

International Programs



Welcome



Welcome to San Diego State University
Global Campus—
Where the World Comes to Learn



Table of Contents

At **SDSU Global Campus**, we believe that **education transcends borders and transforms lives**. As an integral part of **San Diego State University—an R1 research institution ranked among the top 5% of universities in the U.S.** for research activity—we are committed to fostering global connections, academic excellence, professional skills, and lifelong learning.

For more than **50 years**, our **American Language Institute (ALI)** has been at the forefront of international education, empowering over **50,000** students from **150+ countries** to achieve their academic and professional goals. Through immersive language learning, our **Semester at SDSU** experience for international students, and innovative **GlobalFlex** and **IMPact programs**, we continue to be a top choice for learners worldwide.

San Diego is more than just a destination—it’s a **lifestyle**. With more than **120 kilometers of stunning coastline, year-round sunshine**, and a **thriving cultural scene**, it’s the perfect place to **learn, explore, and grow**. Whether you’re here to **improve your English, pursue a degree, or advance your career**, you’ll be part of a dynamic, inclusive community that supports your success.

Join us at **SDSU Global Campus**, where a **world-class education**, a **vibrant international network**, and the **San Diego experience** await you.

Wherever you’re from, whatever your goals, your future starts here. **Welcome to SDSU Global Campus.**

Ian Gibson, Dean, SDSU Global Campus

Thrive in San Diego	4	GlobalFlex Master of Science in Computer Engineering	16
Study at San Diego State University	6	Access to SDSU Global Campus Educational Offerings	17
Student Life at SDSU	8	Online Degrees	17
Learn at SDSU	10	Online Certificates	17
American Language Institute (ALI)	12	Career Academy by Coursera	17
English Language Programs	12	What Our Students Say	18
SDSU Conditional Admission Programs.....	13		
English in Action Class	13		
University Credit Programs	14		
Semester at SDSU	14		
Summer at SDSU	15		
Winter and Summer Session.....	15		



Thrive in San Diego

A Big City With A Bigger Heart

San Diego has been ranked as the **#1 most fun place to live in the U.S** (U.S. News & World Report 2021) and the **No. 2 Best Big City in America** (Conde Nast 2023 and 2024). The natural beauty and friendly people attract **more than 30 million visitors from around the world** each year, making San Diego one of the top U.S. travel destinations.



Cultural
Events



Beautiful
City



Friendly
People



Amazing
Weather



Thriving
International
Businesses



Fun
Nightlife



High Safety
Ranking



DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO &
CORONADO BRIDGE

San Diego Attractions

San Diego: A Wide Variety to See and Do

- **Beautiful Beaches:** more than 100 km to explore
- **San Diego Zoo:** world famous home of hundreds of species
- **Theme Parks:** Sea World, San Diego Safari Park, & Legoland
- **Concert Venues:** attracting the world's biggest artists
- **Hit the Water:** surfing and other water activities
- **Balboa Park:** a cultural center home to nearly 20 museums
- **Pro Sports:** baseball, football/soccer, lacrosse, hockey
- **Hike & Explore:** Torrey Pines Reserve, La Jolla Cove, & more

Sun Diego

Average Temperatures

20°C
Spring

24°C
Summer

21°C
Fall

18°C
Winter

Nearby Destinations

🚗 Los Angeles 2 hours	🚗 Disneyland 2 hours
🚗 Mexico 30 minutes	✈️ San Francisco 2 hours
🚗 Airport 30 minutes	🚗 Ski resorts 3 hours
🚗 Downtown 30 minutes	🚗 Yosemite 6 hours
✈️ Las Vegas 1 hour	🚗 Joshua Tree 3 hours

Southern California

The Pacific Ocean

Study at San Diego State University

Located in sunny coastal **Southern California**, San Diego State University is a global learning community and an ideal place for students to begin their **international education**. With record-breaking applications in recent years, **SDSU has achieved R1 status**, signifying its place among the **top 5% of institutions in the United States** and a dedication to excellence in **research, innovation, and education**.

LOCATION Surrounded by beautiful scenery, SDSU offers various outdoor activities and cultural experiences. On-campus transportation connects SDSU to various San Diego destinations.

SAFETY According to FBI data, San Diego is one of the top 5 safest big cities in the U.S., and SDSU's on-campus police department provides security for students 24 hours per day.

