



CISL San Diego Pre-Arrival Information

Maximum 8 Students per Class



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**ENGLISH
US A**
The American Association of
Intensive English Programs

Accredited by
CEA
Leading by Advancing Standards

**Quality
Education**

CISL is fully accredited by the Commission on English Language Accreditation (CEA), which is recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education and is the only specialized accrediting agency for English language programs in the United States.



ARRIVAL AT THE AIRPORT

BE PREPARED THE MOMENT YOU ARRIVE IN SAN DIEGO

The most frequently used airport for Converse International School of Languages (CISL) is San Diego International Airport (SAN). When you arrive, you have several options for getting to your residence, homestay, or hotel.

1. Airport Transfer Service

If you choose to have CISL San Diego arrange your airport pick-up you will be greeted by someone holding a sign with your name. Airport transfer service is available for \$80 each way.

2. Airport Shuttle

This shuttle will take you directly to your residence.

Black Limo: (619) 724-3490

Please note: Usually shuttle drivers expect a \$2-3 tip for providing their service.

3. Taxi

Many taxis are available at SAN "Ground Transportation" level. The fare will be approximately \$50, and the taxi can take you directly to your homestay or residence.





WHAT TO EXPECT

YOUR FIRST DAY AT CONVERSE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES

Converse International School of Languages is located at 636 Broadway, Suite 210 on the 2nd floor of a beautiful, historic building. When you arrive on the 2nd floor, you will see our front desk staff. They can assist you with any questions you may have about attending our school. Please bring your passport and I-20. We will ask you to fill out a form with your local address, email and phone number.

1. Orientation Times

9:00 am Executive Clients (Arrive at 8:30 am)

1:00 pm Standard, Business English, Intensive English, CAE, FCE, PET, TOEIC, TOEFL, and IELTS Students

2. Orientation Agenda

Standard, Business English, Intensive English, CAE, FCE, PET, TOEFL, TOEIC and IELTS Students:

- A. Students receive a Welcome Packet with useful information (course schedule, San Diego maps, policies and procedures, etc.).
- B. Complete a 20-question listening and 80-multiple choice test (used for course placement).
- C. Complete a speaking exam which helps our Assistant Academic Manager place you in the correct class level.
- D. Tour of school and downtown area to get a bus pass or telephone card.

Executive Clients including Aviation English and English for Engineers:

- A. Clients receive a Welcome Packet with useful information (course schedule and syllabus, San Diego maps, policies and procedures, etc.).

3. After Orientation

- A. Executive English (Monday- Friday schedule). Report to your first class at 9:00 am
- B. Standard Course, etc. (Tuesday-Monday schedule). You are free to explore the city for the rest of the day. Tuesday morning, arrive at the school by 8:30 am so you can report to class at 9:00 am. Pick up your books and room assignment at the front desk.

YOUR LAST WEEK AT CONVERSE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF LANGUAGES

- A. Students with at least 85% attendance are given a Certificate of Completion and Final Transcript. For courses with set lengths, they must be completed in full to receive a certificate of completion.
- B. An exit exam is required for all students who complete at least 8 weeks of their program and Executive English clients completing a 12-week course of study. For Aviation English, clients must take the summative final exam and pass with at least a 4.0 on the ICAO scale in order to receive a certificate of completion. For Cambridge Assessment English, the official exam is the week after the course, so an extra week of accommodations must be booked in advance.
- C. Graduates are asked to complete an online questionnaire, offering their feedback on our courses, accommodations and their overall experience at CISL San Diego.
- D. Certificates are awarded by your teacher in your class with your classmates.



OUR SCHOOL

SCHOOL INFO

San Diego is California's second largest city and the seventh largest city in the United States. The city has about 1.3 million residents. The San Diego County area has more than 2.8 million residents. The county has an area of 4,200 square miles and includes 18 other cities and areas such as Coronado, La Jolla, Del Mar, Carlsbad, Solana Beach, Escondido, La Mesa and Chula Vista.

Did you know there are more than 70 miles of beaches in San Diego?

There is a lot of useful information about San Diego on the website of the San Diego Convention and Visitor's Bureau: www.sandiego.org

TEACHERS

We have 30 full-time teachers and many additional instructors who teach during the high season. The average number of years our teachers have been teaching English to speakers of other languages is eight. Many of our teachers have international teaching experience and their specializations include business, advertising, literature, theater and creative writing.

CLASSROOMS

CISL has 26 spacious classrooms and is located on Broadway in the heart of downtown San Diego. Students sit in a round table environment which is conducive to the communicative approach to language learning.

COMPUTER CENTERS/INTERNET ACCESS

There are three computer areas in the school. Internet access is free and students who bring a personal laptop, tablet or smart phone have free wireless internet, and the username and password are provided during the opening orientation.

LOUNGE AREA

Lounge areas are available on 2nd and 3rd floors. Couches and magazines are available for clients to enjoy.





AFTER-CLASS ACTIVITIES & EXCURSIONS

You will receive a complete program of carefully organized social, cultural and touristic activities to help you make friends and discover San Diego. Here are a few examples of popular adventures:

WEEKDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING EXCURSIONS

- Attending the symphony
- Going skydiving
- Watching baseball, basketball, rugby, and football games
- Playing golf and soccer
- Enjoying a boat tour of San Diego Bay
- Going to see films
- Going bowling
- Visiting museums
- Exploring the San Diego Zoo and Balboa Park
- Experiencing San Diego's Sea World
- Discovering Little Italy
- Experiencing architectural walking tours
- Exploring Coronado Island
- Taking private music lessons
- Taking surfing/golf/tennis lessons
- Participating in a beach bonfire

WEEKEND EXCURSIONS

- Grand Canyon
- Las Vegas
- Disneyland/Universal Studios
- Hollywood





GETTING AROUND “THE CITY”

The public transportation system in San Diego is very convenient and easy to navigate. City buses, trolley trains, and taxis can get you to just about all of your destinations.

Fares/Bus Passes

- \$2.50 Single-ride adult ticket buses and trains
- \$72 Monthly Pass (A) for use on buses and the trolley

Where to Buy your Bus/Trolley Pass

- MTS ticket sales location at 1255 Imperial Ave #100a, San Diego, CA 92101 (Closest to CISL)
- Most Albertsons or Vons grocery stores

Helpful Information

- Trip Planner Website: www.sdmts.com
- Trip Planner Phone: +1 619 233 3004





USEFUL INFORMATION

PUBLIC LIBRARY

If you would like to borrow books from the San Diego Public Library (www.sandiego.gov/public-library/) you apply for a Library Card with:

1. Identification Card/Passport
2. Proof of your San Diego address
 - A. Mail a letter to yourself at your homestay or residence
 - B. This piece of mail is your proof of address

The library offers free services that can help you with your English education.

HELPFUL WEBSITES FOR VISA INFORMATION

<http://studyinthestates.dhs.gov>

<https://www.fmjfee.com/index.html>

<https://esta.cbp.dhs.gov/esta/>

<https://i94.cbp.dhs.gov/I94/#/home>

DS-160 online non-immigrant visa application:

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/visa-information-resources/forms/ds-160-online-nonimmigrant-visa-application.html>

CONTACT INFORMATION

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