

# Life in LA

with  
IPPAM

A handbook to help you plan your new life in the  
International Public Policy and Management Program at  
the USC Price School of Public Policy



# Interesting Facts

University of Southern California serves as a key pillar of employment in the City of Los Angeles.



With a grand total of  
**6,779 FACULTY MEMBERS**  
**17,216 DEDICATED STAFF**



USC's presence continues to foster job opportunities in the region



USC has  
**450,000 living alumni**

From

**135 countries**

USC is proud to host one of the largest numbers of international students at universities in the U.S. Its student body represents more than 135 countries.

**40 countries**

IPPAM alone has more than 850 alumni from 40 countries.



Los Angeles is a multilingual city. About **60%** of people speak a language other than English.

Source: <https://friendlylocalguides.com/blog/50-facts-about-los-angeles>

**32 units**

IPPAM requires students to complete a minimum of 32 units, comprised of five core courses (18 units) and 14 units in an area of concentration chosen by the student.



USC has produced more Olympians, Olympic medalists and Olympic gold medalists than any other U.S. University.

**\$955.6 million**

**USC Sponsored Research**

Housed within one of the world's leading private research universities, the Price School provides students with access to researchers and events in the USC Schwarzenegger Institute for State and Global Policy, the USC Schaeffer Center for Health Policy & Economics, the USC Lusk Center for Real Estate, the Center on Philanthropy & Public Policy and many more.

# A Big Warm Welcome From IPPAM!

We are all very excited to have you in the IPPAM family!

This little book will facilitate your move to the U.S. and will help you to settle in your new home as smoothly as possible. We interviewed some of our recent graduates to provide you with information that reflects the actual experience of students. It is impossible to summarize everything in one small handbook, but here is all the basic information you need to know before starting a new life in LA!

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the IPPAM office, we will be very happy to assist where possible. The IPPAM Welcome Committee warmly greets every new cohort, offering valuable support for apartment hunting and an enriching mentor-mentee program to ensure a smooth transition and a successful settling-in process.

Enjoy the reading!

Fight On!



## Contents

01 Welcome Message  
02 Safety  
03 Housing  
04 Health Insurance  
05 Transportation  
06 Schools

07 Money  
08 VISA  
09 Etiquette & Social Customs  
10 Before Departure..  
11 Words from IPPAM Alumni  
12 Contact Details

# Safety

USC takes your safety very seriously. Below are some of the programs and measures to keep students safe.

The **USC Department Public Safety (DPS)** patrols the campus as well as a 2-mile radius around the campus 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. There are also LAPD officers assigned to work at USC.

**USC Security Ambassadors** (identified by yellow jackets) patrol the sidewalks off campus in areas where students live. Their presence in the evening and through the night helps to deter crime and to report any suspicious persons to DPS.

Say goodbye to walking home alone at night! **Get Traveling USC** is your ultimate safe ride companion. The USC Safe Ride Program ensures you a secure journey from 6 PM to 2:45 AM, seven days a week. This service is free of charge.

**TrojanAlert** is an emergency notification system to contact you in case of emergency via text messages and emails. New students will automatically be registered at the beginning of their first semester.

**Emergency Blue Light Phones** are located throughout the campus. The handset connects you to the 24-7 DPS response team. They will come to your location within minutes.