VIBRANT AND DIVERSE CAMPUS SDSU offers a wide range of student organizations, events, and activities for international students, providing plenty of opportunities to get involved and immersed in an American campus.

CAREER SERVICES With ties to various industries, career fairs and professional networking events are held often on campus during the semester.

STUDENT SUPPORT From academic and career advising to student life and activities, SDSU provides a strong support system to help international students adjust to life in San Diego and on campus.



2,900 KM OF
SAN DIEGO BIKEWAYS



Family Testimonial



"I studied at the **ALI in 1982**, and **I still use my English skills** in my dental practice today. The **ALI is the best**. My three kids started here 8 months ago and now are talking in English so easily. **Wow**. The answer is here!" **Guillermo | Father | Mexico**

"Now I understand why my father told me, '**Go and study at the ALI and experience.**' I know now **you have to live it.**" **Habib | Son | Mexico**



Student Life at SDSU

A Vibrant Campus

San Diego State University is truly a **global learning community** and an ideal place for students to begin their international education. Getting involved in activities beyond the classroom can help students **connect with new friends, learn new skills, and contribute to the campus and community.**

- **A Lively Campus:** more than 37,000 students
- **Free to Join:** more than 300 student clubs & organizations
- **Conversation Groups:** practice English with native speakers
- **Year-round Access:** on-campus events
- **Free:** student tickets to all SDSU sports events
- **Events:** Aztec Nights and other welcome events first month of the fall and spring semester
- **Play Sports:** intramural sport teams to join with American students
- **Surfing & Water Sports:** for credit or for fun



SAN DIEGO BAY CRUISE STUDENT ACTIVITY



SDSU AQUAPLEX

SDSU ID Card Benefits

International students receive the **same ID card** as students enrolled in full degree programs. Students enjoy all that the campus has to offer with an official **SDSU ID card**, including:

- **Free:** gym & pool membership (full-time students)
- **Access:** Student Health Center
- **SDSU Library:** 24-hour access
- **Discounts on:** local attractions & theme parks, public transportation, local shops & restaurants

Student Services

International students in our programs receive the following **services from our dedicated team members at no extra cost:**

- Application assistance and immigration advising
- English program placement test
- New student orientation
- Academic advising
- Homework tutoring
- Housing assistance

Housing

Our international students live in a variety of housing, including **on-campus apartments, off-campus apartments, house shares and homestays.**

- **On-Campus Apartments:** available on a limited basis for fall and spring semesters
- **Off-Campus Housing:** information and resources are provided to our students
- **Homestay:** a popular option, where students live with a local host family
- **Living Expenses:** approximately \$1,500-\$2,200 USD per month (based on shared room accommodation)
- **Average Costs:** The average rent of a two- or three-bedroom apartment or house in San Diego is between \$3,000-\$4,500 USD per month

ali.sdsu.edu/housing



Learn at SDSU

Program	Purpose	Minimum length of study	Maximum length of study	Visa	English Proficiency score required?
Intensive English for Communication – Full-Time (IEC)	Learn & improve English skills for personal or professional reasons	4 weeks	2.5 years	F-1	no
Intensive English for Communication) – Part-Time (IEC 12- or 15-hour)	Learn & improve English skills for personal or professional reasons	4 weeks	2.5 years	ESTA or B1/B2	no
English for Academic Purposes (EAP)	Prepare for a degree program at a U.S. university	1 semester	5 semesters	F-1	no
Undergraduate Pathway Program (UPP)	Earn university credits toward an SDSU undergraduate degree program while completing English proficiency requirement	1 semester	3 semesters	F-1	yes
Semester at SDSU	Earn credits by taking SDSU classes and transfer credits	1 semester	2 semesters	F-1	yes
GlobalFlex	Earn a Master of Computer Science degree	3 semesters	1 semester online study 2 semesters at SDSU 3 years of OPT	F-1	yes
Online Degree Programs & Certificates	Earn an SDSU degree or professional certificate	varies	varies	no visa required	no
SDSU Career Academy	Earn microcredentials in workforce skills	varies	varies	no visa required	no



Over 50 Years of Excellence

For over 50 years, the American Language Institute has provided English-language training to **thousands of students** from around the world. Learners can expect:

- **Face-to-face:** classes led by English-speaking instructors
 - **Immersation:** robust U.S. culture activities schedule
- **Flexible:** multiple programs and start dates
 - **International Exposure:** interaction with students from around the world (12 different countries on average)

Sample schedule of a week of curriculum.

