# Pacific Academic Calendar Spring 2014

## FALL 2013
- **International Student Check-In Day**: August 18
- **Transfer Orientation - FALL**: August 15-16
- **International Student Orientation**: August 19
- **General New Student Orientation and Registration**: August 20-21
- **Classes Begin**: August 26
- **Fall Semester Classes End**: December 6
- **Final Examination Period**: December 9–13

## SPRING 2014
- **International Student Check-In Day**: January 7
- **International Student Orientation**: January 8
- **New Student Orientation and Registration**: January 9-10
- **Classes Begin**: January 13
- **Spring Semester Classes End**: April 30
- **Final Examination Period**: May 2-8
- **Commencement Weekend**: May 10
Contents

University of the Pacific
International Programs & Services Staff

The Procedures
Immigration Process
On-Arrival Process at Pacific
What to Bring with You to the U.S.

What to Expect
Adjusting to a New Environment
Getting Involved on Campus
Health Insurance
Other IPS Services
Pacific Academic Calendar
Frequently Asked Questions
Welcome to University of the Pacific! We at the Office of International Programs & Services (IPS) are excited to have you join us next semester. We created this handbook to help you prepare for your travels. This is a short guide to help you keep track of the things you will need to do between now and when you join us on campus. Enjoy this guide, prepare your things, and get ready for a great Pacific experience. We look forward to meeting you next semester.

Kindest Regards,
International Programs & Services (IPS) Staff

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS & SERVICES (IPS)

International Programs & Services (IPS) is responsible for all international students at the University of the Pacific. Offices are located in Bechtel International Center.

Office hours during the regular school year are Monday - Friday, 8:30 am to 5 pm. Summer hours (Mid-May through Mid-August), M-Th 8:30 am to 4 pm. & Fri 8:30am to 1pm.

IPS Staff

Ge-Yao Liu, Director...............................................................946-2090
Leslie Anderson, Administrative Assistant............................946-7746
Koura Fabiny, Education Abroad Advisor...............................946-2592
Shirley Redoblado, Int'l Student & Scholar Specialist.................946-2247

IPS Front Desk (Main Line).....................................................946-2246
IPS Office Fax Line.................................................................946-2094

The Procedures

Immigration Process

- After your acceptance to the University of the Pacific and before you begin applying for a visa, your SEVIS Form I-20 or DS-2019 will be sent to you that enrolls you in the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS). SEVIS is a Web-based information system that keeps track of foreign students and other exchange program participants, and allows information sharing among the various institutions and government agencies that students and exchange visitors are involved with during their journey to the United States and their stay in the country.

You must pay a fee to be enrolled in SEVIS, and you will need to retain your proof of payment for presentation during your visa interview at the U.S. embassy. The fee varies according to the type of study or exchange program you are participating in and the type of visa you are applying for. The SEVIS fee for most students is $200, visit [https://www.fmjfee.com/i901fee/] for more information.

- Make an appointment for a visa interview by contacting the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate that has jurisdiction over your place of permanent residence, visit [http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/wait/wait_4638.html] for information about waiting times for scheduling an interview and processing your application.

- Assemble all the required documentation for nonimmigrant visa interview. This includes the payment receipt of the SEVIS fee, SEVIS I-20 Form, financial support documents, the visa application processing fee and a properly completed visa application form.

- Review the information provided on the embassy or consulate web sites regarding the procedures in applying for the non-immigrant visa.

When to Apply for a Student Visa

- Apply early to provide ample time for visa processing.
- Embassies and Consulates are able to issue student visa 120 days or less, in advance of the course of study registration date.
- The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) regulation requires that all students in Initial status or Begin New Program status enter the U.S. 30 days or less in advance of the course of study Start/Report Date as shown on the SEVIS Form I-20, Item #5 and DS-2019, Item #3. A beginning student who wants an earlier entry into the U.S. (more than 30 days prior to the course start date), must qualify for, and obtain a visitor visa.
Continuing students may apply for a new visa at any time, as long as they have been maintaining student status and their SEVIS records are current and may also enter the U.S. at any time before their classes start.

