



CISL San Diego Pre-Arrival Information

Average 8 Students per Class



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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 \$150 each way.

Black Limo: (619) 724-3490

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

2. Homestay Transfer Service

Host family greet & pick up for students accommodated in a CISL homestay at a cost of \$120 each way.

Please note: To use service students must arrive on Saturday or Sunday between the hours of 9:00 am - 9:00 pm.

3. Taxi or Ride Share (Uber or Lyft)

Transportation is available at SAN "Ground Transportation" level. The fare will be approximately \$50, and the taxi or rideshare 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 if applicable. We will ask you to fill out a form with your local address, email and phone number.

1. Prior to arrival please be sure to take the on-line entrance exam

2. Orientation Time

8:30 am - For all students

3. Orientation Agenda

- A. Students receive a Welcome Packet with useful information (course schedule, policies and procedures, etc.).
- B. Complete a speaking exam which helps our Academic Manager place you in the correct class level.
- C. **Start class by 9:30 am.**

The glass double doors are locked around the clock and the building can only be accessed by using the directory to dial the school and being buzzed in during school hours. On your first day, you will need to enter using the directory.



- 1. Press 005 on the large directory keypad on the wall to the right of the glass double doors
- 2. Press CALL (There may be a slight delay, so please be patient)
- 3. The front desk staff will answer and unlock the door remotely
- 4. During orientation, you will be given a code to enter. Do not give this code to anyone.

Once you have entered the lobby the doors will lock behind you. Please make sure to be aware of your surroundings and wait for the 'click' of the doors locking before leaving the lobby so that no one can follow you in the building unnoticed.

Please do not hold the door for anyone you do not know, everyone who needs access to the building will either have the door code or can call up to the front desk using the callbox.

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. For Cambridge 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 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

Our teachers are very experienced and certified to teach English as a Second Language.

CLASSROOMS

CISL has spacious classrooms and is located on Broadway in the heart of downtown San Diego.

COMPUTER CENTERS/INTERNET ACCESS

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. There is also a dedicated computer lab with multiple desktops for student use.





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:

WEEK DAY 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
- Los Angeles
- 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

- Get the PRONTO App by searching for "PRONTO San Diego" in the Apple or Google Play stores to acquire a virtual card that can be used to pay transit fares or apply passes
- Go to www.ridepronto.com/get-a-card/ for a list of locations to purchase a physical ticket or pass
- 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>

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