Woodbury International Pre-Arrival Handbook

2022-2023



TABLE OF CONTENTS

WELCOME TO WOODBURY	2
Staff Directory	2
INTERNATIONAL PEER ADVISORS (IPAs)	3
PRE-DEPARTURE CHECKLIST	4
Checklist	4
Prohibited and Restricted items	
APPLYING FOR AN F-1 STUDENT VISA	5
ENTERING THE US	6
ARRIVAL IN THE US	7
Burbank Campus	
San Diego Campus	
TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS FROM AN AIRPORT TO WOODBURY UNIVERSITY	
NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION & IMPORTANT DATES	
International Student Orientation	
Student Orientation, Advising, and Registration (SOAR)	
Graduate Orientation Placement Exams	
Academic Calendar	
MANDATORY CHECK-IN.	
HOUSING	10
On-Campus Housing	10
Off-Campus Housing	
HEALTH INSURANCE	11
IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS	11
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION	12
MONEY MATTERS	13
Banking	
TUITION, FEES, AND CHARGES	
Frequently Asked Questions	
SHOPS AND OTHER RESOURCES	_
Burbank	
San Diego THINGS TO DO	
Los Angeles San Diego	



WELCOME TO WOODBURY

As a new international student, you are at the beginning of a great adventure— studying and living in the United States! Although the adventure is great, it can be quite challenging as well. This handbook will make your transition into the United States and Woodbury University a little easier. In this Pre-Arrival Handbook, you will find all the information you need including important dates, deadlines, academic services, legal requirements, and resources for international students.

Please read this handbook very carefully. If you have any questions, feel free to contact us. We look forward to meeting you!

Staff Directory



Raida Gatten Associate Vice President Academic Affairs raida.gatten@woodbury.edu (818) 252-5218



Lauren Seo Senior International Student Advisor International Student Services lauren.seo@woodbury.edu (818) 252-5265



Ani Boniadi Director of Admissions ani.boniadi@woodbury.edu (818) 252-5224



Marina Sais

Graduate & International Admissions Counselor Office of Admissions marina.sais@woodbury.edu (818) 394-3338



INTERNATIONAL PEER ADVISORS (IPAs)

The International Peer Advisor (IPA) program is a resource for all incoming international students. Each incoming international student will be assigned with an IPA. The IPA will provide guidance to international students to assist them as they transition into life as a Woodbury University student.

IPAs are students that have already gone through this life-changing experience and are now able to use their experiences to help others. IPAs will communicate with new international students on a regular basis to support their personal and academic success and facilitate international events to encourage student engagement.

Check out our Woodbury IPAs on Instagram!









PRE-DEPARTURE CHECKLIST

Checklist

Before you leave home:

- 1. General checklist
 - Passport A passport is the required identification document for international travel. You will need to show your passport every time you travel, when you report to Woodbury University, and on many other occasions when official identification and travel documentation are needed. Additionally, the F-1 Student Visa Stamp needs to be in your passport. If your passport expires and you obtain a new one while you are in the U.S., you will need to carry both your new passport and your expired passport as your visa stamp will not transfer to your new passport. Be sure to keep your passport valid at all times. Your passport must be valid for at least six months into the future every time you travel internationally. You must renew your passport at your country's embassy or consulate while you are here in the U.S. if the passport is about to expire or expired.
 - □ F-1 Student Visa (see page 5-6)
 - □ Reserve housing as soon as possible (see page 9-11)
 - Arrange transportation to Woodbury in time for the International Student Orientation (see page 7-9)
 - Register for the International Student Orientation and SOAR (for undergraduate students) or Graduate
 Orientation (see page 9)
 - □ Mobile phone that works internationally If you are interested in purchasing a temporary mobile plan and receiving the U.S. phone number before you arrive in the U.S., please visit <u>www.campussims.com</u>.
- 2. Document Checklist
 - □ Unexpired passport with F-1 visa
 - Woodbury I-20 Woodbury University has sent you an initial I–20 form. Please check this form very carefully to be sure that all of your personal information is correct and matches your passport and visa. Be sure to enter the U.S. with your Woodbury I–20 and do not use the I–20 of another school to enter the U.S. if you plan to study at Woodbury University.
 - □ I-901 SEVIS fee payment receipt-If you need to reprint the receipt, please visit <u>https://www.fmjfee.com/i901fee/index.html</u>
 - □ Copies of your financial statements to use as proof of sufficient funds
 - □ International driving permit and home country driving license (if applicable)
 - □ Notarized English translations of marriage & birth certificates (if applicable)
- 3. Health Checklist

