

First-Year Graduate Students

Guide to the UCSD Philosophy Department

Introduction

Greetings first-year grad students:

Welcome to the UCSD Department of Philosophy. Our graduate students and faculty constitute a fairly diverse group of scholars, and you should know that a challenging and stimulating, but friendly, intellectual atmosphere awaits you this fall. And we, of course, look forward to your arrival! In the meantime, you probably have some questions about certain practical matters, such as housing options and email accounts. We – your dutiful graduate student representatives – have put together a list that addresses these sorts of questions that we think will be useful for you and hopefully helps minimize the stressfulness of getting started in the program. Please feel free to contact either or both of us, in person or via email, if you should have any further questions or comments about our info list or about anything at all. Moreover, as your grad reps, we will be here for you throughout much of your stay in the program, if you ever need someone to complain to, interrogate, or simply talk to.

All the best,

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Graduate Student Representatives (2010-11)
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SERVICES and PROCEDURES

Student ID

Student Business Services is in charge of issuing student IDs. If you arrive really early you might find you won't be able to get an ID yet, but contact SBS or talk to [Catherine Asmann](#) in the philosophy department for details. [SBS](#) is in a new building near the Price Center.

Here is a [link](#) to some maps of campus so you can get around.

Office Keys

Talk to [Susan Winchester](#) about getting keys. You will have to pay a small deposit, and then you will get two keys. One will be to your office, and the other will be a general access key to let you into the building after hours and into all the common use areas (the seminar room, computer lab, department library, lounge, etc.). The cost of getting these replaced is \$10.

The common areas of the department are:

HSS 7001: Copier Room
HSS 7076: Philosophy Department Lounge

HSS 7086: Graduate Student Computer Lab
HSS 7077: Seminar Room
HSS 7096: Graduate and Visiting Scholar Mail Room
HSS 8025: Departmental Library
HSS 8033: ACS Graduate Student Computer Lab and Journal Archive

Computers, Email, etc.

Begin with your email address. Academic Computing Services handles such stuff. They are located on the first floor of the Applied Physics and Mathematics building in Muir College. Their web address is: <http://www-acs.ucsd.edu/>.

You can find your username here: <https://sdacs.ucsd.edu/~icc/index.php> or if you would like to request a username you can email postmaster@ucsd.edu. You can get to your webmail here: <https://acs-webmail.ucsd.edu/squirrelmail/src/login.php>.

Once you get your email address it is critical to get yourself signed up for the philgrad and philall email lists, which are used for everything. At the beginning of the year, professors and students will send emails to philgrad which explain how to sign up for the email lists for the different reading groups. If you are at all interested in them, it is generally a good idea to sign up for the email list so that you have an idea what the group is reading if you are interested in joining at any point in the year, because after the beginning of the year no one generally sends information about reading groups to philgrad. To sign up for the mailing list, please contact [Debbie Ambrose](#).

Also, you are encouraged to e-mail philtech@ucsd.edu with a photo and brief description of yourself for the department website: <http://philosophy.ucsd.edu/graduate/students.shtml>.

If you are interested in setting up a webpage, everyone has space on the general server based on their email address. Details can be found on the ACS webpage.

There are computer rooms both on the 7th and 8th floors which your generic building key will give you access to. There is a laser printer we can use in the computer lounge on the 7th floor; however, you have to supply your own paper, and the ink supply is limited, so please use discretion when printing out long documents. You can also print out documents at the library or on the 8th floor, but you will be charged.

You will also probably want to have internet access at your place of residence. Options vary by where you live, but generally there are three. The most expensive option is getting a high speed connection through your cable operator (probably Time Warner, AT&T, or Cox), which costs around \$40-50 a month. DSL, which will be offered through your phone company, will be cheaper. The downside is that you have to pay for a landline and many students prefer to get by with a cell phone. Having a low-use landline is relatively cheap (approximately \$10 a month). The cheapest option, if you are willing to sacrifice speed, is to get dial-up service through UCSD for around \$10 a month.

Photocopying

You should be able to use your student ID card in the photocopy room on the 7th floor to use the copier. I think it costs something like 2 cents a copy, and periodically someone will either place a cumulative bill in your mailbox or send you an email detailing the charges. If you are photocopying for a class you are teaching and making multiple copies of an original, then I

recommend using the RISO machine, which is 1 cent. Talk with [Nancy Guerrero](#) about getting your student ID set up to be accepted by the copy machine in the department. Also note that this set-up process takes a couple days. Photocopiers are also available in the library. You have to buy a copy card in the library, which costs \$1, and you can keep recharging it. Copies there cost 10 cents, however. Imprints copy stores are located around campus and offer both self service copiers and assorted copying services.