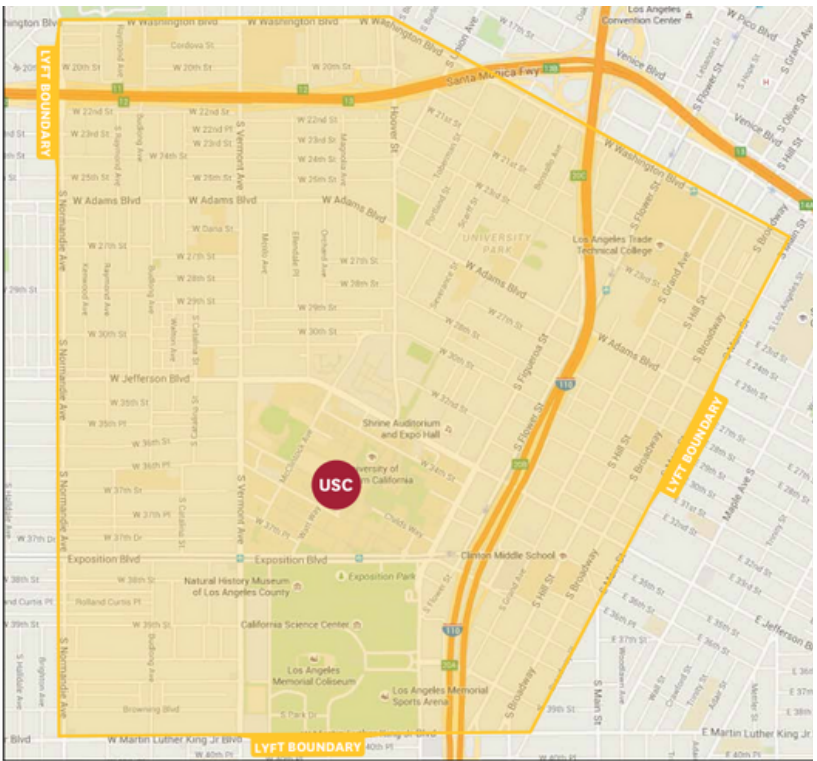
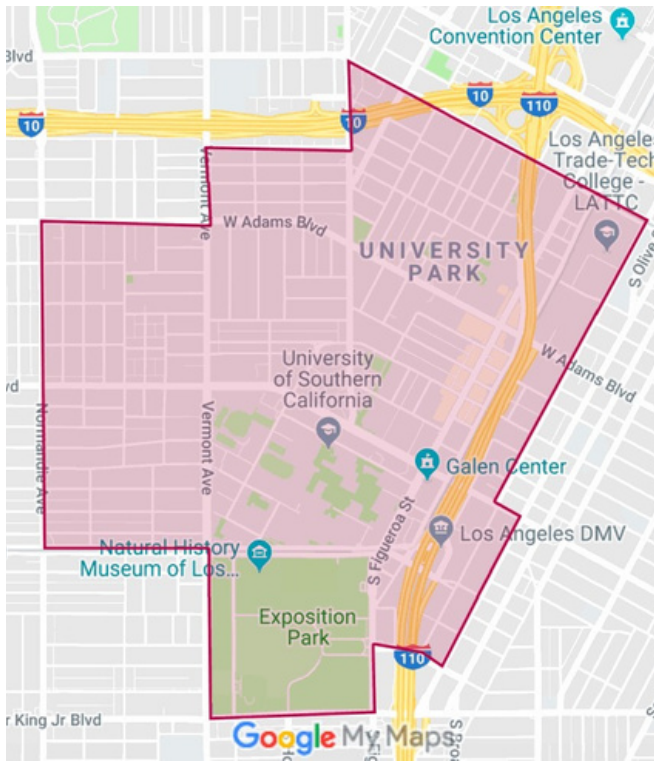
The **USC Safe Ride Program** also includes free Lyft that takes you home from 6PM to 2AM daily within geofence in spring and fall semesters. This service is free.

Between the hours of 9PM to 6AM, only students with a valid student card can enter the campus. Guests will have to register to enter.

DPS also offers free Self-Defense Courses for women if you are interested.

If you ever have a safety emergency outside of campus, you can reach the **LAPD**:  
For Emergency call 911  
For Non-emergency 877-ASK-LAPD





**The pink area is where the USC Security Ambassadors patrol. It is safe to look for housing in this area if you plan to stay close to the campus.**

**The yellow area is the Free Lyft Zone in which students can avail free rides from 6 PM to 2AM.**

For more information on USC safety, visit: <https://safety.usc.edu/>

There is also a website specifically for international students: <https://ois.usc.edu/living-in-la/safety/>  
 For more information on the USC Safe Ride Program visit: <https://transnet.usc.edu/index.php/how-to-use-lyft/>

IPPAM also has a video on campus safety: <https://youtu.be/QRmkyfoe3yc>  
 Here is the QR code for the video:



Department of Public Safety  
 University Park Campus  
 3667 McClintock Avenue  
 Los Angeles, CA 90089-1912

USC Village  
 3131 South Hoover Street, Suite 1300,  
 Los Angeles, CA 90098

Here are some helpful mobile apps to download:



Lyft



LiveSafe

Emergency 213-740-4321 Non-emergency 213-740-6000

# Housing

In this section we have listed some housing options recommended by the IPPAM alumni: some are within walking distance to the campus; other are farther away.

