Intensive English Program

Your Bridge to a True American University Experience —

IN LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA
Why California State University, Northridge (CSUN)?

Located in the heart of Los Angeles, CSUN is one of California’s largest and most respected public universities. And for many international students, it’s the starting point of their exciting L.A. adventure.

Picture yourself here, taking classes a few minutes from Hollywood, Santa Monica and the beach. Imagine going to school in the land of palm trees and year-round sunshine, in a city known for its legendary entertainment industry, booming tech sector and thriving business community.

At CSUN, all that – and much, much more – can be yours. Because being here isn’t just an education; it’s a lifestyle.

CSUN DISTINCTIONS

**Enrollment**: 40,000+

**International students**: 3,000+

**Accreditation**: Western Association of Schools & Colleges (WASC)

**Rankings Include**: Top 25 Film & Music Schools in the U.S.; among the nation’s best part-time MBA programs; more than five years on Princeton Review’s list of “Best Business Schools” and more

**Degree programs**: bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees in more than 200 fields
L.A. Up Close

- Study in a city known for its fun, exciting entertainment
  - Universal Studios
  - Disneyland
  - The Hollywood Bowl

- World-class museums
  - The Getty Museum
  - LACMA
  - The Broad
  - Griffith Observatory

- Big-city lifestyle
  - Venice Beach
  - Hollywood
  - Rodeo Drive

- Booming global economy
  - Downtown Los Angeles (DTLA)
  - Silicon Beach
The Pathway to Opportunity

For many international students, the Intensive English Program (IEP) is only the beginning of their academic adventure. Upon graduating, students enter the world with excellent English skills and rich professional ability. This makes IEP graduates attractive to university programs as well as to employers in the U.S. and around the globe.

Many IEP graduates go on to earn degrees at the university — bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral. Some enroll in the Semester at CSUN (SAC) program. Others simply return home to take classes and programs online through CSUN’s Open University.

Whatever path the student chooses, a world of opportunity awaits.

“The IEP was a tremendous help as I pursued my education. After finishing, I went on to complete my graduate studies in the USA and earn my master’s.”

– Ali Alahmari, Saudi Arabia
Intensive English Program

The IEP is a year-round, on-campus program that provides international students with outstanding English-language instruction. That includes lessons on reading, writing, speaking, listening, grammar, vocabulary and more.

Through academic, cultural and technology-supported studies, IEP prepares international students to enroll in U.S. universities, thrive in business and advance in their careers.

CSUN’s widely-recognized IEP offers an authentic university experience with

- on-campus courses
- small class sizes (typically 15 to 18 students)
- state-of-the-art language laboratories
- experienced faculty with advanced degrees
Features of IEP

The IEP teaches university-level learning skills – like critical thinking and research – needed to succeed in degree programs at CSUN or other American colleges and universities. All IEP courses are taught by highly-qualified faculty with graduate degrees.

Other program benefits include

- TOEFL waiver*
- Option to Take University Classes (TUC)**
- Official on-campus TOEFL and TOEIC exam center
- And much, much more

The IEP is offered year-round with 5 start dates: spring, spring mid-entry, summer, fall, and fall mid-entry. Students typically enroll for 16 weeks (equivalent to a semester) and attend classes 20 hours per week. Other session options include 8 and 24 weeks.

*The TOEFL Waiver Option is available to students who apply for conditional admission to the university and complete the university bridge levels of the program with a minimum GPA of 3.0. Students completing University Bridge A in all courses are eligible for an undergraduate TOEFL Waiver and students completing University Bridge B are eligible for a graduate TOEFL waiver.

**Students at Academic Skills 3 or higher can Take University Classes (TUC) for CSUN credit. This feature enables eligible students to begin working on their undergraduate or graduate degrees while they’re still enrolled in the IEP.

“After one semester of studying in the IEP, I successfully transferred to CSUN and earned my Bachelor of Science in Finance three years later. I then went on to get my MBA at CSUN.”

– Fengyu Cao, China
Students who receive a TOEFL waiver have an average GPA of 3.6 upon completing their degree.

Students are placed in one of the following levels based on a placement assessment:

- **Foundation A and B (beginner)**
  Basic academic skills for students who need to build English language competency in listening/speaking, reading, writing and grammar necessary to progress in the IEP.

- **Academic Skills 1-5 (intermediate)**
  Core skills for university preparation in professional presentations, academic writing, the research paper and critical reading.

- **University Bridge A and B (advanced)**
  Academic, pre-university skills that provide a smooth transition to undergraduate and graduate degree programs. Upon completion, qualified students can receive a TOEFL waiver* for undergraduate and graduate studies.

