up to date with game dates and times of all of Westcliff's sports teams, students should check out the athletics page.

<https://www.westcliffathletics.com/>

Local Attractions

The Irvine Campus at Westcliff University is located immediately adjacent to a shopping center. It contains many different types of restaurants, a movie theater, grocery stores, post offices and many more options.

Other attractions in Irvine includes:

Irvine Spectrum: An outdoor shopping center located at the southeast edge of Irvine. Its notable features include Edwards Cinema Movie Theater, Nordstrom, Macy's, Barnes & Noble, Dave and Buster's, Target, etc.

<http://www.shopirvinespectrumcenter.com/>

The District at Tustin Legacy: A shopping and dining destination between Jamboree Road, Barranca Parkway and Tustin Ranch Road. Designed as a festive place for people to dine, shop and play, this plaza features AMC Tustin 14, Bowlmor Lanes, Costco, RA Sushi, Lucille's BBQ, Target, and much more.

<http://thedistricttl.com/>

Fashion Island: An outdoor mall that is located in Newport Beach, California. This shopping center includes many popular stores and restaurants such as Neiman Marcus, Cheesecake Factory, Nordstrom, Whole Foods Market, and much more.

<https://www.shopfashionisland.com/>

Boomers! Irvine: An amusement park that is located between Michelson Drive and Harvard Avenue. This amusement park center includes many features such as mini-golf, go-karts, bumper boats, and arcade games.

<http://www.boomersparks.com/irvine>

South Coast Plaza: An indoor shopping mall that is located in Costa Mesa, California. Many notable features and restaurants include Ding Tai Fung, H&M, Banana Republic, J.Crew, and more. <https://www.southcoastplaza.com/>

Popular destinations to visit in Southern California:

Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA)

5905 Wilshire Blvd
Los Angeles, CA 90036
Mid-Wilshire
(323) 857-6000
www.lacma.org

The Broad Museum

221 S Grand Ave
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Downtown
(213) 232-6200
www.thebroad.org

San Diego Zoo Safari Park

15500 San Pasqual Valley Rd
Escondido, CA 92027
(619) 231-1515
<https://www.sdzsafaripark.org/>

Disneyland Park

1313 Disneyland Dr
Anaheim, CA 92802
(714) 781-4636
<https://disneyland.disney.go.com>

For more options,

Yelp: An easy way to connect people with great local businesses through reviews and recommendations that are published by the public. Yelp is available through the website and/or smartphone mobile applications

<http://www.yelp.com/>

Tripadvisor: The world’s largest traveling site that offers a wide variety of travel choices and assists in planning and booking the perfect trip around town. Tripadvisor is available through the website and/or smartphone mobile applications.

<http://www.tripadvisor.com/>

Cultural Areas

California is filled with a diverse cultural population. It offers great opportunities for students to explore and experience different types of cultural communities. More importantly, out of state and/or international students won’t feel too far away from their home country with shopping centers, museums, and towns that are distinct to different countries.

Here is a list of a couple of cultural sites that students can enjoy:

Little Tokyo

319 E 2nd St Los Angeles, CA 90012

(213) 293-5822

<http://www.littletokyola.org/>

Chinatown

Cesar Chavez & N Broadway Los Angeles, CA 90012

Chinatown, Downtown

(213) 680-0243

<http://www.chinatownla.com/>

Koreatown

Wilshire and Western Los Angeles, CA 90010

Koreatown, Wilshire Center

<http://www.yelp.com/biz/koreatown-los-angeles-2>

Historic Filipinotown

Los Angeles, CA 90026

<http://www.visitasianla.org/index.php/historic-filipinotown/things-to-do>

Little Saigon

Bolsa Ave (a long strip on Bolsa Ave between Brookhurst St. and Newland St.)

Westminster, CA 92683

<https://visitanahaim.org/blog/little-saigon-the-vietnamese-heart-of-orange-county>

Little India Village

18792 Pioneer Blvd Artesia, CA 90701

(562) 924-5652

<http://www.artesiaindia.us/>

Emergencies

U.S.A. Emergency Phone Line: 911

In the event of an emergency, students should dial 911. Additionally, students should stay calm and give their name, exact location, and telephone number to the 911 dispatcher. Stay on the line with the 911 dispatcher as long as necessary.

Mental Health Assistance

Students in need of mental health assistance should first contact their health insurance provider to request a summary of benefits and coverage. Many health insurance plans include mental health services with a pre-determined copay charge.

Additionally, 211 is a local, private, non-profit organization that provides resources and assistance for a wide range of topics, such as mental health, food, housing, transport, and more. 211 operators can help narrow down resources in the area based on a student's needs and circumstances.

For more information, you can call 211, text their zip code to 898211, or take a look at their website here: <https://www.211oc.org/mental-health.html>

Students can also research on Google or visit some of the following public sites to find assistance in mental health nearby:

Psychology Today	https://www.psychologytoday.com/us
Counseling California	https://www.counselingcalifornia.com/Find-a-Therapist
Open Path	https://openpathcollective.org/

Some recommended keywords when searching includes:

- Affordable psychotherapy
- Affordable therapy
- Family therapy
- Specific concerns
 - Stress and anxiety
 - Depression
 - Addictions and abuse
 - Homesickness
 - Personal and family problems
 - Financial concerns
 - Trauma/Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)

Food Pantry Information

Food pantries are non-profit charitable centers that distribute food or provide resources for those that may struggle with purchasing enough to avoid hunger. Local food pantries are available in many areas of Southern California, including Irvine, Tustin, Anaheim, and Costa Mesa areas. For more options, please also visit <http://www.211.org/services/food> or text 898211 the zip code of interest.

