

Dear International Grad Students,

We couldn't be happier to meet you soon. For a smooth transition to your settlement at Merced, there is some information you may want to know before setting up your itinerary. We will provide you some more details about life in Merced after you arrive, but here we dedicate our effort for your first several days' basic needs: living, food, transportation to Merced, hence an elegant transition for you.

If you haven't found a permanent residence yet, when you arrive at UC Merced, you could live on campus in a shared apartment for the first several days while you physically look for your permanent place. The rate for the room we provide is \$45 per night, available from Aug 7th to Aug 17th. Please note that you will have your own room but it might be a shared apartment with others. If you would like to request temporary housing please provide your name and desired dates as soon as possible to lqbal.Atwal@ucmerced.edu.

Living on campus these days, you could register and get your Cat Card, with which you could buy food in Dining Center and get access to most of the places on campus. To obtain a Cat Card you will have to visit the Cat Card office located in Kolligian Library Room 111A. Moreover, since you may want to find a place not far away from a bus stop, using a Cat Card, you could take a bus from campus to look for housing.

If you'd like to find a place beforehand, here we provide three useful ways (apartment: usually one or two bedrooms and one or two bathrooms; house: usually three to five bedrooms with two or more bathrooms; generally sharing house is cheaper than sharing apartment):

- (1) While there are a lot of apartment complex at Merced, here only provides those most near CatTrack bus stop (usually within a 10-minute walk from your apartment). This [pdf document\(click me\)](#) provides the nearby apartment complex's contact info, and you could check with them if there is an available room by the time you arrive. You should keep in mind, however, since most of the apartments are only equipped with A/C, refrigerator, stove and oven, you may need to buy a bed and lots of necessities and find a roommate to share the entire apartment with you. For more detailed info, please browse [the off-campus housing website\(click me\)](#).
- (2) Because of the inconvenience of buying stuff and looking for roommate, there is a [website\(click me\)](#) helping you find someone who has already rented a place and is looking for a roommate. To use this website, you could just click the "Student" and log in using your account. You could either find someone who has had a place or those who want a place to share with others.
- (3) While people may not go the website very often, there is a more instant info resources for you to check available room, the Facebook group. Many students would post their available room on the Facebook group, and you could contact them directly. And since students would usually pick up a place near CatTrack bus stop, you could easily find a nearby place with convenient transportation. In order to access this Facebook group, you have to be friend with someone who is already in this group. You could submit your friend request to me (please search me in Facebook by: Zhixun He), and once we are friends in Facebook, please send me a message of the request to "UC Classified Group" and "Social Graduate Students", together with your UC Merced email address (for the sake of identity). Thus you could check all the useful housing info in it, and contact other students directly.

For transportation to UC Merced(UCM), here we provide a detailed guide:

- (1) We will provide two UCM shuttles, leaving directly from San Francisco International Airport (SFO) for UC Merced, for free. If you want enjoy the convenience of the service, you need to sign up by filling up the [Grad Pal Form here \(click me\)](#). More importantly, the time for this shuttle is provided in the form, and it would be highly recommended that you book your air ticket according to the shuttle departure times.
- (2) If you will land on other near airports or not/could not use this service, we may have some volunteers to pick you up at airports. This picking up service, however, is not guaranteed, since it really depends on the enrollment of volunteers this year. But if you want someone to pick you up, you also need to share your airline info by filling out the same [Form \(click me\)](#).
- (3) While we try our best to help you move to Merced, if you would not benefit from the shuttle nor pick-up, here's a detailed guide assisting you to get to UC Merced, and Merced city of course. The pdf document includes many possible ways to get there from different international airports. Since you need to explore the public transportation of California, it's your responsibility to check out the time for each stop, so you won't miss your train or bus. It's a clear instruction for each stop, you just need to check the time by clicking the links and input those code for different station in the website to look for available transportation.

Once you reach Merced, you could choose to live on campus for the first several days, which we mentioned at the beginning. Or, if you like, stay in a hotel in the city, where most places would have restaurants. If you have further questions, please reach out to the Graduate Student Association (gsa@ucmerced.edu).

Note: SFO: San Francisco International Airport OAK: Oakland International Airport
UC Merced: University of California, Merced LAX: Los Angeles International Airport
FAT: Fresno Yosemite Airport SMF: Sacramento International Airport

Option 1

SFO (San Francisco)	When you arrive at the SFO, there is a Shuttle Service provided by UC Merced, leaving for UC Merced directly. The time is included in GradPal Form(click me) .	Price: Free
↓ (shuttle)	IMPORTANT: In order to take this shuttle, please RSVP first by signing up GradPal Form(click me) . There are only two shuttles, therefore it would be recommended that before booking your air ticket, check out the time for these two shuttles.	
UC Merced	You arrive at UC Merced	