VOODBURY

UNIVERSITY

FOUNDED IN 1884

- □ Prepare a proof of COVID-19 vaccination for air passengers
- □ Negative result of a COVID-19 viral test or documentation of recovery from COVID-19:
 - You will need to get a COVID-19 viral test (regardless of vaccination status or citizenship) no more than 1 day before you travel by air into the United States. You must show your negative result to the airline before you board your flight.
 - If you recently recovered from COVID-19, you may instead travel with documentation of recovery from COVID-19 (i.e., your positive COVID-19 viral test result on a sample taken no more than 90 days before the flight's departure from a foreign country and a letter from a licensed healthcare provider or a public health official stating that you were cleared to travel).
- □ Get a medical examination and immunizations

STUDENT

AFFAIRS

- Get other medical check-ups. Have your eyes and teeth checked and any necessary treatment
- □ Bring any medication in its original package with the prescription in English translation
- D Prepare original medical, immunization, and dental records and translate them into English
- Health Insurance If you do not have a health insurance plan, which will cover you while you are living in the United States, you can sign up for a plan to ensure you have coverage through Woodbury University. Click on this <u>link</u> below to find out more about Woodbury's health insurance. If you already have a health insurance plan that offers coverage in the U.S., please sign up for the health insurance waiver at <u>https://clients.garnett-</u> powers.com/univ/woodbury/

Prohibited and Restricted items

The products U.S. Customs and Border Protection needs to prevent from entering the United States are those that would injure community health, public safety, American workers, children, or domestic plant and animal life. Before you leave for your trip to the United States, go to the U.S. Department of Agriculture website <u>www.dontpackapest.com</u> for travel guidelines.

APPLYING FOR AN F-1 STUDENT VISA

As an international student, you must have an F-1 Student Visa to enter the U.S. If you enter the U.S. with a tourist visa (B-1/B-2) or under a visa waiver program that your country has with the U.S., you cannot attend school. To apply for an F-1 Student Visa, please visit the U.S. embassy or consulate in your home country. For the location, please go to http://usembassy.state.gov Please note that Canadian citizens do not need a visa, but they must present a valid passport, proof of finances, I-20, and I-901 SEVIS fee payment receipt at the U.S. port of entry.

When to Apply for an F-1 Visa

A student can apply for an F-1 visa earlier than 120 days before the start date, to allow for visa processing and security clearance delays. Even if the student applies earlier than 120 days, though, the consulate still cannot actually issue the visa until 120 days before the program start date.

Paying the SEVIS Fee

All students receiving a new initial I-20 must pay the SEVIS fee of \$350 online and obtain a receipt. Please see fee payment instructions below. Generally, students will not have to pay the fee again as long as they maintain their F-1 status.

SEVIS Fee Payment Instruction

- 1. Visit the SEVP I-901 processing website at <u>www.FMJfee.com</u>.
- 2. Complete the Form I-901 application In the upper left hand corner of your I-20 you will see your SEVIS number, which begins with the letter "N".
- 3. Payment options: credit card, check, money order or Western Union Quick Pay.
- 4. Print I-901 SEVIS fee payment receipt from the website for the visa interview and to enter the U.S.

General F-1 Visa Application Process

WOODBURY

UNIVERSITY

FOUNDED IN 1884

Each embassy or consular post has their own visa application procedures and processing times. Visit the U.S. Department of State website at https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/study/student-visa.html. Visit the website of the U.S. Embassy or Consulate in your home country to learn about what required documentation you will need for your interview. The consulate can issue your visa up to 4 months before the start of classes. Please allow 1-2 weeks for processing after visa interview.