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<tr>
<th>IEP LEVELS</th>
<th>TOEFL</th>
<th>IELTS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foundation A/B</td>
<td>0–24</td>
<td>0–3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Academic Skills 1</td>
<td>25–34</td>
<td>3–4.5</td>
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<td>Academic Skills 2</td>
<td>35–39</td>
<td>4.5–5</td>
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<td>40–49</td>
<td>5–5.5</td>
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<td>Academic Skills 5</td>
<td>60–69</td>
<td>6–6.5</td>
</tr>
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<td>6.5–7.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University Bridge B</td>
<td>86–101</td>
<td>7.5–9</td>
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From IEP to University Degree

Transitioning from the IEP into a CSUN degree program is easy.

Many IEP students choose the program’s Conditional Admission plan. This option pre-approves students for admission to degree programs even before they meet CSUN’s English-language proficiency requirements. That way, once they achieve proficiency — or receive a TOEFL waiver* — they can quickly enter their desired degree program. Interested students must apply to both the Intensive English Program (IEP) with Conditional Admission and to the CSUN degree program.

“When I started my bachelor’s degree, it was much easier than I expected because of all the skills that I learned in the IEP.”

– Saud Ahmed Alnowairah, Saudi Arabia

CSUN’s English-Language Proficiency Admission Requirements

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<tr>
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<th>Undergraduate</th>
<th>Graduate*</th>
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<tr>
<td>iBT TOEFL</td>
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<tr>
<td>IELTS</td>
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<tr>
<td>PTE Academic</td>
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*NOTE: Some graduate programs may require a higher TOEFL/IELTS scores. Reference the program requirements in the university catalog (catalog.csun.edu).

tsengcollege.csun.edu/programs/IPP/IEP/IEPCA/programrequirements
Additional English Programs

English Language and Cultural Experience (ELCE)

This short-term opportunity improves English-language proficiency and knowledge of American culture. Over the course of three weeks, the program combines classroom learning with recreational activities on and around campus, such as pool parties, shopping, dining at local restaurants and visits to museums and exhibitions.

ELCE is open to groups and individual students. On-campus housing and facilities are available. All students receive a certificate of participation at the end of the program.

Custom-Designed Programs for English

The IEP also designs and hosts customized short-term (two-week to year-long) programs for groups from around the world. This highly-flexible option offers group-based English-language courses for a wide range of interests — personal, professional and academic. In recent years, these programs have been offered in areas such as

- English for Business
- English for Healthcare
- TEFL Training
- TOEFL Boot Camp
Student Support

The IEP provides personal support services to ensure students have a positive living experience in Los Angeles. New students start IEP with an orientation about the program, the university and life abroad. This is followed by a fun-filled “Welcome to L.A.” tour.

In addition to each week’s 20 hours of intensive English study, IEP students can also enroll in supplemental Activity Program classes. Offered at no additional cost, these theme-based, interactive courses are designed and taught by graduate students in the MATESL program. Each activity class meets once per week for five weeks.

IEP tutors also design and teach workshops on common English-language learning topics — from essay-writing and proficiency exams, to professional presentations, research papers and more. These one-hour workshops feature quick, creative content based on student needs.

The IEP offers free one-on-one tutoring services and training resources on writing, research, critical reading, test-taking strategies, pronunciation and communication skills. Students can also receive help with all IEP classes and subject-specific tutoring in topics such as English for Math.

“The IEP taught me the skills I needed to accomplish my goals. Although I had no English ability before I came to the U.S., I successfully graduated from CSUN.”

– Masashi Isozaki, Japan
Student Life

Visiting international students are welcomed as full members of the campus community with access to campus facilities, activities, housing and more.

Facilities

- **University Student Union (USU)** – The USU is a busy town square with many amenities for students: a bank, a ticket booth for discounted tickets and transit passes, a performance hall, a game room, a variety of food options and a wide range of events.

- **Student Recreation Center (SRC)** – The SRC is a 12,820 square meter, state-of-the-art facility for exercise and leisure activity. Students can sign up for fitness classes and join intramural sports teams.

- **Klotz Student Health Center** – Klotz Health Center provides board-certified physicians in family medicine, internal medicine, sports medicine, gynecology and a variety of other areas. Students may also access specialists in physical therapy, chiropractic services, massage therapy, optometry and dentistry.