Some students like to stay near the campus to enjoy the student life and avoid having to drive. Others like to stay in areas with good schools for their children or have access to more community amenities for their spouses. If you not planning on buying a car, the location is important as convenient public transit is not readily available in all areas.

If you are looking for temporary housing in late summer before you find longer term housing, here are some options for you: <https://ois.usc.edu/living-in-la/housing/>

USC has some limited dorm space for graduate students. You can find information and an application here:

[https://housing.usc.edu/index.php/building\\_navigation\\_location/graduate-housing/](https://housing.usc.edu/index.php/building_navigation_location/graduate-housing/)  
[https://housing.usc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/CheckInGuide\\_Graduate\\_2023-Fall\\_FNL-web.pdf](https://housing.usc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/CheckInGuide_Graduate_2023-Fall_FNL-web.pdf)

However, there are a large number of private owned apartments and houses near campus. Most graduate students stay in privately owned housing rather than USC dorms.

Something that may be new to you is the option to rent a “bed”. This refers to bed space in a room that typically has two beds. Always make sure you are renting what you want.

## Checklist for Finding Off-Campus Housing:

- ☑ *Determine if you want to share or live alone:*
  - Consider cost-saving benefits of sharing accommodations.
  
- ☑ *Assess Housing Costs:*
  - Research typical rental costs in your desired area.
  - Check if the place is furnished, considering potential furniture costs.
  - Inquire about included utilities (water, gas, electricity).
  - Investigate solid waste charges imposed by the city.
  
- ☑ *Research Local Service Providers:*
  - Water and electricity: Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP).
  - Gas: SoCalGas (<https://www.socalgas.com/>).
  - Solid Waste Charges: LA Sanitation & Environment (LASAN).
  - Internet: Consider AT&T (<https://www.att.com/internet/>), often used by alumni.
  
- ☑ *Perform Apartment Walkthrough:*
  - Before signing or terminating a lease, conduct a walkthrough with the landlord or property manager.
  - Document any imperfections with photos and videos.
  
- ☑ *Seek Assistance with Housing Contracts:*
  - Reach out to appropriate resources for questions regarding housing contracts.

You will find the following sources useful in your search for housing. They are recommended by IPPAM alumni. Everyone has different preferences, so check them carefully yourself.

- USC Housing (<https://nup.och101.com/>)
- University Gateway (<https://www.livegw.com/>)
- Lorenzo (<https://www.thelorenzo.com/>)
- City Park (<https://www.cityparkusc.com/>)
- Tripalink (<https://tripalink.com>)
- Stuhu Student Housing (<https://stuhu.com/>)
- The Shrine Collection (<https://shrinecollection.com/>)
- First Choice Housing (<https://firstchoicehousing.com/>)
- Icon Plaza (<https://www.iconplazausc.com/>)
- Tuscany (<https://www.tuscanyonfig.com/>)
- The Orsini (<https://www.theorsini.com/>)
- Da Vinci (<https://www.thedavinciapts.com/>)
- Wren Apartment (<https://livewren.com/>)
- Decron (<https://www.decron.com/>)
- Saint Joseph student residence in LA (Telephone: 213 749 9577, Address: 1124 w Adams Blvd., Los Angeles, 90007)
- Irvine Company Apartment Communities (<https://www.irvinecompanyapartments.com>)
- Rosam Apartment Investors (310 Comstock Ave., Los Angeles, 90024)
- Luxe Apartment (<https://www.luxelifepasadena.com/>)
- Jia Apartment (<https://www.equityapartments.com/los-angeles/chinatown/jia-apartments>)
- Facebook page (not an official USC group): USC Sub/Lease and Housing (<https://shorturl.at/juxVX>)
- Facebook page (not an official USC group): USC HOUSING / SUBLETS / RENTALS (<https://shorturl.at/gpAGQ>)
- Facebook page (not an official USC group): USC - Off-campus housing / Apartment / Sublets (<https://shorturl.at/lxBNQ>)
- Facebook page (not an official USC group): University of Southern California (USC) Housing, Sublets & Roommates
- Facebook page (not an official USC group): Free or for Sale USC (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1741583442804981>)
- Facebook page (not an official USC group): USC Taiwanese Student Association (TSA) <https://www.facebook.com/usctsa>
- Group in WeChat: 南加州跳蚤市場
- Group in WeChat: 洛杉磯租房助手 (WeChat id: [gh\\_38c375c9bd97](#))
- Group in WeChat: Tripalink 鄰客租房 (WeChat id: [Tripalink](#))

Note: The information on this page was provided by IPPAM alumni and is for reference only. The details on this page are subject to change. It is best for you to call for an update on the status. The list is not in any particular order.  
Disclaimer: All information provided is deemed reliable but is not guaranteed and should be independently verified.