- 1. Complete the Nonimmigrant Visa Application (Form DS-160) online.
- You will upload your photo while completing the online application. See <u>https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/visa-information-resources/photos.html</u> for photo requirements.
- 3. Print the application confirmation page to take to your visa interview.
- 4. Schedule the visa interview and check processing wait times: <u>https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/visa-information-resources/wait-times.html</u>
- 5. Bring the following to your visa interview:
 - □ Form DS-160 application confirmation page

STUDENT

AFFAIRS

- □ One photograph 5cm x 5cm (2 in x 2 in) for each applicant, showing full face, without head covering, against a light background
- □ Passport valid for at least six months after your proposed entry date into the U.S.

- □ Woodbury I-20 If you find an error(s) on the I-20, notify Woodbury Office of Admissions immediately as you will need correction.
- □ I-901 SEVIS fee payment receipt
- □ Letter of acceptance from Woodbury University
- □ Evidence of sufficient funds to cover all expenses, also known as financial documentation.
- Along with the documents above you may also be asked to provide:
 - Your reason for studying English as well as your study plans while in the U.S.
 - Transcripts and diplomas from previous institutions attended (usually for the most recent 3 years)

Students Bringing Dependents

You will need to apply for an F-2 visa for any dependents who will stay in the U.S. with you. If any dependent plans to study full-time, they will also need to apply for an F-1 visa (full-time study on an F-2 visa is not possible).

When applying for an F-2 visa, please bring:

- □ F-2 Dependent I-20 form issued by Woodbury University
- □ Proof of the student's relationship to his/her spouse and/or children (e.g. marriage and birth certificates.) and notarized English translation.
- □ It is preferred that families apply for F-1 and F-2 visas at the same time, but if the spouse and children must apply separately at a later time, they should bring a copy of the student visa holder's passport and visa, along with all other required documents.
- □ Financial evidence that shows you sponsor has sufficient funds to cover your tuition and living expenses for yourself and dependent(s) during the period of your intended study: For dependents, please add additional funding of \$6,000 USD for spouse and/or \$4,000 USD for each child, per year.

ENTERING THE US

Immigration laws do not allow you to arrive in the U.S. more than 30 days before the program start date listed on Form I-20.

When entering the U.S., you will need to show:

- Passport passport must be valid for at least 6 months after your arrival.
- □ F-1 Visa stamp
- □ I-901 SEVIS fee payment receipt
- □ Woodbury I-20

WOODBURY

UNIVERSITY

FOUNDED IN 1884

- □ Letter of acceptance from Woodbury University
- □ Evidence of sufficient funds to cover all expenses, also known as financial documentation.
- □ Proof of COVID-19 vaccination for air passengers

STUDENT

AFFAIRS

- □ Negative result of a COVID-19 viral test or documentation of recovery from COVID-19:
 - You will need to get a COVID-19 viral test (regardless of vaccination status or citizenship) no more than 1 day before you travel by air into the United States. You must show your negative result to the airline before you board your flight.
 - If you recently recovered from COVID-19, you may instead travel with documentation of recovery from COVID-19 (i.e., your positive COVID-19 viral test result on a sample taken no more than 90 days before the flight's departure from a foreign country and a letter from a licensed healthcare provider or a public health official stating that you were cleared to travel).

You will be fingerprinted, photographed, and an entry stamp will be placed in your passport. You may be asked to go to another line where they will look at your documents and ask additional questions. Do not be scared. This is normal and it may take 2-4 hours or longer to do. Allow enough time between flights. U.S. Customs may search your bag for unauthorized items.

Your arrival will be registered electronically. Afterwards you can log into the Customs and Border Protection website at

<u>https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov</u> to view and print a copy of your I-94, a document that verifies your legal entry. You will need information from your passport and your U.S. visa to access your record.

For more information about Port of Entry, immigration status & what you can bring to the US, visit http://www.cbp.gov/travel http://www.cbp.gov/travel

ARRIVAL IN THE US

Burbank Campus

Los Angeles International Airport (LAX)

Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) is approximately 30 miles (50 kms) from Woodbury University. Driving time from LAX to Woodbury may take 40 minutes to 2 hours depending on the time of day. The easiest way to get to Woodbury University from LAX would be to take an Uber, Lyft or Taxi. If cost is a concern, you can choose the express pool option when requesting an Uber. The request pool option is cost effective because it allows you to share rides with other riders that are travelling in your same direction.