Time	Mon & Wed	Tue & Thu	Fri
9–10:15 a.m.	Practical Speaking Skills	Communication Practice	English in Action
	US Culture, Vocabulary, and Pronunciation	Speaking and Presentations	
	IELTS/TOEFL Preparation	Research Writing	
10:30–11:45 a.m.	Listening & Speaking	Grammar	English in Action
	Academic Listening & Speaking	Academic Grammar	
1–2:15 p.m.	Writing	Reading	none
	Academic Writing	Academic Reading	
2:30–3:15 p.m.	Tutoring & Academic Support*	Tutoring & Academic Support*	none
2:30–3:45 p.m.	University Success	none	none

English Language Programs

Intensive English for Communication (IEC) for those who want to improve their English skills for personal or professional reasons

- **11 Start Dates:** per year
 - **Seven Levels:** from beginner to advanced
- **Four or More:** weeks of instruction
 - **12-21 Hours:** per week of classroom instruction

English for Academic Purposes (EAP) for students planning to apply for a degree program at a U.S. university

- **Three start dates per year:** January, May, and August
 - **Seven Levels:** from beginner to advanced
- **Semesters:** 12 weeks in summer, 16 weeks in fall or spring
 - Earn a TOEFL waiver to apply to SDSU

SDSU Conditional Admission Programs

Academically eligible students can **receive guaranteed admission to SDSU** through Undergraduate Conditional Admission programs.

Undergraduate Pathway Program (UPP) for those interested in earning SDSU credits toward an undergraduate degree program while completing English proficiency requirements.

- **Start dates:** January and August
 - Take classes for credit, while simultaneously taking English skills and university preparation classes
- Academic advising, workshops, and tutoring
 - **Admission Requirement:** High School Grade Point Average (GPA) 3.0/4.0 (75% or above)

English for Academic Purposes (EAP) with Conditional Admission to SDSU for students planning to apply to attend SDSU for an undergraduate degree.

Undergraduate Pathway Program Tracks

	Track A	Track B	Track C
Minimum English Proficiency	TOEFL 71-79	TOEFL 61-70	TOEFL 49-60
	IELTS 6.0	IELTS 5.5	IELTS 5.0
	Duolingo 95-100	Duolingo 85-90	Duolingo 80
SDSU Credit Courses	Up to 12 units/ semester	Up to 9 units/ semester	Up to 6 units/ semester

English in Action Class

This multi-level, interactive class allows students to practice English in an authentic language environment. Learning activities occur both in and out of the classroom, and rotate regularly. Topics may include:



World Culture



Art



Business



Movies



Music



Health



Technology



University Credit Programs

Semester at SDSU

International students can **earn university credits by taking SDSU classes** during the fall or spring, for one or two semesters. Students can **transfer these credits back to their home universities** upon completion of the programs. This program is open to gap-year students, college students (bachelor or master), as well as working professionals.

- **Qualification:** Students may qualify with TOEFL 64, IELTS 5.5, or Duolingo 95 scores, or pass an academic class taught in English at their home institution
- **Full-Time Study:** required: 12 undergraduate units or 9 graduate units
- **Academic Variety:** Choose from more than 3,000 classes in more than 80 different academic fields

Certificates are available in a variety of disciplines under the **Semester at SDSU program**, including:

- **Business** Certificate
- **Communication** Certificate
- **Business Engineering** Certificate
- **Entertainment** Management Certificate
- **Environmental** Studies Certificate
- **Hospitality, Tourism, & Recreation** Management Certificate
- **International Media** Certificate
- **Sustainable Tourism** Certificate

For classes offered in each semester, please visit sdsu.edu/schedule for details.



Summer at SDSU

International students can **attend SDSU and earn transferable university** credits in our **accelerated summer session**.

