The University of California San Diego

Our story. Situated on a sunny cliff overlooking the Pacific Ocean, the University of California San Diego is a place that has reimagined the traditional path to knowledge. Established in 1960, UC San Diego is a public research university that has been shaped by exceptional scholars who aren’t afraid to make waves—from creating the world’s first algae-based surfboard to developing wireless health-monitoring tattoos and printing 3D blood vessels.

The 1,200-acre campus is located in the La Jolla neighborhood of San Diego, Calif., in the heart of one of the most densely concentrated innovation hubs in the nation. The campus is consistently ranked among the top 10 best universities in the nation and top 15 in the world for research, teaching, public service and post-graduation career prospects.

UC San Diego’s more than 185,000 alumni include National Medal of Science honoree J. Craig Venter, one of the first to sequence the human genome; Kate Rubins, NASA astronaut who recently conducted human health studies in space; Nathan East, one of the most recorded bassists in history; Albert Lin, an explorer using crowdsourcing and radar to find the lost tomb of Genghis Khan; and Guy “Bud” Tribble, who managed the original Macintosh software development team.

Setting the Bar High: Academic Life. UC San Diego academic programs, taught by highly-regarded scholars, prepare students to stand out and lead change. The campus offers more than 100 undergraduate degrees spanning five academic divisions, as well as master’s and doctoral degrees within 60 academic departments.

The university is organized into six undergraduate residential colleges and five professional and graduate schools, including the Rady School of Management, School of Global Policy and Strategy, School of Medicine, Scripps Institution of Oceanography/School of Marine Sciences and Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences.
Over the last 50 years, 16 Nobel laureates have taught on campus. Over 160 current faculty are members of one or more of the prestigious national academies, while numerous others have garnered such awards as the McArthur Fellowship, National Medal of Science, Pulitzer Prize, Fields Medal and Academy Award.

**Breaking Things Better: Student Success.** A student-centered university, UC San Diego offers supplemental learning, tutoring and career development programs to prepare students to thrive academically. For example, through services offered at the Teaching + Learning Commons, students develop transferable skills, participate in peer-facilitated study groups and are matched with experiential learning projects.

In addition, nearly a dozen makerspaces and incubators offer resources, training and mentorship opportunities to help students launch their big ideas. At The Basement, students gain business guidance and funding ideas from alumni and industry mentors. For hands-on projects, the Envision Maker Space contains tools to design, fabricate and prototype, including 3D printers, welding stations and laser cutters.

Students apply their learning outside the classroom through faculty-mentored research, service learning projects, study abroad and professional internships. Undergraduates can explore opportunities through the Research Experience and Applied Learning Portal, get matched with real-world training opportunities through the Academic Internship Program, and become immersed in the culture of another country through the Study Abroad Office.

**A Place of Belonging: Diversity and Inclusion.** UC San Diego is committed to creating a climate of respect and understanding. Through innovative programs, the campus opens doors to higher education for first generation students and those from underserved communities. The university was recently named first in the nation among peer institutions for enrolling the most low-income students. In addition, UC San Diego graduates the largest percentage of women with STEM degrees, and has been named one of the top 10 most LGBTQ-friendly universities.

Students are invited to engage in open dialogue, develop leadership skills and learn about social issues at six campus community centers. In addition, students can take part in numerous cultural events and celebrations of diversity.

**Activating Passions: Campus Life.** Life at UC San Diego is far from ordinary. In 2018, UC San Diego was ranked 1st nationally among “Top 10 Surf Colleges” by Surfer Magazine. The campus features a competitive surf team, classes on the physics of surfing as well as opportunities to learn how to ride the salty swells.

UC San Diego’s Triton Athletics includes 23 intercollegiate sports teams, which have garnered 30 national championship titles. The university is reclassifying into NCAA Division I, and will begin a full Big West Conference competitive slate in the 2020–21 academic year.

The university features more than 550 student organizations on campus, ranging from academic-focused and pre-professional groups to social and cultural clubs as well as spiritual and service groups. These organizations give students the opportunity to be engaged and make a positive difference on and off campus. On average, nearly 20,000 UC San Diego students complete more than 3 million hours of community service each year.

Learn more about UC San Diego at [www.ucsd.edu](http://www.ucsd.edu).