You can also take public transportation to Woodbury University from LAX. However, you will have to change buses three times in order to get to Woodbury University so if you have a lot of luggage with you this might not be the best option. If you are interested in taking public transportation click on this <u>link</u> for directions. For more information on additional forms of ground transportation, you can visit the LAX <u>website</u>: (Includes information on public transportation, long distance vans, rental cars, etc.)

Hollywood Burbank Airport (BUR)

Hollywood Burbank Airport (BUR) is the local airport, which is approximately 2 miles (3 kms) from Woodbury University. At just a short 5-minute drive to campus, the easiest way to get from the Burbank Airport to Woodbury University is to take an Uber, a Lyft, or a taxi.

San Diego Campus

San Diego International Airport (SAN)

The Woodbury San Diego campus is located just 15 minutes away from the San Diego International Airport (approximately 5 miles / 8 kms). The easiest way to get to Woodbury University from the airport is to take an Uber, a Lyft, or a taxi. You can also take public transportation to the San Diego Campus from SAN but you will have to transfer buses at least one time. If you are interested in taking public transportation click on this link for directions.

TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS FROM AN AIRPORT TO WOODBURY UNIVERSITY

For the Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) traffic and ground transportation, visit <u>https://www.flylax.com/lax-traffic-and-ground-transportation</u>

For the San Diego International Airport (SAN) public transportation, visit <u>https://www.san.org/to-from/Public-Transportation</u>

Shared Shuttle Services

- Budget friendly (starting at 40\$)
- Shared ride

WOODBURY

UNIVERSITY

FOUNDED IN 1884

- Book ahead of time
- Takes about 1 1/2-2 hours depending on traffic

STUDENT

AFFAIRS

For more information visit
 Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) <u>https://www.supershuttle.com/locations/losangeles-lax/</u>



- San Diego International Airport (SAN) <u>https://www.supershuttle.com/locations/sandiego-san/</u>

Lyft and Uber

- Affordable (starting at \$50)
- No need to book ahead of time
- Takes about an hour depending on traffic
- Can be difficult to find the pick-up zone
 - All pickups occur on the upper departure/ticketing level. When you get to the upper level, look for the Ride App Pickup signs A-G. These are the only places that you can be picked up for a ridesharing service.
 - For a better idea of the layout of LAX and the location of the ride pick-up signs refer to the LAX Ground Transportation Waiting Areas (see page 8).

<u>Taxi</u>

- Most stress free form of transportation
- No need to book ahead, just walk outside of the terminal and you can get a taxi immediately
- Takes about an hour to get from LAX to Woodbury depending on traffic
- Most expensive option (starts at \$100)
- To look at the list of taxi companies
 - Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) <u>https://www.flylax.com/lax-traffic-and-ground-transportation#Taxis</u>
 - San Diego International Airport (SAN) <u>https://www.san.org/to-from/Taxis</u>



Source: https://www.flylax.com/-/media/flylax/ground-transportation/ground-transportation-waiting-areas.ashx

NEW STUDENT ORIENTATION & IMPORTANT DATES

Click on the links below to learn more about all the upcoming important events!

International Student Orientation

All international students are required to attend international student orientation. At orientation, students will learn about required legal and institutional responsibilities to maintain their status. Attendance is mandatory in order to remain in good standing with Unites States Citizenship Immigration Services (USCIS). Optional shopping excursion to downtown Burbank and the Empire Center from 3pm-6pm. To register for the international student orientation please click on the link below: **Burbank:** <u>https://woodbury.edu/admissions/undergraduate-admission/undergraduate-orientation/</u> San Diego: <u>https://woodbury.edu/admissions/undergraduate-admission/orientation-san-diego/</u>

Student Orientation, Advising, and Registration (SOAR)

Attending SOAR is required of all newly admitted students. SOAR helps prepare you for college life and shares with you the array of support services available from your new campus community. To register for SOAR please click on the link below: **Burbank:** <u>https://woodbury.edu/admissions/undergraduate-admission/undergraduate-orientation/</u> **San Diego:** <u>https://woodbury.edu/admissions/undergraduate-admission/orientation-san-diego/</u>