- **Qualification:** Students may qualify with TOEFL 64 or IELTS 5.5 scores, other approved English exams, or pass an academic class taught in English at their home institutions
- **Options:** choose from Summer Session 1, or Summer Session 2, or both
- **Full-Time Study:** required: 6 units in each summer session (in-person classes)

Through **Summer at SDSU**, we are piloting the **Qualcomm 5G Digital Communication Certificate** in summer 2025. A unique and comprehensive program designed to equip students with the skills and knowledge necessary to excel in the rapidly growing field of **5G technology**.

Please contact us at semester.ces@sdsu.edu for more details.

Winter and Summer Session

Enroll in SDSU classes and **earn university credits remotely** during the winter or summer break. SDSU offers a number of **virtual classes** on an accelerated schedule that allows learners to **fast-track their education**.

- **Earn:** official SDSU credits and transcripts
- **Schedule:** Accelerated completion time
- **Format:** online modality provides more access and flexibility

Class offerings and availability vary each term. Please contact semester.ces@sdsu.edu for the latest information.

CLASSROOMS STORM HALL

Popular Areas of Study for Semester at SDSU Students

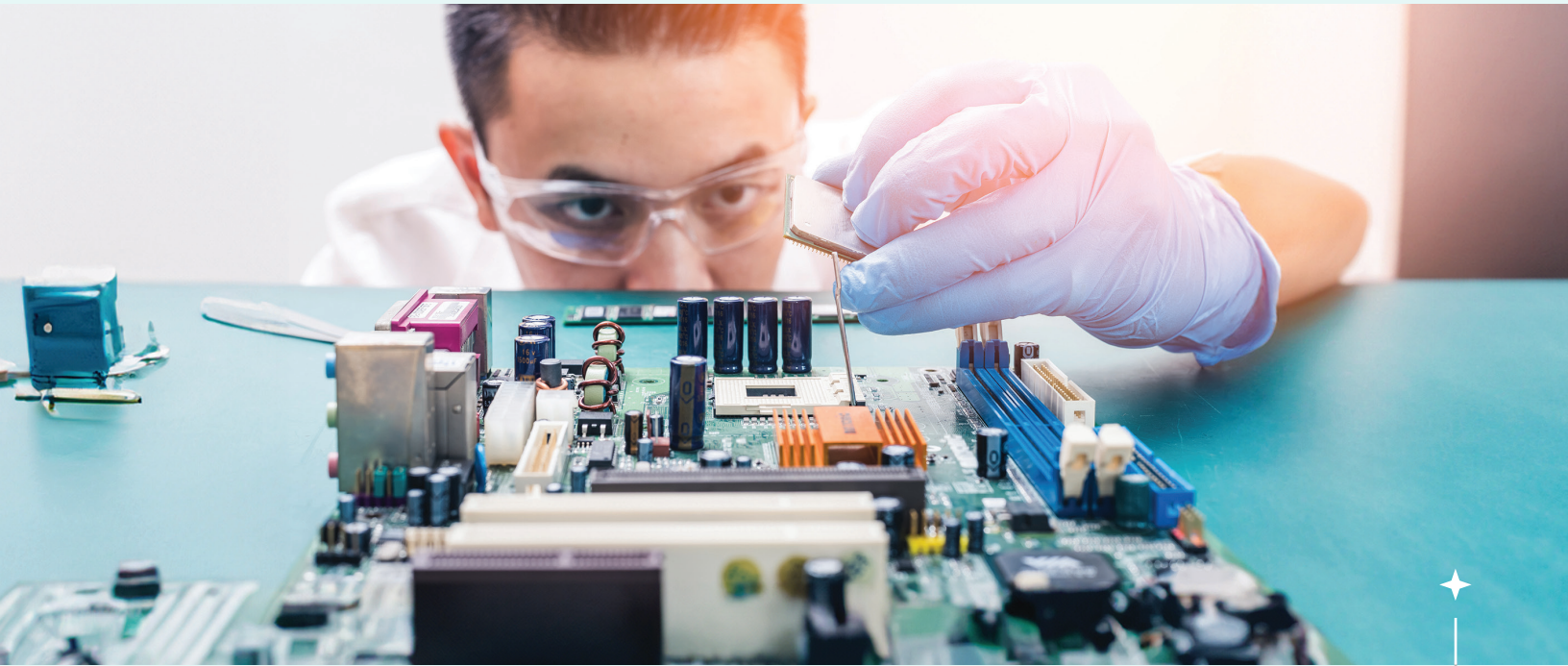
- International Business
- Engineering
- Criminal Justice
- Computer Science
- Hospitality & Tourism Management
- Accounting
- Management
- Journalism and Media Studies
- Communication
- Marketing
- Management Information System
- Business Administration
- Economics
- Television, Film, and New Media



Experience the Best of Both Worlds

The **GlobalFlex Master of Science in Computer Engineering** provides the convenience of completing the first semester remotely, using the SDSU learning platform, while interacting with **renowned faculty members of SDSU's Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering**. The second and third semesters are completed **on campus at SDSU**.