# Tips

## for looking for a home in LA

- 1.** If you are coming in the summer to get to know LA before the Fall semester, you'll find many sublease options as some students will be going back home in summer. You may find it useful to rent something for a few weeks to get to know the surroundings before you rent for the entire year.
- 2.** If you are renting a place before arriving in LA, you may want to ask someone to check out the house and the neighborhood before you rent.
- 3.** Always make sure what the monthly rent covers. You may be responsible for water, electricity, gas, wifi, parking, and in some cases the solid waste charges.
- 4.** LA does get very hot in summer and cold in winter, making it useful to have AC and heating. In California, the landlord is required to install heating systems in main rooms, however, not all houses have air conditioning. You can purchase a portable fan and heater if needed. It's always good to speak to a previous tenant so you can ask questions.
- 5.** Most shared housing has a washing machine and a tumble dryer that are shared among a few people. Some of them are free and some may cost \$2 to \$3 each load.
- 6.** Some housing does not provide furniture even if the photos look furnished. Check with the landlord or property manager.
- 7.** Some housing has carpet, if you are allergic to carpet, check with the landlord or property manager to ask if they have units without carpeting.
- 8.** If possible, you may want to view the house twice, during the day and when it's dark so you get a better feel for the environment. Also, try to avoid the south or east sides of the campus as they are less safe.
- 9.** Most places require a housing deposit. It is typically equal to one or two months of the rental price. Always read the contract carefully and make sure that the agency or the landlord does not withhold unreasonable fees, such as excessive cleaning charges.





# Health

Health insurance provides coverage for medical care in the U.S. The U.S. does not have a governmental health care program that covers everyone. Most people have private health insurance.

USC requires that all students have health insurance and automatically enrolls students in the USC health plan for a fee. Students with their own health care coverage that meets the university requirements can waive out of USC's plan.

If you are covered by a health insurance plan from your home country, it is important that you check with your plan about its coverage of medical care obtained in the U.S. Some health care providers in the U.S. are reluctant to bill foreign insurance companies. Instead, they expect to receive payment directly from patients, who in turn file a claim with their health insurer to get reimbursed afterwards. For more information visit:

<https://sites.usc.edu/ship/>

You should understand what is being covered in the insurance plan and make use of it. For instance, the HPV vaccine for female students is provided at no cost which is usually not the case in foreign countries.

If you wish to waive the USC Student Health Insurance plan, please visit:

<https://studenthealth.usc.edu/waiver-requirements/>.

The USC Student Health Insurance plan does not include your spouse and children. Here are some insurance companies recommended by IPPAM alumni with families:

- Aetna: <https://www.aetna.com/>
- Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield: <https://www.anthem.com/>
- ISO Health Insurance for international students: <https://www.isoa.org/>
- If your children are under the age of 19, they may be eligible for Medi-Cal: <https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/services/medi-cal/eligibility/Pages/SB75Children.aspx>

Your spouse and children may be eligible for the California Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC). For more information visit:

<https://www.benefits.gov/>

# Insurance

# Transportation

## PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

There are numerous public transport options available in Los Angeles: Metro rail, Metro bus and DASH. The official mobile apps of Transit and the Los Angeles Metro and Bus will help you to navigate on a map and to plan your trip.

For more information on Metro visit:

<https://www.metro.net/>

For information on the fares visit:

<https://www.metro.net/riding/fares/>

The DASH to Class program allows students to ride DASH for free:

<https://www.ladottransit.com/studentsridefree/>

The Graduate Student U-Pass Program offers you unlimited rides on Metro's rail and any bus line during the semester. Find out about the rates and availability:

<https://transnet.usc.edu/index.php/student-u-pass/>

You will need a car if you live far from the campus and if public transport is not adequate.

