

Welcome once again to the PhD graduate degree program in Economics at UC Santa Barbara. Below you will find information to assist you in planning your move to Santa Barbara and answers to questions you may have concerning registration, orientation, employment, housing, etc.

### PHD MATH “BOOT” CAMP

The Department of Economics will offer a Math “Boot” Camp for all incoming PhD students prior to the beginning of Fall quarter. The camp will begin Monday, August 18<sup>th</sup> and ends Friday, September 5<sup>th</sup>. This will be an informal review of the math skills and concepts needed for the program. The class will tentatively meet starting at 10:00am – 11:30am, then a break for lunch and then from 1:00pm-2:30pm (approximately 3 hours each day) in North Hall 2111. **At least that is the plan for now.** No grades or course credit will be given. We encourage all new PhD students to attend; registration is not required.

### REGISTRATION

The Office of the Registrar will send you an email, which will refer you to the "Welcome New Students" portion of the Registrar's website. There, you will find instructions for registering for classes as well as other enrollment information. New students register online via the GOLD system (<https://my.sa.ucsb.edu/gold/login.aspx>) usually between September 1<sup>st</sup> and the first day of classes. The registration instructions you receive will be easy to follow. All new PhD students are required to enroll in Economics 297 in addition to their PhD core classes for Fall quarter (Econ 204A, Econ 210A, and Econ 241A).

If you have not received an email from the Registrar's Office by early September 2025, give them a call and they will be able to assist you. **Please be sure to advise us if your permanent and/or email addresses change during the summer.**

### ORIENTATION

You should plan to arrive in Santa Barbara before Math Camp starts. This will give you an opportunity to get settled before Math Camp and Orientation meetings begin. The **Fall 2025 Calendar of Events** is on the Econ PHD Student website. Please refer to this for important dates to be available for, some require mandatory attendance. International Students who will be Teaching Assistants will be required to take the TA English Language Evaluation **and** all international TAs must pass this evaluation before they will be allowed to begin employment. **Dates and times of this exam will be announced at a later date.**

### HOUSING

**Please give housing some serious thought right away.** Santa Barbara has a relatively low vacancy rate for rental units, so it is important to get an early start on securing a good place to live. University-sponsored housing is convenient and affordable. Please visit the housing website: <http://www.housing.ucsb.edu/> for all the necessary information.

Graduate students interesting in the San Clemente Graduate Student Housing and are entering UCSB in Fall 2025 and want to apply for 2025-2026 single graduate student apartments, **must apply online** (<https://www.housing.ucsb.edu/apply/new-graduate>). **Please check the housing website carefully for instructions and deadlines.** You also must submit your intent to enroll at UCSB to the Graduate Division **and complete the housing application contract by May 15, 2025. I however strongly suggest you do this right away as demand for student housing is very high.**

If you opt for private housing, you may need some time to look around before you decide where to live. I would suggest starting to look right away. The Community Housing Office can be contacted at (805) 893-4371, the Graduate Students Association housing/roommate listings, and the local newspaper the Santa Barbara Newspress will be your best sources for housing vacancies. Some websites that may be helpful are:

- UCSB Community Housing Board: <https://rentallistings.housing.ucsb.edu/>
- Santa Barbara Independent (publication): <https://www.independent.com/classifieds/>
- Apartments for Rent: <https://www.apartments.com/santa-barbara-ca/>
- Zillow: <https://www.zillow.com/santa-barbara-ca/apartments/>

For single students who prefer to eat on campus, a campus meal plan (10, 14 or 19 meals per week) can be purchased through the Housing and Residential Services Office.

## **RESIDENCY**

**Eligible non-California residents should, immediately upon arrival, take all of the necessary steps to establish California residency.** This may include obtaining a California driver's license, establishing a local bank account, registering to vote and designating California as your permanent address on all school and employment records. Information about how to establish California state residency can be found online at <http://registrar.sa.ucsb.edu/fees-residency/residency> or by contacting the Office of the Registrar at (805) 893-3033. Eligible domestic and permanent resident students are required to take the needed steps to establish California State Residency by the beginning of the second year in the PHD program.

## **MAIL**

Every PhD graduate student has a mailbox in the Economics Graduate Office, North Hall 2120. Please check your mailbox as soon as possible after you arrive in Santa Barbara. You may also use our address as a *temporary* mailing address (please **do not** send large packages) until you find housing (your name, c/o Economics Graduate Office, UCSB, Santa Barbara, CA 93106-9210).

## **ACCESS Card**

All students are issued a UCSB identification card (*your primary UCSB student I.D.*), which is used as proof of registration and to gain access to student services on campus, such as the dining commons, Davidson Library, computer labs, and the Recreation Center. The ACCESS card also allows students to enter sporting events and ride the local bus system for free.



The ACCESS card can also be activated to become a personal debit card ([Gaucho Bucks](#)), called the ACCESS card. There is a one-time processing charge to activate the ACCESS card. Purchases are automatically deducted from the starting balance, just like a regular bank debit card. ACCESS cards are very

convenient for students as they are accepted at many campus locations, including the bookstore, post office, cashier, copy centers, Parking Services pay stations, on-campus restaurants and stores, as well as at many privately-owned businesses near campus.

Students will receive their Access Card when they arrive on campus. Otherwise, cards are issued by the ACCESS Photo Center in the University Center. Hours of operation are Monday – Friday 10:00am to 4:00pm during the academic year, and Monday – Friday 10:00am to 2:00pm during the summer.

### **COMPUTER ACCOUNTS and EMAIL**

All Economics graduate students will be issued a login and password for a departmental account. Departmental email accounts (@econ.ucsb.edu) are not issued to graduate students. You will need to establish a UCSB email account, called “Umail”. **It is imperative that once this email account is set up for you, that you start checking it for email on a regular basis** (you can set-up this account to forward email to your personal account). This is the primary means of communication between the Economics Faculty, Staff, and you.

When your U-Mail account is activated, you will receive your 'UCSBnetID'. Your UCSBnetID will allow you to register using GOLD as well as enabling you to access your information at other UCSB web pages such as Financial Aid, Housing, and BARC. It is imperative that you also get in the habit of checking your messages on GOLD. This is how the many central offices on campus including the Registrar's and BARC communicate to you registration open and closing times and information on deadlines for payments, avoiding late registration, etc.

If you have trouble establishing your U-mail account or UCSBnetID, contact the Help desk at 1517 Phelps Hall or call (805) 893-5542, Monday through Friday from 8:00am – 5:00pm, **or** you can email them from: <http://www.umail.ucsb.edu/help/request/>.

### **QUESTIONS**

I will be available most of the summer to answer questions about the program, the campus, or the community. Feel free to contact me via email (see address below) or telephone at (805) 893-2205. I am generally available between 8:00am – 12:00pm and 1:00pm – 3:00pm each day (Monday through Friday).

Have a wonderful summer. I look forward to seeing you in late August, if not before.

Best always,



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