- **Oviatt Library** – The resources and services offered by the Oviatt Library include research assistance, IT help, technology checkout, charging lockers, group study rooms, a creative media studio and free tutoring services at the Learning Resource Center.

- **Valley Performing Arts Center (VPAC)** – The VPAC is an award-winning professional performance center, bringing the highest caliber of arts to the region. Student tickets are offered at a discounted rate.
Activities

There is always something to do at CSUN:

- More than 325 student clubs and organizations
- Guest speakers, symposiums and film screenings
- Movies, plays, concerts and special events
- Intramural and club sports
- Academic Competitions
- Trips to popular destinations, such as
  - The Grand Canyon
  - Yosemite National Park
  - Las Vegas
  - San Francisco
Housing

Northridge is a “university town,” with many shops and restaurants within walking distance of campus. Many students live on campus in furnished, apartment-style units within a secure, gated environment. The student housing area includes laundry rooms, swimming pools, sports courts, a satellite student services office, a coffee shop and lounge areas for relaxing and studying. International student housing is available for IEP students on a first-come, first-served basis.

Transportation

CSUN is a short drive from the bright lights of Hollywood, Southern California’s world-famous beaches and many other popular attractions.

- **Public Transportation**: The campus is served by Metro bus lines and offers a free shuttle to connect to the nearest Metrolink train station. Students can travel to virtually any destination in the Los Angeles Metro-Rail system — and beyond.

- **Short-Term Car Rental**: Zipcar® is a program that enables CSUN students to rent a car for as little as one hour or as much as seven days at a time. Zipcar® vehicles are conveniently parked in two locations on campus — near the University Student Union and in the student housing area.
Frequently Asked Questions

- Where is CSUN/Northridge?
The campus is in Los Angeles, about 30 km from Santa Monica and Hollywood.

- Can I be admitted to a CSUN degree program if I haven’t yet met the university’s English-language proficiency requirements?
Yes, CSUN has conditional admission for all undergraduate programs and many graduate programs.

- How long does it take to complete the IEP?
IEP has three tiers: Foundation, Academic Skills (1-5) and University Bridge. The length of time spent in the program depends on the student’s level upon arrival and the time needed to acquire an appropriate TOEFL/IELTS score. The University Bridge is for students who would like the option to obtain an undergraduate or graduate TOEFL waiver. Pre-arrival online placement testing may be available.

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- Can I live off campus?
Many housing options are within walking or biking distance. Apartments and houses are available for rent in Northridge and the surrounding neighborhoods. Some students enjoy living with a homestay family, while others prefer to live close to the beach or in another area of Los Angeles, and drive to campus.

- Do I need a car?
A car is not necessary for students living on campus or in nearby neighborhoods. A wide range of restaurants and stores are within biking/walking distance. CSUN also provides a free shuttle service to a nearby Metrolink station, with connections to buses and trains that serve the greater Los Angeles area and beyond. Zipcars are available on campus. For students planning to commute or travel, having a vehicle is recommended. Permits are required for on-campus parking at all times and can be purchased per semester.

- What if I get sick?
CSUN is located near three major hospitals in case of a medical emergency. For non-emergencies, CSUN’s Student Health Center is located on campus and provides services at little or no cost to all students. The health center is staffed with board certified physicians, physical therapists, podiatrists, dentists, optometrists, and more, as well as an on-site pharmacy.

- Where can I work out or participate in sports?
IEP students receive a membership to the Student Recreation Center (SRC) that features state-of-the-art weight and fitness zones, a rock climbing wall, a gymnasium, an indoor track, two outdoor swimming pools and more. Members can participate in group exercise classes, as well as a variety of team sports through organized intramurals.

- Do you offer scholarships?
Scholarships are not available to IEP students. However, CSUN offers a lower tuition than most other universities. Admitted degree-seeking (i.e. matriculated) international students may be able to work on campus for additional income.

- Is the campus safe?
CSUN is located in a safe, quiet, residential neighborhood. CSUN also has its own police department, located on campus, which is available at all times.

Statement of Nondiscrimination and Disability Services Information: CSUN does not discriminate on the basis of age, color, disability, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation or veteran status, as monitored by the Department of Labor (Office of Federal Contract Compliance) and the Department of Education, or in violation of section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the regulations adopted thereunder.

Students Needing Classroom Accommodations or Auxiliary Aids: Students requiring classroom accommodations should contact either the Center on Disabilities or the National Center on Deafness (for those who are deaf or hard of hearing) for assistance as soon as the decision to enroll has been made.
Get Started!

Our website has all the information you need on our programs, fees and application deadlines.

www.csun.edu/iep