**Required Documentation**
- SEVIS Form, I-20 or DS-2019, which was provided to you by University of the Pacific. You and your school’s official must sign the SEVIS Form I-20. Online Nonimmigrant Visa Electronic Application, Form DS-160. Visit [http://travel.state.gov/visa/forms/forms_4230.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/forms/forms_4230.html) for information. Passport valid for at least six (6) months beyond the date of a student’s expected stay in the U.S. (unless country-specific agreements provide exemptions).
- One (1) 2x2 photograph. See the required photo format explained in [http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/info/info_1287.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/info/info_1287.html).
- An MRV fee receipt to show payment of the visa application fee visit [http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types_1263.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types_1263.html) for information.
- The SEVIS I-901 fee receipt. If the visa is issued, there will be an additional visa issuance reciprocity fee, visit [http://travel.state.gov/visa/fees/fees_3272.html](http://travel.state.gov/visa/fees/fees_3272.html) to find out if you must pay a fee.

**All Applicants Should Be Prepared To Provide:**
- Transcripts and diplomas from previous institutions attended;
- Scores from standardized tests required by the educational institution such as the TOEFL, SAT, GRE, GMAT, etc.;
- Financial evidence that shows you or your parents or whoever is paying your tuition and fees and living expenses has sufficient funds to cover your tuition and living expenses during the period of your intended study.

**Note:** In applying for a visa, you need to be aware that the visa alone does not guarantee entry to the United States. With a visa, a foreign citizen is allowed to travel to a U.S. port of entry. Upon arrival, a U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Inspector makes the decision about the individual’s admission into the country.

**Arrival Procedures For Students & Scholars**
**Advance Preparation Prior To Entry.** Careful planning and preparation by students and scholars can ensure that the delay based established procedure is minimal. Here are some things you should do:
- Confirm that your passport and nonimmigrant visa are still valid for entry into the United States.
- Check to see that your visa accurately reflects your correct visa classification.
- If the visa states the name of the institution you will attend. Verify that this information is accurate. If your review indicates any discrepancies or potential problems, visit the U.S. Embassy or Consulate to obtain a new visa.
- Student entering the U.S. for the first time in F-1 or J-1 nonimmigrant visa classification may only be admitted up to 30-days prior to the program start date.
- When you receive your U.S. nonimmigrant visa at the Embassy or Consulate in your country, the Consular Officer will seal your immigration documents in an envelope and attach it to your passport. YOU SHOULD NOT OPEN THIS ENVELOPE! The Customs and Border Protection Officer at the U.S. port-of-entry will open the envelope.

When you travel, you should carry some specific documents on your person. Do not check them in your baggage. If your baggage is lost or delayed, you will not be able to show the documents to the Customs and Border Protection Officer at your port of entry. As a result, you may not be able to enter the United States.

**Always Hand-Carry The Following Documents**
- Valid passport;
- SEVIS Form I-20 or DS-2019;
- Evidence of financial resources;
- Evidence of student status, such as recent tuition receipts and transcripts; and Paper receipt for the SEVIS fee, Form I-797.
• Arrive at the Port of Entry
  Proceed to the terminal area for arriving passengers and have the following documents available for presentation:
  • Valid passport;
  • SEVIS Form I-20 or DS-2019;
  • Arrival-Departure Record Form (I-94) which should reflect the address where you will reside, not the address of the school or program; and
  • Customs Declaration Form (CF-6059).

Important
• All visitors entering the United States must state their reason for wishing to enter the country. You will also be asked to provide information about your final destination. **It is important that you tell the CBP Officer that you will be a student and be prepared to include the name and address of the school program where you will enroll/participate.**

Admission Into the United States
Students should report to their school within 30 days of the date that appears on the SEVIS Form I-20 or DS-2019 to register for courses or to validate their intended participation. Failure to do so may result in serious consequences.

Additional Information - Secondary Inspection Requirements
• If the Custom and Border Protection (CBP) Officer at the port of entry cannot initially verify your information or you do not have all of the required documentation, you may be directed to an interview area known as “Secondary Inspection.” Secondary Inspection allows Inspectors to conduct additional research in order to verify information without causing delays for other arriving passengers.
• The Inspector will first attempt to verify your status by using the SEVIS System. In the event that the CBP Officer needs to verify information with your school or program, we strongly recommend that you have the name and telephone number of the foreign student advisor at your school. In the event you arrive during non-business hours (evening, weekends, and holidays) please call the University of the Pacific’s Public Safety Office at (209) 946-2537 or Fax (209) 946-2288.