Graduate Orientation

Graduate students are required to attend orientation. Orientation brings together faculty and students for an initial discussion of program requirement and tools for success. It helps prepare you for the rigorous standards ahead and exposes you to an array of support services available from your new campus community. To register for graduate orientation please click on the link below:

https://woodbury.edu/admissions/graduate-admission/graduate-orientation/

Placement Exams

To register for your math and writing placement exam click on the link below. Please note that you must register in advance and that your placement exams must be taken before your SOAR date. **Burbank**: <u>https://woodbury.edu/admissions/undergraduate-admission/undergraduate-orientation/</u> **San Diego**: <u>https://woodbury.edu/admissions/undergraduate-admission/orientation-san-diego/</u>

Academic Calendar

WOODBURY

UNIVERSITY

FOUNDED IN 1884

For more important dates including semester start and end dates and school holidays, please view the academic calendar: https://woodbury.edu/academic_calendar/

MANDATORY CHECK-IN

You should plan to arrive on or before the report date listed on your I-20. Arriving later than the program start date listed on the I-20 may not allow enough time to complete all necessary check-ins and become enrolled before classes start.

The International Student Services office must report arrival and enrollment of international students to the U.S. Government. You must report to the International Student Services office no later than 14 days after the report date shown on your I-20 to complete the mandatory check-in processes.

We strongly suggest that you arrive on or before the report date listed on your I-20.

STUDENT

AFFAIRS

HOUSING

On-Campus Housing

If you are interested in living on campus, go to https://woodbury.edu/student-life/living/housing/

Off-Campus Housing

For more information on off-campus housing assistance and housing search websites, go to <u>Woodbury University Off-</u> <u>Campus Housing</u> website. To learn more about tips for finding an apartment, read STUDENT RESOURCE GUIDE at <u>https://www.apartmentguide.com/students/</u>

Types of Housing

- Renting an apartment
 <u>Woodbury University Off-Campus Housing</u>
- Living with Roommates Sharing an apartment with other people is a cost-efficient way to live in a large city. You agree to divide responsibilities and payment of rent and bills. Roommates can be found through word of mouth once you arrive in the U.S. or through search websites. Before finalizing your housing situation, it is a good idea to sit down with your roommate(s) to discuss apartment/house rules and delegate responsibilities. Some roommates will write a "roommate contract," including items such as delegating responsibilities and laying out how shared space can be used.
 <u>Roommates.com</u>
 <u>Roomster.com</u>
 <u>SpareRoom</u>

<u>Circle for Roommates</u>

- Sublet Subletting is when you take over an apartment lease and bills from a tenant who leaves for a few months or longer.
- Homestays Homestays offer the opportunity to improve language skills and sample American culture by living with a U.S. family. Make sure to use a reputable homestay provider who has thoroughly vetted the homestay hosts.
 <u>USH</u>-Find Woodbury for pricing <u>Homestay.com</u> American Homestay Network
- Renting a room Renting a room is a cost effective way to get housing. When renting a room, you will most likely
 be signing onto an already established lease. In these cases, it is smart to see when the current lease is ending
 before signing it.
- Temporary Housing Airbnb

Avoiding Scams

WOODBURY

UNIVERSITY

FOUNDED IN 1884

STUDENT

AFFAIRS

There are a lot of housing scams, especially on the Internet, so you must conduct your housing search carefully. It is highly recommended that you secure short-term housing upon arrival (e.g. in an airbnb) and conduct your housing search once you are in the U.S. If you absolutely must secure long-term housing before arriving in the U.S., it is recommended that you look for an established residence facility rather than an individual apartment owner. You can also visit www.consumer.ftc.gov/blog/2019/06/keys-avoiding-home-rental-scams for keys to avoiding home rental scams. If you find you have been the victim of a housing scam, you can report it to the FTC (Federal Trade Commission) and/or the FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3). Please make sure to read the instructions first about what to include in the report

HEALTH INSURANCE

International students will be automatically enrolled and billed for the Woodbury University Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP). However, if you have alternative comparable health insurance that will work inside of the United States you can waive out of SHIP. For more information, visit https://clients.garnett-powers.com/univ/woodbury

IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

Immunization Policy

Effective date: October 14, 2020

In order to protect our students from contracting vaccine-preventable illnesses, Woodbury University has implemented a plan that will require housing and International students to provide proof of vaccination and/or immunity to vaccine-preventable diseases and undergo tuberculosis screening test.