Before you find a car, here are some places where you can rent a car:

Priceline: <https://www.priceline.com/rentalcars/>

Kayak: <https://www.kayak.com/>

RentalCars: <https://www.rentalcars.com/>

Here is the California Driver Handbook for your reference. You might want to look up for some terminologies like Carpool, Express Lanes, Toll:

[https://www.dmv.ca.gov/web/eng\\_pdf/dl600.pdf](https://www.dmv.ca.gov/web/eng_pdf/dl600.pdf)

If you want to buy a car, take time to do research online and speak to dealers on good cars for a good price. It's always helpful to bring someone who is knowledgeable about cars and how they are sold in the U.S. with you to the dealer. The best option is to see if any IPPAMer is selling their car. The price for second hand cars in the U.S. are very reasonable. You will be surprised!

If you have a car, it's mandatory to have auto insurance. The most used car insurance companies by IPPAM students are listed here for your information:

- AAA: <https://www.calif.aaa.com/insurance/auto-insurance.html>
- Geico: <https://www.geico.com/>
- If you are a Costco member: <https://www.costco.com/auto-home-insurance-services.html>
- USC alumni also have arrangements with some insurance companies: <https://alumni.usc.edu/special-offers/>

It is important to remember that your international driver's license is only valid for a short time after arrival. You'll need a California Driver's License. You can obtain one at the DMV (there is one very close to USC!). You must have all the documents required. Make an appointment if possible. Otherwise, expect to spend 2 or more hours in line. For more information:

<https://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/driver-licenses-identification-cards/>



For more information on Toll and Express Lanes (FasTrak): <https://www.bayareafastrak.org/en/about/get-fastrak.shtml>

If you need to purchase a parking permit for the campus, check out the rates here: <https://transnet.usc.edu/index.php/parking-rates/>

The campus has charging stations for electric cars. The service is not free. For more information: <https://transnet.usc.edu/index.php/ev-charging/>

Remember: there is free Lyft between 6PM to 2AM everyday during spring and fall semesters!  
**Make use of it!**

## USC TRANSPORTATION

Also, USC Transportation provides a limited network of free buses throughout the year for students. Multiple routes service USC's main campus, the North University Park neighbourhood, the USC Parking Center as well as the USC Health Sciences Campus, Marina Del Rey ISI/ICT locations, Keck USC of Alhambra, and even Union Station. For more information, visit: <https://transnet.usc.edu/index>.



USC Village

# Schools

If you are coming to the U.S. with your children, this section will be important to you. The U.S. has a highly decentralized education system, each state is responsible for its own education systems. The primary and secondary education (K-12) is provided by school districts, these school districts run all the public schools within their jurisdictions and are often defined by the geographic boundaries of counties and municipalities. In this section we will talk about the education for your children. This table here gives you an idea of the U.S. education system.

Primary	Kindergarten (1 year)	Grade K (age 5)
	Elementary (5 years)	Grade 1-5 (ages 6-10)
Secondary	Middle School or Junior High School (3 years)	Grade 6-8 (ages 11-13)
	High School (4 years)	Grade 9-12 (ages 14-17)
Higher Education	College or University	Undergraduate (4 years) Graduate: Master Degree (1-2 years) Graduate: Doctorate Degree (4+ years)

For children between the ages of 0-5, you can send them to Daycare or Preschool. The After School program is for children after school.

In California, in addition to public schools, you have a choice of sending your children to private schools, magnet schools and charter schools. The first table on the next page shows you the difference between magnet and charter schools.

Bright Horizons at University Park (USC) provide care to children from infant to kindergarten: [https:// child- care -preschool.brighthouse .com/CA/Los Angeles/uscupc](https://child-care-preschool.brighthouse.com/CA/Los Angeles/uscupc)

If you want to see more on private schools, you can visit: <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/si/ps/index.asp>. Here you can find more on public schools: <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ds/si/ds/pubschls.asp>.