• Failure to comply with U.S. Government entry-exit procedures may result in your being denied entry to the U.S. Under certain circumstances, the CBP Officer may issue a “Notice to Student or Exchange Visitor” Form (I-515A), which authorizes temporary admission into the United States. Work with your school to submit the proper documentation without delay.

Reporting Requirements Upon Your Arrival At The University Of The Pacific
• report to International Programs and Services (IPS) to have your SEVIS record registered in SEVIS in a timely manner by attending the Mandatory International Student Orientation;
• complete and sign the SEVIS Registration and Enrollment- Reporting Requirements;
• complete and sign the International Student Certification Form;
• copy of your SEVIS Form I-20 or DS-2019 endorsed by the Immigration Official at the port-of-entry;
• copy (front and back) of Form I-94, Departure Record;
• copy of ID page of your valid passport;
• copy of the F-1 or J-1 Visa; and
• copy of the Health Insurance Requirement.

IMPORTANT NOTICE:
This information is not exhaustive and is subject to change without notice. You must visit the U.S. Government web sites listed above to remain up-to-date on important changes in policies and nonimmigrant visa application procedures. International Students or Exchange Visitors should contact IPS at (209) 946-2247 to arrange an appointment to discuss any changes in your programs, questions, or concerns related to your legal status in the United States. Visit the IPS website at [http://www.pacific.edu/x4291.xml](http://www.pacific.edu/x4291.xml) to be informed about workshops and training sessions offered by IPS, and much more.
**On-Arrival Process at Pacific**

- TRANSPORTATION TO PACIFIC
  - PRIVATE SHUTTLE webpage: [www.stocktonsedan.com](http://www.stocktonsedan.com)
  - AMTRAK Train Service webpage: [www.amtrak.com](http://www.amtrak.com)
  - GREYHOUND BUS webpage: [www.greyhound.com](http://www.greyhound.com)

**IMPORTANT NOTE:**

International Programs & Services DOES provide airport pick-up on a designated day for a $50 FEE. Please look for details in e-mail messages from our department after you confirm your enrollment at Pacific.

- HOTELS/MOTELS

If you arrive in Stockton in the evening or on a weekend, it would be best for you to check into a hotel or motel for the night. Below is a list of local hotels that offer special rates to Pacific visitors. Just ask for the “Pacific Special Rates.” Please make a reservation if you are arriving early.

  - MARRIOTT COURTYARD ([www.courtyard.com](http://www.courtyard.com)) (209) 472-9700
  - MARRIOTT RESIDENCE INN ([www.marriott.com](http://www.marriott.com)) (209) 472-9800
  - HILTON STOCKTON ([www.hilton.com](http://www.hilton.com)) 209-957-9090
  - UNIVERSITY PLAZA ([www.universityplazawaterfronthotel.com](http://www.universityplazawaterfronthotel.com)) (209) 944-1140

**What to Bring With You to the United States**

- THINGS TO THINK ABOUT BEFORE PACKING

**Things to Bring with you:**
- Clothes
- Immigration papers
- Towels & Washcloths
- Personal Items (Soap, Toiletries)
- Bathrobe
- Shower Shoes
- Decorations (pictures, posters)
- Small Sewing or First Aid Kit
- Bedding (Sheets, blanket, etc.)

**NOTE:** Campus beds are Extra Long Twins

**Things you can buy in Stockton:**
- Iron/Ironing Board
- Hangers
- Cleaning Supplies
- Detergent/Dryer Softeners & Laundry Basket/Bag
- School Supplies
- Stationary
- Waste Basket & Liners
- Bicycle/Bike Lock
- Computer
- Desk Lamp
- Alarm Clock, Stereo/Radio
- Telephone
- Small Refrigerator
- Pillow(s) & Blankets
- Microwave
- Cable Cords
- Surge Protectors
- Television/VCR/DVD

**NOTE:** You may ship some of the above items, before you leave your Home country, to International Programs and Services. Label as follows:

- **Your Name**
- c/o International Programs & Services
- Bechtel International Center
- University of the Pacific
- 3601 Pacific Avenue
- Stockton, CA 95211 USA

* Please note the above address can also be used to ship boxes in advance. It can also be provided to immigration officers at port of entry in the United States. In addition, it can be used as the label address on your baggage.
Housing Options

On-Campus Housing

ADVANTAGES TO ON-CAMPUS LIVING
Besides the convenience of being close to classrooms and libraries, there are definite educational and social advantages to living on campus. When you live in residence halls, you are able to find more opportunities to improve your English and to learn about U.S. American culture. Having a roommate from the U.S. can be a valuable and memorable experience for you both.