Policy Statement

Prior to entering Woodbury University, all housing and International students are required to obtain and submit a proof of immunity to the following diseases.

All immunization records must be submitted online at: https://www.studentehr.com/

* Username and Password will be sent out before move-in.

Please note that all medical records must be in English.

Required Vaccinations and Medical Testing for Housing Students

Vaccination Requirements	Dosage Information
Hepatitis A	2 doses required
Hepatitis B	3 doses required OR titer result (blood test) showing positive immunity
Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)	2 doses required
Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis (Tdap)	1 dose every 10 years (booster)
Varicella (Chickenpox)	2 doses required OR titer results (blood test) showing positive immunity
Meningococcal	1 dose given after the age of 16. This requirement is for students 21 years old and younger.
Screening: Tuberculosis testing (TB)	Tb skin test OR blood test. Chest X-ray is required if skin test shows a positive result.
Flu Vaccine	1 dose annually (flu season)
COVID-19 VACCINE**	Completed dose (2 doses or 1 dose)

** when available

Highly Recommended Vaccinations:

- HPV
- Meningococcal B

International Students

All International Students are required to provide proof of vaccination and/or immunity to vaccine-preventable diseases and undergo tuberculosis screening test.



Required Vaccinations and Medical Testing for International Students

Vaccination Requirements	Dosage Information
Screening: Tuberculosis Testing (TB)	Tb skin test OR blood test (QuantiFERON-TB Gold). Chest X-ray is required if
	skin test shows a positive result.
Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)	2 doses required
Varicella (Chickenpox)	2 doses required OR titer results (blood test) showing positive immunity

Deadline

Deadline is provided by the Health Services Office and will be sent out through email by the Housing department and International Student Advisor.

Violations of this Policy

Students that do not meet the requirements by the deadline provided by the Health Office will have a hold put on their account. The hold will be removed once the student is deemed compliant by the Health Services Office. Additionally, housing may be revoked before students can move in.

Extensions

Extensions are granted on a case-by-case basis. Contact Health Services office for consultation.

Contact Information

Health Services Office Phone and Fax: 818-252-5238 Email: <u>Gabriela.Preciado@woodbury.edu</u> Office Hours: Monday- Friday, 8:00 am- 5:00pm

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Uber/Lyft

Rental Car

If you need to rent a vehicle, some rental car companies require you to be at least 25 years of age, but many rental car companies only require the renter to have a major credit card and be at least 21 years of age. If you want to drive a car, you will be required to purchase automobile insurance, have your country's driver license (in English) and in many cases, an international driving permit. To obtain an international driving permit you should inquire with your home country's motor licensing organization prior to departure. Be aware of the rules of the road while you are in the U.S. and make sure you carry proof of automobile insurance at all times. For individual state driving regulations visit AAA's website: http://drivinglaws.aaa.com or https://www.usa.gov/visitors-driving

Riding Bicycles

Woodbury University has an active bicycle community. Riding your bike is a great alternative to driving to campus. It is environmentally friendly, economical and healthy. However, biking in Los Angeles can be challenging. Be sure to plan ahead by mapping the safest route possible and following basic safety measures.

Metro Bus and Rail

WOODBURY

UNIVERSITY

FOUNDED IN 1884

STUDENT

AFFAIRS

The Metro System offers close to 200 bus and rail lines to take you where you want to go in LA County. You can bring exact change to ride the metro or you can purchase a tap card by clicking on the following <u>link</u>. Timetables and fares can be obtained <u>here</u>.

International Student Services | www.woodbury.edu | iss@woodbury.edu Page | 12

Train

Traveling by train is another option to consider. Below are two commuter rail systems that you may take to get around Southern California.

Amtrak offers rail passes, regional rail tours, and multi-ride tickets. Please call their toll-free number for prices and more information: 1-800-872-7245 or by visiting their <u>website</u>.

Metrolink train serves over 55 stations across Southern California. To get more information about ticket prices and to plan your trip visit their <u>website</u>.