For more information please visit:

[https://psychology.fandom.com/wiki/Education\\_in\\_the\\_United\\_States](https://psychology.fandom.com/wiki/Education_in_the_United_States)

For your spouse, they are welcome to learn too! Here are some of the choices:

- Community colleges open admission for applicant with a high school diploma or its equivalent. The tuition is usually much less than universities. It is popular for people who wants to improve their skills and education.
- Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) offers sub-degree and certificate level programs in specific vocations.
- Adult School offers public education programs for people 18 and older. It is a good place for adult English classes. (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/ae/>)



	Magnet Schools	Charter Schools
Is it part of the public school system?	Yes	Yes
Can the school be for profit?	No. The same district administration and school board as public school operates the school.	Yes. Charter schools are public schools run by private entities (e.g. nonprofit, for-profit organizations)
Does the school need to be in the area where you reside?	No. A lottery system is used to admit students due to the high demand. Some offer boarding.	Yes.
Description	Magnet schools are schools that strive for high academic standards and may specialize in a particular area of study. The goal of magnet schools is to increase educational choices in geographic areas and to provide better educational opportunities to children of various socio-economic backgrounds, races, and academic achievement levels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Charter schools are technically public schools that receive tax money and private funding.</li> <li>- Charter schools adhere to standard state requirements for curriculum but have the freedom that most public schools do not have.</li> </ul>

IPPAM alumni have sent their children to the following schools and they liked it!

Name of School	School System	English as Second Language Program	Free Meal Program	After School Program	Safety	Comments
Olive Tree Learning Academy	Public pre-school	v	v	x	v	Good for Korean kids. Subsidies provided by CA government.
Repetto Elementary	Public pre-school	x	v	v	v	
Evans	Public pre-school	v	v	x	v	
Camino Grove Elementary	Public pre-school	v	x	v	Not sure	
Thomas Starr King Middle School	Public Magnet	v	v	v	v	
Myford	Public pre-school	v	x	v	v	Good ratios among races.
Hoover International	Public pre-school	x	v	x	v	Kids didn't like the free meal program.
Newton	Private pre-school	x	x	x	v	Good quality and good tuition.
Norwood Elementary	Public pre-school	v	v	v	v	

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# Money

Living costs vary and depend on the location and your lifestyle. It is helpful to look at the cost estimates on your I-20 because it is usually accurate for a modest lifestyle.

If you need to transfer money to the U.S. even before you arrive, you can remotely open an account with the USC Credit Union. For information visit: <https://www.usccreditunion.org/>.

If you are not in a hurry, it is OK to wait until you arrive to open an account. There is a Bank of America branch in USC Village. It is important that you work out how much money you will need in the first few weeks as it might take a few weeks to open a bank account and receive the money you are transferring from your home country. You should check with the bank in your home country if there is any currency exchange restrictions. In the US, there are no restrictions for non-citizens to take or send money for educational purposes.

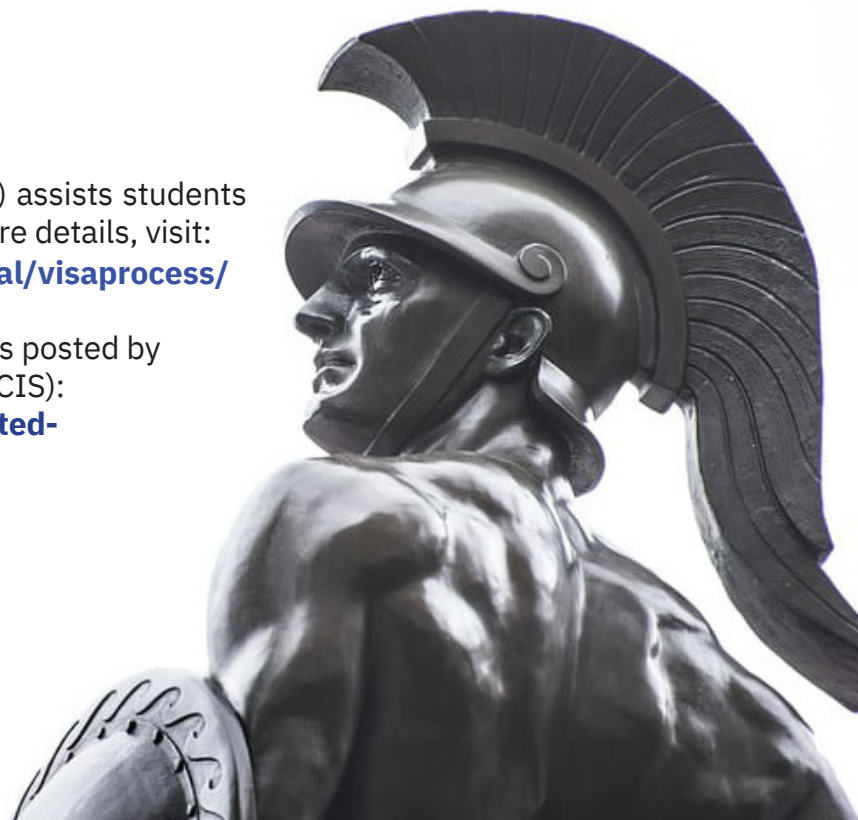
USC does not accept credit cards and debit cards for payment of tuition. For information visit: <https://sfs.usc.edu/updated-forms-of-payment/>