RESIDENCE HALL & LIVING COMMUNITIES ON-CAMPUS:
• Global Living 'n Learning Community (GLLC) in Southwest Hall
• Grace Covell Hall
• Cowell Hall
• John Ballantyne Hall
• Price House
• McConchie Hall
• Carter House
• Jessie Ballantyne Hall
• Casa Werner
• Casa Jackson
• Farley House
• Ritter House
• Eiselen House
• Wemyss House

All Freshmen & Sophomores are required to live on campus. Please see your “Life On Campus” guide included in the Welcome Packet for more information.

GENERAL INFORMATION
Some international students live in off-campus apartments or rooms in private homes. It may be in your interest to live near campus if you do not have a car. If you want to live off campus but you are unsure of which area is safe, contact IPS and we will help you. The Public Safety Office can also recommend safe areas.

Adjusting to a New Environment

Making a major transition in your life requires some period of time for adjustment to the new environment. Even moving to a new city, changing schools or jobs, anything that alters your accustomed patterns of thought and behavior can cause some "transition shock," which can be mild or severe depending on the circumstances.

You have probably heard of "culture shock." The term "culture shock" describes a specific type of reaction that can occur when people travel abroad or confront ways of life substantially different from their own. Culture shock is caused by the stress of entering and adjusting to an unfamiliar culture. To some extent, the degree of culture shock experienced by students varies depending on how different the country is in contrast to your own. Of course, personal factors and your goals for traveling abroad will influence how quickly and appropriately you can "fit in," and consequently, the level of culture shock you will experience.

Please visit http://web.pacific.edu/x10227.xml to learn more about adjustment issues. Please be aware this is written to prepare US students for their study abroad experiences.

The mandatory orientation for all international students has a session dedicated to helping you adjust to college life at Pacific and to the American culture.

Visit our FaceBook page (IPS Bechtel) and “friend” us! You may then view events by IPS & our extended network of friends!
HEALTH INSURANCE REQUIREMENT FOR EXCHANGE VISITORS

The Department of State (DOS) has established minimum requirements for medical insurance that are designed to protect the Exchange Visitor and his or her family. All Exchange Visitors are required to have medical insurance (sickness and accident insurance, medical evacuation and repatriation insurance) in effect for themselves and any accompanying spouse and minor children on J visa for the duration of their exchange program. You may select the medical insurance that is best for you and any accompanying Dependents and may obtain coverage that exceeds the minimum requirements. The following stated figures are minimum amounts that must be met with no provisions for automatic updating.

1. medical benefits of at least $50,000 per accident or illness;
2. repatriation of remains in the amount of $7,500;
3. medical evacuation to his or her home country in the amount of $10,000.00; and a deductible not to exceed $500 per accident or illness.

Any insurance policy plan or contract secured to fulfill the above requirements must, at minimum, be:
1. Underwritten by an insurance corporation having an A.M. Best rating of “A-” or above, an Insurance Solvency International, Ltd. (ISI) rating of “A” or above, a Standard and Poor’s Claims-Paying Ability rating of “A” or above, a Weiss Research, Inc. rating of B+ or above, or such other rating service as the Agency may from time to time specify; or
2. Backed by the full faith and credit of the government of the exchange visitor’s home country; or
3. Part of a health benefits program offered on a group basis to employees or enrolled student’s by a designated sponsor; or
Offered through or underwritten by a federally qualified Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) or eligible Competitive Medical Plan (CMP) as determined by the Health Care Financing Administration of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

IMPORTANT
It is an Exchange Visitor’s responsibility and not the University of the Pacific to renew and maintain the insurance coverage as well as for any accompanying Dependents on J-2 visa status. You must make certain that your medical insurance includes coverage for medical evacuation and repatriation because most domestic health insurance policies do not include this feature. The exchange visitor may have to purchase medical evacuation and repatriation coverage separately.