Finding A Place to Call Home

I think it is fairly uncontroversial to say that on campus affiliated housing is the cheapest way to go. Unfortunately, there is quite a long waiting list, so get yourself on it as soon as possible. You can always change your preferences for housing later once you are on the list so there is no reason to delay. The web address for affiliated housing and the web address for the UCSD wiki page with info are here:

<http://hds.ucsd.edu/arch/gradhousing.html>

<http://ucsdgrads.wikidot.com/on-campus-housing>

Sometimes you can luck out and people in on-campus housing are looking for roommates and will send out emails or post signs around the area they live in, so keep your eyes peeled (please note that you need to be on the waiting list to take advantage of these opportunities). There is a listserv you can get on for these kinds of announcements. See the UCSD wiki link above.

There are plenty of people living all over San Diego and we'd be happy to put you in touch with the relevant ones. Feel free to email one of us (Amy or Vedit), and if we can't help you, we'll direct you to someone who can.

Here is a quick summary of some pros and cons of the different areas of San Diego, plus the usual form of transportation from there to school:

La Jolla/UTC

+close to school (can be an important factor when spending lots of time at the department); can be close to the beach.

-expensive, stuffy, no nightlife

[Walk, Bike, Bus]

Clairemont

+A good bet for cheap rent; close to big-box stores (Target etc.), reasonably close to campus

-Not much atmosphere; close to big-box stores

[Drive, Bike, Bus]

Hillcrest

+As close to cosmopolitan as SD gets; great food, cafes, bookstores; liberal crowd (San Diego's LGBT neighborhood); varying rent; free shuttle to school from Hillcrest Hospital

-Might be a long commute if you're not close to the shuttle, high rents

[Shuttle, Drive]

Normal Heights

+A more down-to-earth version of Hillcrest; good bookstores

-Long commute to school

[Drive]

North Park

+Cheaper than Hillcrest

-Bike/bus to shuttle or drive (less accessible than Hillcrest)

+Restaurants, nightlife, beer, coffee shops (at least as good as Hillcrest's)

[Bus, Drive]

Ocean Beach

+Funky, liberal; close to beach; varying rent

-Long commute at the wrong time of day, but shorter than from Normal Heights or North Park

[Drive]

Pacific Beach/Mission Beach

+Lots of bars, nightlife; reasonably close to school; close to the water

-Drunken college students, commute is about the same as from OB because of the available routes out of the beach

[Drive]

And here is a helpful link describing housing and the areas:

<http://sandiego.about.com/od/neighborhoods/>

Transportation

Most of the grad students own cars; however, it is quite possible to get around town without a car and grad students have certainly done so before. There is a public bus system, and biking is quite popular due to the temperate weather and accessible bike lanes on the roads.

If you do have a car and want to park on campus (even on weekends), you need to get a parking permit. There are all different kinds, but if you need to regularly commute to campus, then it will probably cost you upwards of a \$150 a quarter for a permit. There are also cheaper passes available which allow you to park only in the evenings, only on alternate days of the week, or for any 10 days in a quarter. If you register your bike with UCSD, you can join the Pedal Club, which is good for 10 free days of parking per quarter, as well as some other perks. Alternatively, you can purchase parking permits by the hour or for the day from a pay station kiosk (located in most parking lots).

You can avoid buying a parking permit by living down in Hillcrest near the shuttle stop from the Medical Center, living within walking distance of campus, living somewhere near a city shuttle stop (a free bus run by UCSD), or getting to school early or late enough to find a street parking spot along La Jolla Shores drive or one of the other nearby streets. Also, you can get a sticker for your student ID from the parking office which allows you free transportation on many public buses. The list of participating routes has recently expanded. More information about these matters can be found at:

<http://blink.ucsd.edu/sponsor/trans-services/index.html>

Health Issues

I have heard about and have had both good and bad experiences at the medical center. It is located just off of Library Walk. Walk-in appointments are available, but it is cheaper if you make an appointment (check-ups and many appointments are free). You can either call or make an appointment online at:

<http://studenthealth.ucsd.edu/Pages/Home.aspintment>

At the center in addition to getting prescriptions filled you can also purchase over the counter medicine at reasonable prices. Also, there is an eye center area there where you can get your eyes examined (check ups are \$15 for eye glasses, \$85 for contacts) and purchase glasses or contacts at a discount.

Information on health insurance is available here:

<http://studenthealth.ucsd.edu/Gshiphowtouse.shtml>

and here:

<http://ogs.ucsd.edu/About/wlc/Pages/ins.aspx>

Registering for Classes

You sign up for classes online at TritonLink. This will require your having both a student ID number and a PAC number (this is just a 4 digit code). These should have been mailed to you as part of your general acceptance materials. If not, contact [Catherine](#) or talk to the registrar. It is best to sign up for classes as soon as you can, even if you sign up for classes you know you will never take. This way, you will be always be considered a registered full-time student and can then change your classes when you figure out what you want to take, rather than risking having your student billing messed up and possibly being fined for not registering at the appropriate time. If you are a TA, then you should sign up for 4 units of 500 Apprentice Teaching for the professor you are TAing for. **You must be signed up for at least 12 units by the deadline to receive your fee remission.** The registration page and the schedule of classes are linked from the page below: <https://tritonlink.ucsd.edu/portal/site/tritonlink-preview>

Though your TA fees will be paid for by the department during your first year, you will have to pay your fees during your second year and each additional year with the exception of years or quarters in which you are on fellowship.