Digital payment methods in the U.S. include Venmo and Zelle (generally for transactions between friends).

# VISA

The USC Office of International Services (OIS) assists students with visa questions and related issues. For more details, visit: <https://ois.usc.edu/new-students/prearrival/visaprocess/>

Information about student visa requirements is posted by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS): <https://www.uscis.gov/working-in-the-united-states/students-and-exchange-visitors>



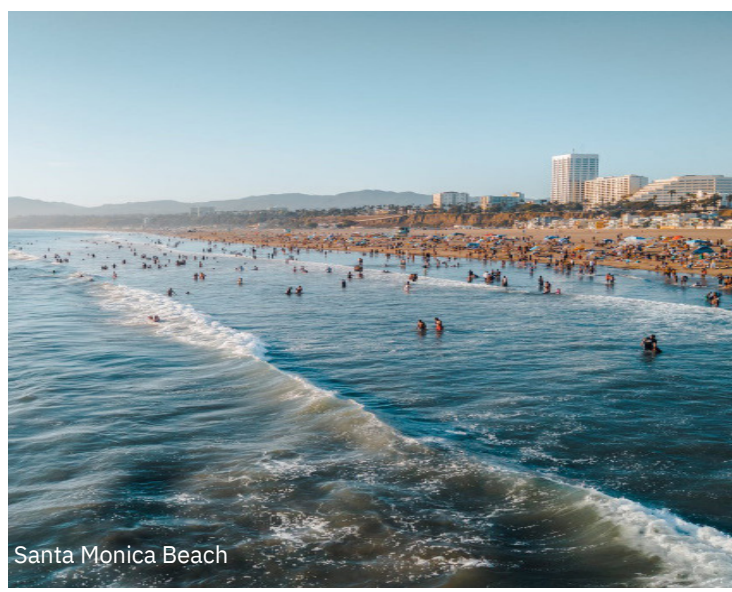




Walt Disney Concert Hall



"American Dreamers" by Shepard Fairey and Vhils



Santa Monica Beach



Los Angeles



Rose Bowl



Urban Light at LACMA





**IPPAM is a very special place**

During the course of your time with IPPAM, you will be invited for many academic related events, social events and cultural events. It is important that you attend these events because you will learn about other cultures, you will develop a network perhaps with the IPPAM alumni, students from other student organizations, or even an external guest speaker who happens to be the person finds you a job after graduate. When you receive the invitations, it is important that you RSVP so the IPPAM office can make sure there is enough of everything for everyone at the event. If something does come up and you cannot attend anymore, it is important that you send an email to cancel too.





# Etiquette & Social Customs

In the U.S., taxes are not added to the price you see on the tags. In California, a state tax of 9.5% is added to your final bill. There are states without sales tax, including Oregon, Alaska, Delaware, Montana, and New Hampshire if you need to do big shopping.

Tipping may not be part of your culture. It is however expected when certain services are provided in the U.S. Examples of these services include when you go to a restaurant, hairdresser or barber and when you drive with Lyft or Uber. Although the percentage tipped is discretionary, it is generally between 10% to 20% of the charges on your bill (excluding tax).

When you purchase water or soda in plastic or glass bottles, there is a 10 cent fee per container to encourage recycling. The fee can be redeemed at recycling centers.

It is normal when a good friend or even a recent acquaintance gives you a hug upon meeting you.

Do not get offended when you don't get much of a reply when you ask "How are you?"

It is common to use "Mr.," "Mrs.," "Miss," "Ms.," or "Professor" with a family name, but not a person's given name. For example, if you meet someone whose name is Rebecca Lin, you would call her "Ms. Lin" and not "Ms. Rebecca." However, IPPAM professors with long or hyphenated family names make an exception and have you call them by their given name.