MONEY MATTERS

When you arrive in Los Angeles, you will need enough money for immediate expenses including food, transportation, and living arrangements. However, <u>do not bring large amounts of cash with you to the U.S</u>! There are many safer options available. It is a good idea to carry a combination of U.S. currency, debit cards, and credit cards. Do not bring a lot of money in foreign currency because it is difficult and expensive to exchange for U.S money. However, you should bring some of your money in U.S dollars. If possible, bring \$100 in smaller bills such as \$20, \$10, \$5, and \$1 bills to pay for your transportation from the airport and several meals. \$1 bills are easy to use for tips, taxis, hotels, restaurants, and to take public transportation. If you do not have a chance to get money in U.S dollars before you arrive, there will be ATM's in the airport that you can use to take out cash using a debit card.

*If you are receiving assistance from your government or a private agency, it may take some time before you have access to these funds. Make sure you are prepared for this!

Please note that you cannot bring more than \$10,000 cash with you into the United States!

Banking

Most students use Chase Bank since there are many branch offices located all over California and throughout the U.S. However, there are many other banks in the area including Bank of America, Citi Bank, and Wells Fargo. To open a bank account you will need a passport, documents that prove you are currently enrolled (I-20, Student ID, registration fee payment receipt, or admission letter), and a minimum deposit (for many banks the minimum deposit is \$100). Always call ahead before going to set up an account to ensure that you have all the necessary paperwork.

Credit Cards – You can pay for your tuition and fees at Woodbury University with most major credit cards (Visa, MasterCard, Discover, and/or American Express). You can also use these cards at the dining hall, in the Woodbury University bookstore, and for most other purchases in the U.S. It is very difficult for foreign citizens to open credit card accounts in the U.S so you will probably have to use a credit card from your home country. If you want to use a credit card home, you will need to talk to your bank about using your card in the U.S, to check your credit card's daily spending limit, and to see what fees may apply while you are using your card abroad.

Debit/ATM Cards – These are useful because you can use them to take out cash from an ATM (Exchange rates, daily limits, and or additional fees may apply). In addition, you can use a debit card for most other purchases in the U.S. However, make sure to double check with your bank to see what kind of fees there are for using your debit card abroad.

* What is the difference between a debit and a credit card?

STUDENT

AFFAIRS

WOODBURY

UNIVERSITY

FOUNDED IN 1884

Knowing the difference between a debit and a credit card can be confusing because both cards look the same and can be used in many of the same places. However, the main difference between a debit and a credit card is where the card takes the money from when you use it. A credit card charges money to your line of credit while a debit card takes money straight from your banking account. This means that with a credit card you have to pay the money you spend back later while with a debit card, the money is taken directly from your account. **Wire Transfer** – A wire transfer is a service that transfers funds by wire to your bank account. For international wire transfers, money is sent by the Swift system. In order to receive funds from an international wire the sender will need your full name as it appears on your US bank account, your account number from your US bank account, and your Swift Code. You can usually find your bank's Swift code by logging into your online banking account or you can call your bank and ask. If you do not want to use a bank to complete a wire transfer you can also use websites such as <u>TransferWise</u> and <u>XOOM</u>. These websites can be a cheaper and faster alternative to making a wire transfer internationally.

TUITION, FEES, AND CHARGES

Go to Woodbury University Tuition and Fees website for the most current tuition and fees.

Frequently Asked Questions (for the traditional day/evening undergraduate student)

Q. When is my tuition due?

A. Payment in full and/or payment arrangements are due upon assessment and no later than the first day of school.

Q. How can I pay for my tuition?

A. The Business Office offers several ways for students to pay their tuition. Payments can be made online via your Self-Service account, in person at the Business Office, over the phone, or by mail. We accept cash, check, wire-transfer or ACH, credit/debit card (MasterCard[®], Visa[®], and American Express[®]).

Q. What if I can't pay my tuition in full by the first day of classes?

A. The Business Office offers a semester deferred payment plan to students who are unable to pay their tuition in full. You must sign a contract to be eligible for this plan. There is a \$100.00 deferred payment fee charged if you choose this pay plan. New incoming international students, who start in or after Fall 2020, are not eligible for this payment option.