Failure to maintain the insurance coverage as set forth or any misrepresentation to the J-1 Program Sponsor concerning such coverage shall be deemed in violation of these regulations and will be subject to termination as an Exchange Visitor participant.

HEALTH INSURANCE FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Health insurance coverage is mandated by the University. All international students must be covered by the University’s Health Insurance Plan. Health insurance protects students from the high costs of medical care which may otherwise be prohibitive in obtaining appropriate or timely care. Health insurance may be used for health service office visits, diagnostic tests, or specific medical procedures performed at our on-campus clinic, Cowell Wellness Center (CWC), or any other health clinic, doctors’ clinic, or hospital. CWC is staffed with a Health Insurance Coordinator, Ranai Koch, who can assist you with insurance-related issues or enrollment in the University’s Health Insurance Plan. Please contact Ranai at r_koch@pacific.edu or (209) 946-2994.

STUDENT INSURANCE WAIVERS

All students enrolled in nine or more units must maintain comprehensive medical insurance while at Pacific. If you have your own coverage, you need to complete a waiver online each academic year. Please complete the waiver process below to receive a credit of $604 on your student account. This waiver form is only available online:

https://wfis.wellsfargo.com/ProductServices/A%20to%20Z/StudentInsurance/universitypacific/

Select the Enroll/Waive Students
Follow the prompts to waive the plan
Bring a copy of the front and back of your insurance card to us at IPS during Arrival & Check-In or Orientation.

CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS are another great way to get involved on campus. There are many global clubs on campus such as the International Club, International Chinese Student Union, Matsuri Club, Korean Student Association, and more.

For a detailed list visit http://web.pacific.edu/x4001.xml.

Getting Involved On Campus

ASUOP (Associated Students, University of the Pacific) is the main student organization on campus. It represents students’ interests and sponsors events and services for students. This is a good place to go if you have questions regarding events, services, and clubs. Pacific offers a wide variety of programs and events for students to attend, so please check http://asuop.pacific.edu for upcoming events. In addition, ASUOP plans trips to fun, local attractions for all of you to attend. Many students take part in these opportunities, and this is a great way to meet others at Pacific.

PACIFIC RECREATION is a great place to go if you like outdoor adventures, sports, or working out. They offer great trips around the western part of the United States. Information is available at http://web.pacific.edu/x457.xml.

For more information on Pacific Recreation visit http://web.pacific.edu/x457.xml.

SPORTS & RECREATION is a great place to go if you like outdoor adventures, sports, or working out. They offer great trips around the western part of the United States. Information is available at http://web.pacific.edu/x457.xml.

For more information on Pacific Recreation visit http://web.pacific.edu/x457.xml.
GAIN STUDENT LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE!
Pacific International Club: This club works very closely with IPS to meet the unique needs of new international students as they adjust to American culture and college life. Helping to organize events and activities that educate the campus and community about international matters develops leadership skills and provides a fun way to get to know other international students as well as American students. Email: ips@pacific.edu to get involved!

SHOPPING TRIPS
When you arrive on campus, you might need to buy many things at the local stores in order to organize your room for comfort. We will provide you with several opportunities to go shopping at the local stores. If you plan on arriving late in the evening or at night, we recommend that you make arrangements to have your bedding sent to IPS in order to use it your first night. Please feel free to contact IPS if you have any questions.

We are looking forward to meeting you in person.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What do I do once I arrive on campus?
   A. Come directly to the Bechtel International Center to check in.

Q. Where can I buy computers, bikes, and other items I need?
   A. Shopping trips to local stores will be available during check-in and orientation.

Q. What furniture is provided in my on campus housing?
   A. Bed, desk, and dresser.

Q. Is there internet and phone available in my dorm?
   A. An internet and phone outlet is available for every student in their room.
   However, telephones, internet cables, and phone lines are not provided by Pacific. You will need to bring those with you or purchase them once you get here.

Q. Is there wireless internet connection on campus?
   A. All residence halls are equipped with wireless internet, and limited areas on campus are Wi-Fi accessible.

Q. Where can I open a bank account to access my money?
   A. Bank representatives will be at check-in to assist with setting up U.S. bank accounts with debit cards.

Q. Where can I purchase a U.S. Cell phone?
   A. Cell phone representatives will be at check-in or you can go on a scheduled Shopping trip to the mall and purchase one.