Americans are friendly and may greet you even if they don't know you.

The "comfort zone" in every culture is different. Do not be offended if someone backs away from you slightly when you speak to them.

Americans in general welcome people to their homes, and will be happy if you accept their invitations. However, if they end the conversation with "Let's find a time to meet", "Come to my house for coffee if you are in the area", they might just be polite. A meet up is not confirmed if it does not have a date and time.

Americans tend to be punctual. If you agree to meet, be there on time. If you are going to be late or not going to make it is important that you call to reschedule or cancel. This applies to IPPAM events too.

In the classroom and meetings, you will hear Americans speak up when they have a question or some thoughts to share. It is good that you speak up too. Professors in the U.S. encourage two-way communication. They expect students to be vocal in class.

If you need something, be straightforward. You will never get what you don't ask for!

Readings for fun:

<https://usahello.org/life-in-usa/culture/american-values/> <https://uucsj.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/L-Robert-Kohl-The-Values-Americans-Live-By.>

# Before Departure...

Remember to have the following documents with you in your carry-on bag, not in your check-in luggage:

- Valid passport with at least six months validity beyond your entry date and the non immigrant (F-1 or J-1) visa placed inside your passport by a consular officer of a U.S. Embassy or Consulate
- Certificate of Eligibility (I-20 for those with an F-1 visa or DS-2019 for those with a J-1 visa)
- Arrival-Departure Record (I-94 form). You can find it here: <https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/#/home>  
Remember an I-94 expires after three months
- A small amount of U.S. cash and a credit card if you have one
- Insurance card
- Letter of admission and other important documents from USC
- Important addresses and telephone numbers
- International driver's license if you have one
- It is also a good idea to bring an official copy of your birth certificate, as this may be requested when applying for various forms of identification and other documents in the U.S. If you are married and your spouse will accompany you, bring a copy of your marriage certificate or other proof of marriage. Be sure to obtain notarized translations of these certificates if they are not in English.
- Be prepared for both immigration and customs inspections, with all documents ready for the officials
- Do not bring something that you can easily get in the U.S. You have limited weight for your luggage.



**Do more than just study!  
When are you going to  
live in LA again!? Live it!**

If you are only here for 2 years, you should make use of the opportunity to learn about the American culture, try western food, be friends with people who speak languages other than your own.

Always keep in touch with the alums, especially The ones from your own country. You'll be amazed by how helpful they can be!

If you are not big in cooking, USC has meal plans for you. Check out the Hospitality website. Remember to try the USC waffles at the Parkside Restaurant and Grill near the Viterbi School. Also, have fun at the Farmer's Market on Wednesdays! You have to have the Pad Thai and fresh strawberries! By the way my favorite place at USC is the Hoose Library.

# Words from IPPAM Alumni

**Safety is the most important thing to consider; get involved with IPPAM activities; keep an eye on other activities/seminars held by the Price School; enjoy the school life. You will miss it!**

LA is big, so there are a lot of things you can discover. Don't just stay in your comfort zone.

The American culture is extremely diverse and complex. Having a culture shock is normal. If you feel homesick that's ok too. But I promise that you'll start loving LA, the new environment, new lifestyle and new friends! If you ever need to talk to someone, the IPPAM office always welcomes you. I know because I have been there!

Finding a house can be difficult but spend time searching for options, because usually the lease agreements are at least 1 year long, so it is a commitment you are making! You don't want end up living in the place you are not comfortable with for a year.



**Rym Kaki, Ph.D.**  
Director, IPPAM



**Rosana Padilla, Ed.D.**  
Academic and Student  
Services Advisor, IPPAM



**Ann Abrahamyan**  
Business Manager, IPPAM



**Aman Azadany**  
GECE Project Specialist



**International Public Policy and Management Program  
3518 Trousdale Parkway, DMC 253  
Sol Price School of Public Policy  
University of Southern California  
Los Angeles, CA 90089-0041  
USA**

**Telephone : +1 213 740 0547  
Email: ippam@usc.edu**

**Life in LA with IPPAM  
Spring 2024**



IPPAM 24 Graduates

# USC Price

*International Public Policy  
and Management Program*