

For the first time in the BBA exchange history, the University of California at Santa Barbara

I have no idea why it never really existed an exchange student from our BBA to the UCSB. Although a lot of BE students went there for exchange, it is like a whole new world for BBA students. Go to Santa Barbara and you will find that Santa Barbara is one of the most wonderful places to go!



Santa Barbara (SB) is a nice small city of only 2 hours driving distance from Los Angeles (LA). It also has a convenient municipal airport but both flying and driving will take around the same time. Attend the international students orientation and you will meet loads of international student including exchange students from all around the world. It was indeed a very warm welcome from UCSB staffs. Moreover, you may win some prizes along the line of food and drinks or even a bicycle. Believe me, bicycles will make your life at UCSB a lot easier. Everyone tends to have either a bicycle (or a skateboard) to cruise around the campus. It is extremely convenient and you will have a 99.99% chance of buying one.

Regarding the place to stay, UCSB offers many dorms and apartments on campus. Non-university-owned places are also available next to school in a community called Isla Vista (IV). If you are the type that "going party" is one of your basic needs, then read no further on this paragraph. IV, especially Del Playa or DP will be your answer... Anyway, all the dorms are located inside the campus and university owned apartments are next to the campus. Normally the people who live in a dorm are either freshmen or sophomore. Meal plans have to be purchased since all the dorms do not have cooking tools. Others stay in an apartment or in Isla Vista. From our own experience, university owned apartment is the best choice around, particularly an apartment complex called Santa Ynez for undergraduate students. Though if for somehow you ever manage to get in a graduate housing called San Clemente, letting it go will immediately mark the word stupid on your head! It is the best of the bests!



IV life is definitely interesting as it is a small town full of UCSB students. Not to mention that our campus is right next to the BEACHES! There are IV beach that lies along Del Playa, Goleta beach that is located just next to UCSB's famous Henley gate and you can even go to downtown ones. Goleta beach is well known to be a place for some nice barbeque parties. If you are a person who loves relaxing beach atmosphere, UCSB is just the place for you! Don't forget to wake up early someday and run to campus point or bike to Goleta beach just in time for sunrise!



It is totally worth it. Also, you can grab your mat and bike to the Coal oil point in our west campus for a beautiful sunset (guaranteed by all visitors). Be sure to go there an hour ahead of both the sunrise and sunset time and you will see how stunning California sky can be especially when it's changing colors. IV also has a lot of good food and most of them open until late hours or even never close at all! Our favorite places are FREEBIRDS, Silver green, and Woodstock Pizza.



Groceries shopping is simple. You have Costco, Albertson's, Vons, Indo China Market, and some other local convenient stores. Although Costco is the cheapest one around, you need to pay for membership and will have to buy in a bigger lot. If many of you are going together, share for the membership fee and go shopping together to reduce your expenses. This can be really helpful, trust us. And if you somehow want to get Asian spices or ingredients, stop by at Indo China Market and they should have most of the spices

you may need without the need to go down to LA. Some of you might like organic food. You can get them at the IV food co-op. They even offer fresh peanut or almond butter that will go really well with your bread.

On the academic side, all the UC campuses use the quarter system as opposed to our semester system. Each quarter consists of a period of 10 weeks including mid-term and final exams. Each quarter will go by extremely fast especially when you take classes with 2 mid-term exams. This is normally the case for accounting or finance major people. So plan your schedule well since you will likely need to study continuously! ... Class registrations are done online on a system called GOLD on a first-come first-serve basis. You will have to inform the department of classes you wish to take prior to your registration period so that all those classes are cleared for any prerequisites you may have trouble with. Do not wait too long

because there might be tons of people competing to get in the same class as you. After the class is full, you will then need to “crash” into the room and tell the teacher directly. In a normal situation, you should be able to get in unless the classroom is physically full. Play safe by telling the department early and you should never have such a problem.

Now we will turn to topics like places to visit and things to do while in Santa Barbara. Transportation within Santa Barbara and even to some cities close by is totally easy and convenient. Only by being a student of UCSB, all the bus fares are fully subsidized. Show your UCSB ID card with a registration sticker placed on it and you will never ever pay for a metro ride. Downtown is a great place to go hang out,



do some shopping, or to dine out and reachable from UCSB within 15 minutes by taking bus number 24X. Yogurt Land and Pink Berry are our favorite yogurt refreshments.

While in California, it is absolutely 100% sure that you will want to go to big cities like LA and San Francisco. A car rental service called Enterprise always waives the underage driver fee for any UCSB student under 25 but over 21. Plus they may have 50% discount for you if you are doing a weekend rent! So our advice is to

check out the promotions they may have and then you can enjoy any trip within California with a really low cost! Oh, keep in mind that there is only one certain branch of Enterprise on Hollister Road that will charge you 0 underage fee. Make sure that you are dealing with this branch.

People who are of the night owl type will probably enjoy life at UCSB the most. It is also known as the 2nd ranked party school in the U.S. There is even a group on Facebook, “The most intelligent party school of the nation”, as a guarantee.



Enjoy your stay in UCSB as much as you want. You will never find it the same as anywhere else in this whole world!!!

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