Essential Transportation Information

Bus Transportation

OCTA provides bus service throughout Orange County with connection services to Los Angeles and San Diego counties www.**octa**.net.

Bicycles

Bicycles are a great way to get around IEC@OCC and the local area.

Bicycle theft is common! Always lock your bike with a heavy-duty "U" shaped lock (recommended brands: Citadel, Kryptonite). Bicycles are subject to the rules and regulations of the California Vehicle Code; obey stop signs and red lights, and signal properly when making turns, or you may be ticketed by the police. Be smart--ride defensively, wear a helmet and be aware that most drivers are "blind" to cyclists

Trains and Long Distance Buses

- AMTRAK is the train service that operates across the United States, including many cities within California. They have some low cost special fares to certain destinations.
- Greyhound buses go throughout California and the United States.

There are also private bus firms that travel to tourist destinations in the Bay Area, California and out-of-state. Check the internet under "Charter Buses."

Taxis

Private taxi service is available in any city from several companies listed in the phone book yellow pages or online. Taxis are the most expensive form of transportation, but can be reasonable and convenient if there is a small group. Taxi drivers are generally tipped 10-15% of the fare.

Uber/Lyft

Uber and Lyft are both smartphone apps that provide transportation services. By downloading the app and linking your credit/debit card information, you're able to request Uber/Lyft drivers to pick you up and take you to your location. This option is generally cheaper than a taxi service. Downloadable for Android and iOS.

California Driver's License

If you plan to drive in California, you must get a California Driver's License. . Most insurance companies will not provide coverage unless you have a driver license, and having insurance is a legal requirement.

There will be two tests in order to obtain a driver license: a written and a driving test. The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) website will have more information, please visit link: https://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/dmv/detail/dl/dl_info

When to apply:

You may apply after 30 days of your arrival. For example: if you arrive to the U.S. on October 1, 2017, you may apply for a written test on October 31, 2017.

*Waiting at least 30 days after your arrival allows time for the government to process the data for your legal entry into the U.S. Your legal entry must be verified by the Department of Motor Vehicles before they can issue you a license.

How to apply for a California Driver License:

International students must be in status to apply for a California Driver License or California ID card from the Department of Motor Vehicles. The California Driver License and California ID cards are considered the official documents for identification purposes in California.

If you are 18 years of age or older and want to apply for a driver license, please follow the instructions below:

- Obtain and study a copy of the "California Driver Handbook" from the DMV website.
- Become familiar with California traffic laws. It's available is English and other languages.
- Make an appointment with the DMV at http://www.dmv.ca.gov/foa/welcome.do

Required documents to apply for a Driver License:

1. Passport
2. I-94 (you can print it from this link: https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/#/home)
3. I-20 (Please make sure you have a *continuing attendance I-20*)
4. Two forms of proof for residency. You need to provide *2 documents that have your address in California*. For examples:
    - Rental or lease agreement with the signature of the owner/landlord and the tenant/resident.
    - Home utility bills (including cellular phone.)
    - Insurance documents, including medical or vehicle.
    - Your bank statement.

    Please note that as an international student, you are not required to have a Social Security Number (SSN) and most likely you will not qualify for a social security number.

Local Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) offices:

Costa Mesa:
650 W. 19th Street
Costa Mesa, CA 92627
Phone: (800)777-0133

Santa Ana:
1330 E. First Street
Santa Ana, CA 92701
Phone: (800)777-0133