Q. Do I have to accept Woodbury's Health Insurance Plan?

A. Yes. However, if you are covered through another plan and complete the online waiver, we will remove the health insurance charge from your account. You may complete the online waiver at https://clients.garnett-powers.com/univ/woodbury/waiver/

Q. What if I register for a class or classes and never attend any sessions, will I be automatically dropped?

A. It is the student's responsibility to formally drop or withdraw from any classes through the Registrar's Office. In addition, there will be a \$150.00 no-show fee assessed to the student's account if an instructor notifies the Registrar's Office of non-attendance during the first week of the semester.

Q. Will I be charged any fees if I drop <u>all</u> of my classes during the add/drop period?

A. You may add or drop courses during the first two weeks for a 100% refund less a \$100.00 administration fee.

Q. If I withdraw from <u>all</u> of my classes during the third and fourth week of the semester how much will I be charged?

A. During week three you will be charged 50% of your tuition and fees and 75% during week four. There will also be a \$100.00 administration fee assessed. If you withdraw from all classes after week four you will be charged 100% of the tuition and fees.



SHOPS AND OTHER RESOURCES

<u>Burbank</u>

Grocery Stores Sprouts Ralph's Trader Joes

Stores to Buy Furniture

Target Wal-Mart IKEA

Shopping Centers

Burbank Empire Center Burbank Town Center Glendale Galleria

Banks

Bank of America Chase Bank Citi Bank

Cell Phone Services

Verizon T-Mobile AT&T Sprint

Hotels

Hampton Inn Extended Stay America Marriot Courtyard Burbank Holiday Inn

Pharmacies

Walgreens CVS Rite Aid

Mailing/Shipping Services USPS UPS Fedex

Health Services Urgent Care Mend Burbank St. Joseph Glendale Memorial Hospital and Health Center

Car Rental

Enterprise Rent-A-Car Hertz Avis Car Rental

San Diego

Grocery Stores <u>Sprouts</u> <u>Whole Foods</u> <u>Boney's Bayside</u> <u>Ralphs</u> <u>Northgate Market</u>

Stores to Buy Furniture

Target Walmart Ikea

Shopping Centers

Westfield Mission Valley Westfield UTC Las Americas San Ysidro Las Americas Carlsbad Fashion Valley

Banks

San Diego County Credit Union Mission Federal Credit Union California Coast Credit Union Chase Bank Wells Fargo U.S. Bank

Cell Phone Services

FOUNDED IN 1884

T-Mobile Verizon Sprint

Hotels

<u>One Bunk Barrio Logan</u> <u>Hilton San Diego Bayfront</u> <u>Extended Stay America</u> <u>Courtyard by Marriott</u> <u>Holiday Inn</u> <u>Express</u>

WOODBURY | STUDENT UNIVERSITY | AFFAIRS

International Student Services | www.woodbury.edu | iss@woodbury.edu Page | 15

PharmaciesWalgreensCVSRite Aid

Mailing/ Shipping Services

 Health Services

 Logan Heights Family Health Center
 Urgent Care & More
 Kaiser Permanente San Diego Medical Center (Emergency Department)

Car Rental Enterprise Rent-A-Car Hertz Avis Car Rental

THINGS TO DO

Los Angeles

Disneyland Griffith Observatory Universal Studios Hollywood Los Angeles County Museum of Art Santa Monica Pier

Ethnic Neighborhoods in Los Angeles

<u>Venice Beach</u> <u>Dodger Stadium</u> <u>Hollywood Sign Hike</u> <u>Grauman's Chinese Theatre</u> <u>Rodeo Drive</u>

Los Angeles is one of the most diverse cities in the world, making it a great place for international students to spend their time abroad. Many international students can find areas in Los Angeles that will remind them of home. Eight of these ethnic neighborhoods include:

<u>Chinatown</u> <u>Olvera Street</u> <u>Koreatown</u> <u>Little Tokyo</u>

For more information, please visit the following <u>website</u>.

STUDENT

AFFAIRS

San Diego

Balboa Park San Diego Zoo Gaslamp Quarter Mission Beach La Jolla Cove Old Town, San Diego USS Midway Museum Barrio Art Crawl

WOODBURY

UNIVERSITY

FOUNDED IN 1884

Little Armenia Thai Town Little Ethiopia Historic Filipinotown