Irvine	Tustin	Anaheim	Costa Mesa
Families Forward (949) 552-2727 9221 Irvine Blvd.	United American Charities (949) 433-8292 1341 San Juan St.	Saint Anthony Claret (714) 563-1652 1450 East la Palma Ave.	Share Our Selves (949) 270-2100 1550 Superior Ave.
Mariners Church (949) 769-8100 5001 Newport Coast Dr.	The Good News Center (714) 505-1734 1631 El Camino Real	UCI Mobile Food Pantry- Anaheim (714) 480-2443 300 West Carl Karcher Way	Cool Water Ministries – Costa Mesa (949) 292-6425 760 Victoria Street
Saddleback Church/Peace Center (949) 609-8210 18842 Teller Ave.	Healing Word (714) 832-1000 14281 Chambers Road	Saddleback Church- Anaheim (949) 609-8210 2095 East Katella Ave.	Costa Mesa Family Resource Center (949) 764-8100 307 Placentia Ave

Standard American Laws and Culture

Alcohol

U.S. laws concerning the sale and consumption of alcohol may seem very liberal or very conservative depending on the person and their nationality. In the United States it is illegal to purchase and consume alcoholic drinks, including beer and wine, until one reaches the age of twenty-one (21) years-old.

Smoking

In many parts of the United States, all public buildings are designated “smoke free,” meaning that one cannot smoke in any part of the building. Other buildings have designated spaces for smokers. If one is a guest in someone’s home, room, or apartment, always ask permission before smoking. At Westcliff University, our campuses are all smoke free; however, one can smoke outside the buildings.

Practicing Personal Religion

The United States is a multicultural society founded on tolerance and mutual respect. People are encouraged to seek out opportunities to practice their religious beliefs. There are usually a variety of denominations and religious groups in every community. Although America has a higher rate of church attendance than most other western societies, many Americans are uncomfortable discussing religion. If the student is in a religious situation or discussion in which s/he is uncomfortable, it is acceptable to excuse themselves or explain their perspective.

Holidays Celebrated in the U.S.

Six major national legal holidays in the United States:

- New Year's Day (January 1st)
- Memorial Day (4th Monday in May)
- Independence Day (July 4th)
- Labor Day (1st Monday in September)
- Thanksgiving (4th Thursday in November)
- Christmas (December 25th)

Some additional holidays in the U.S. are not only celebrated by state but also by certain diverse groups depending on their cultural background. Additional celebratory days include:

- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (January)
- Valentine's Day (February 14th)
- President's Day (February)
- St. Patrick's Day (March 17th)
- Easter (March or April)
- Passover (March or April)
- Memorial Day (May)
- Ramadan (June)
- Veteran's Day (November 11th)
- Halloween (October 31st)
- Hanukkah (late November or early December)

International Students Only

International students! Please note that throughout the booklet there are details that also applies to you other than the information below (i.e., driver's license, bank account, etc.). Please review the entire booklet to find resources that will support your various needs.

Things to Prepare Before the U.S.

Moving to a new country is a big step! But, with the right preparation, you will be ready to start your life in the United States on the right footing.

Before you embark on your journey, here are a couple of important questions to ask yourself before you make your way here.

- ✓ Do I have all the required travel documents to come to the U.S.?
- ✓ Do I have an airport pick up service ready when I arrive?
- ✓ Do I have homestay/housing in the U.S.?
- ✓ Have I contacted my Admissions Representative or International Affairs Department about my arrival?
- ✓ How am I going to use U.S. transportation to go to the university?

Once you have asked yourself important questions like these, your next step is to start going down the list and taking care of each part.

If you don't know where to start, always ask questions! Westcliff University is here to help!

You can ask your Admissions Representative admissions@westcliff.edu or the International Affairs Department intlservices@westcliff.edu!

We can help you find the right information you need to be prepared before you come to the United States.

Required Travel Documents

Before you travel to the United States, make sure you have all of your important travel documents on hand such as:

- ✓ Original copy of I-20 or DS-2019
- ✓ Valid Passport
- ✓ Valid F-1 Student Visa



- ✓ University Acceptance Letter
- ✓ Receipt of SEVIS I-901 fee
- ✓ Financial documents
- ✓ Other documents:
 - Health & immunization records
 - Transcripts
 - Degrees, diplomas, certificates

Social Security Number

What is a Social Security Number?

A Social Security Number (SSN) is used by the U.S. government in order to track earnings over a worker's lifetime. International students under F-1 status must apply for a Social Security Number if they wish to be employed while in the United States. An additional benefit of holding a Social Security Number is that one is required for certain (but not all) banks or mobile phone plans. It is also helpful, though not required, in applying for a driver's license or state ID card.

Application Process

1. Visit <https://www.ssa.gov/locator/> in order to find a Social Security Office near you.
2. Bring the following documents with you to the office:
 - a) Active Form I-20
 - b) Valid Passport or Birth Certificate
 - c) Original I-94 Arrival/Departure Record
 - d) Enrollment Verification Letter from Westcliff University
 - e) Employment Offer Letter (start date must be within 30 days)
3. Complete an application for a Social Security Card (available at the office).
4. Present materials at the counter for review. Note: there is no fee for this service.
5. Your Social Security Card will be mailed to you, typically in around 2 weeks.

Contact Information

www.ssa.gov/ssnumber/

Toll-Free Number: 1-800-772-1213

Contact Information

Phone: (888) 491-8686

Website: www.westcliff.edu

Emails:

General/International Questions	studentservices@westcliff.edu intlservices@westcliff.edu
International Travel/Vacation	intltravel_vacation@westcliff.edu
CPT Division	Bachelor Level: cpt_bachelors@westcliff.edu Master Level: cpt_masters@westcliff.edu Doctoral Level: cpt_doctorate@westcliff.edu
OPT Division	opt@westcliff.edu