- **Minimum program completion time:** three semesters
- **Units:** 30 units to graduate (9 classes and one final project)
- GRE, LOR, SOP not required
- **Scholarships:** Merit-based scholarships are available
- Receive the same degree as the traditional, in-person program
- Three-year OPT eligible
- **Future Potential:** Average annual starting salary of approximately \$90K



Admissions

Apply to SDSU online at **CalStateApply** and upload all required documents

- Transcripts of all the semesters of bachelor's degree coursework to be emailed to **documents.global@sdsu.edu**
- **Required:** TOEFL 80 or IELTS 6.5, unless English is the language of instruction in the undergraduate degree program
- Degree certificate/Provisional degree certificate
- **Suggested GPA:** 3.0 / 4.0

Open to students with a 3-year bachelor's degree in **Computer Application** and related fields.

globalcampus.sdsu.edu/globalflex

Access to the SDSU Global Campus Educational Offerings

International students can also complete an SDSU degree online from their home country. Courses are offered virtually with a number of graduate degrees, professional certificates, and microcredentials/badges available.



Online Degrees, All Taught by Renowned SDSU Faculty

- **Master of Science:** Electrical Engineering
- **Master of Science:** Big Data Analytics
- **Master of Science:** Computer Engineering
- **Master of Science:** Regulatory Affairs
- **Master of Public Health:** Epidemiology
- **Master of Public Health:** Health Promotion and Behavioral Science
- **Bachelor of Science:** Public Health
- **Bachelor of Science:** Business Administration
- **Bachelor of Science:** Communication
- **Bachelor of Science:** Criminal Justice
- **Bachelor of Arts:** Economics

Online Certificates

- **Certificate:** Contract Management
- **Certificate:** Project Management
- **Certificate:** Lean Six Sigma
- **Certificate:** Qualcomm Associate-level 5G Certification

Career Academy by Coursera

SDSU Global Campus offers students access to **Career Academy** by Coursera, a global online learning platform designed to help learners—especially students and job seekers—prepare for in-demand careers **without needing prior experience**.

The platform provides **access to professional certificates and badges** from top companies such as **Google, IBM, Meta, Salesforce, Intuit, Microsoft**, and more. With hands-on projects and skills-based learning, students can prepare for career pathways in fields such as: **data analytics, IT support, UX/UI design, project management, cybersecurity, digital marketing**, and more. Upon successful completion, learners earn an **industry-recognized certificate to be added to a resume and/or LinkedIn profile**.

What Our Students Say



“ALI was more than just a stepping stone in my academic journey—it was a **transformative experience** in my personal growth. I gained **invaluable insights** into college life, from **navigating classes** to **understanding professors’ expectations**. I still remember how **every teacher at ALI prepared us** for the challenges ahead, **guiding us** through each turning point we would face in our college years.” – **Seba** | Kuwait



“I’ve been studying English here because I want to be a pilot in Japan. There are **so many students here of different backgrounds**. When I am in class, I learn not only English, but many **different cultures**. The **teachers are so kind**, and I can feel free to ask any questions, any time.” – **Jin** | Japan



“I’m so excited about **English in Action!** I’d never heard of a class like this before, but this was an **amazing experience**. We **learn new information and then we practice it**. I recommend that everyone take this class because I noticed **how much it improved my English**.” – **Artyom** | Kazakhstan



“**Ever since I was a kid**, I used to tell my parents that I dreamed of coming to the U. S., that I wanted to study here. When I heard about **GlobalFlex**, I thought **‘this is my chance, I have to take it.’**” – **Parshav** | India





SAN DIEGO MISSION BEACH

Visit our website

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