Fees are subject to change without prior notice. For more information, please see:

<http://ogs.ucsd.edu/Admissions/Pages/Fees.aspx>

TA Paychecks

TAs working for the philosophy department will receive their first paycheck November 1st, and receive paychecks on the 1st of each month until July 1st. If you prefer to have your checks deposited directly into your checking account, sign up for Direct Deposit:

<http://blink.ucsd.edu/finance/payroll/processes/enroll.html>

To receive your W2 electronically, sign up here:

<https://atyourserviceonline.ucop.edu/ayso/>

Mailboxes

Everyone's mailbox is on the 7th floor near the lounge. If the door is locked, your general key will let you in. Not much is generally in the mailboxes, but it is a good idea to check them regularly anyway as occasionally important, timely information shows up. Also, you can let your students drop off papers in your mailbox if you need to and they are dropping them off during the day (since the door gets closed at night).

Documentation for Residency

If you are not already a state resident, you must prove California state residency before the beginning of your second year. Basically, this means you have to collect a lot of documents for

your first year that show presence in the state and intent to remain here. **To apply for residency before the beginning of your second year, you must be in California 366 days before the start of school that quarter.** The registrar's office suggests arriving in California on or around 9/15 to be safe. Keep hold of such things as your cable bill, phone bill, financial statements (credit card and bank statements), receipts showing you paid rent to a CA address, pay stubs from receipt of fellowship money or TA money, official letters indicating appointments or enrollment in grad school, tax information, and photocopies of cards indicating membership at local services (gym, public library, etc), and California voter registration card. You definitely need to get a California driver's license (be forewarned that they will punch a hole in your old license, issue you a temp that hardly anyone will accept as a valid form of ID, and then mail you your new license a month later). At the DMV, you can also register to vote. Although people have been known to sometimes get around it, I recommend registering your car here as well. It is expensive and varies by car, probably around \$90 (also, look into additional costs related to emissions/smog regulations). I recommend doing this as soon as possible upon arrival. Keep your eye out for emails on philgrad forwarded by Catherine, which will further explain exactly what sort of documentation you will need to provide. Basically, it's best to provide as much documentation as possible as proof that you live in California and intend to continue living California.

Shopping for Supplies

A popular and not too expensive place to buy furniture and other apartment items is IKEA (www.ikea.com). It is down on Friars Road. There are also a number of Targets around town as well as some secondhand stores down in the North Park/Hillcrest area.

The bookstores on campus will have all the books you will need for classes (the professor you TA for should give you a free copy of books for that class or the charge code so that you can go buy them at the bookstore and charge them to the department). The school supplies are overpriced there, but the computer stuff is reasonably priced, and depending on which day you go, the people working there are sometimes knowledgeable and helpful. There is also an independent bookstore on campus (Groundwork Books) that has a large variety of mainly political, economic, and social philosophy books. You can also check out books from the department library by signing them out on the clipboard by the door.

Some of the big chain grocery stores in the area are Vons, Ralphs, and Albertsons. (There is a Ralphs near campus open 24 hours a day.) For healthier or organic food, Henry's is a great place for cheap produce, Trader Joe's is great for cheap, good food of the boxed, canned, or frozen variety and Whole Foods has the best all around selection but is definitely the most expensive. On campus, you can shop at the Food Co-op (between Porter's Pub and the Grove Cafe) and The Sunshine Market (a convenience/grocery store located in the Price Center). San Diego also has a variety of farmers' markets in different neighborhoods throughout the week; information about them can be found here: <http://www.sdfarmbureau.org/BuyLocal/Farmers-Markets.php>.

More information about on campus facilities and services can be found at: <http://universitycenters.ucsd.edu>

Recreation on Campus

During the school year, your student ID will get you free access to all the gyms on campus. During the summer, though, you have to pay a rec fee if you want to use the gyms, since you won't be a registered full-time student. The fee is approximately \$30. The main gym is smaller and older, but conveniently located next to our department. It has an indoor pool. The RIMAC

gym on the north edge of campus is much larger and newer. There is an outdoor pool at Pepperview Canyon on the east side of campus. You can rent lockers quarterly at these various facilities for a fee.

Each quarter reasonably priced rec classes from yoga to surfing are offered. Some of the classes are really popular so sign up early to ensure you get a spot. Printed versions of the class listings can be found around campus, or you can look them up online at:

<https://recreation.ucsd.edu/rec-classes.html>

Additionally, Outback Adventures offers inexpensive recreational equipment, instructional classes, and excursions:

<https://recreation.ucsd.edu/outback-adventures.html>