Option 2

SFO (San Francisco)	When you arrive at the SFO, you could take the AirTrain to the BART Station(San Francisco Int'l Airport). For where to take the AirTrain at SFO, please take a look at info about BART Rapid Rail (click me) .	Price: Free
↓ (AirTrain)		
BART Station (San Francisco Int'l Airport)	When you arrive at the BART Station(San Francisco Int'l Airport), you should take the BART to the BART Station(Coliseum). There is one transfer along the way, and, for detailed instruction, please search the route, at: www.bart.gov	Price: \$9.7
↓ (BART)	IMPORTANT: 1) Please check the available time before you arrive, at: www.bart.gov ; 2) You could also buy the ticket online beforehand, at: www.bart.gov	
BART Station (Coliseum)	When you arrive at the BART Station(Coliseum), you should take the Amtrak to Merced city. To get to the Amtrak station, you should go cross the Pedestrian Bridge when you arrive at the Coliseum BART Station, and then you will reach the Amtrak Station(Coliseum/Airport(OAC)).	Price: Free
↓ (walk)		
Amtrak Station (Coliseum/Airport(OAC))	When you get there, you are at the Amtrak Station(Coliseum/Airport(OAC)). From there, your destination is the Amtrak Station(Merced, CA(MCD)). You could book your ticket at: www.amtrak.com	Price: \$33-\$50
↓ (Amtrak)	IMPORTANT: 1) Please check the available time before you arrive, at: www.amtrak.com ; 2) You could also buy the ticket online beforehand, at: www.amtrak.com	
Amtrak Station (Merced, CA(MCD))	When you arrive at the Amtrak Station(Merced, CA(MCD)), you could take a taxi to UC Merced or any place you want in this city. You could search online the taxi's phone number. Here's some numbers we find online: 209-722-8294 or 209-723-0000.	Price: \$25-\$40
↓ (taxi)	Note: The address of UC Merced is: 5200 N. Lake Road, Merced, CA 95343	
UC Merced	You arrive at UC Merced.	

Option 3

LAX (Los Angeles)	When you arrive at the LAX, you could take the FlyAway buses to the Amtrak Station(Union Station(LAX)). As how and where to take the FlyAway busses, please have a look at info about LAX FlyAway(click me) .	Price: Free
↓ (FlyAway Bus)		
Amtrak Station (Union Station(LAX))	When you arrive at the Amtrak Station(Union Station(LAX)), you should take the Amtrak to the Amtrak Station(Merced, CA(MCD)). You could book the ticket at: www.amtrak.com	Price: \$43-\$79
↓ (Amtrak)	IMPORTANT: 1) Please check the available time before you arrive, at: www.amtrak.com ; 2) You could also buy the ticket online beforehand, at: www.amtrak.com	
Amtrak Station (Merced, CA(MCD))	When you arrive at the Amtrak Station(Merced, CA(MCD)), you could take a taxi to UC Merced or any place you want in this city. You could search online the taxi's phone number. Here's some numbers we find online: 209-722-8294 or 209-723-0000.	Price: \$25-\$40
↓ (taxi)	Note: The address of UC Merced is: 5200 N. Lake Road, Merced, CA 95343	
UC Merced	You arrive at UC Merced.	

Option 4

FAT (Fresno)	When you arrive at the FAT, you could take a taxi to the Amtrak Station(Fresno, CA(FNO)). For where to take taxi at FAT, please take a look at info about Transportation and Lodging of FAT (click me) .	Price: N/A
↓ (taxi)	Note: The address of Amtrak Station(Fresno, CA(FNO)) is: 2650 Tulare Street, Santa Fe Station, Fresno, CA 93721	
Amtrak Station (Fresno, CA(FNO))	When you arrive at the Amtrak Station(Fresno, CA(FNO)), you should take the Amtrak to the Amtrak Station(Merced, CA(MCD)). You could book the ticket at: www.amtrak.com	Price: \$14-\$25
↓ (Amtrak)	IMPORTANT: 1) Please check the available time before you arrive, at: www.amtrak.com ; 2) You could also buy the ticket online beforehand, at: www.amtrak.com	
Amtrak Station (Merced, CA(MCD))	When you arrive at the Amtrak Station(Merced, CA(MCD)), you could take a taxi to UC Merced or any place you want in this city. You could search online the taxi's phone number. Here's some numbers we find online: 209-722-8294 or 209-723-0000.	Price: \$25-\$40
↓ (taxi)	Note: The address of UC Merced is: 5200 N. Lake Road, Merced, CA 95343	
UC Merced	You arrive at UC Merced.	

Option 5

SMF (Sacramento)	When you arrive at the SMF, you could take a taxi to the Amtrak Station(Sacramento, CA(SAC)). For where to take taxi at SMF, please take a look at info about Transportation and Lodging of SMF (click me) .	Price: N/A
↓ (taxi)	Note: The address of the Amtrak Station(Sacramento, CA(SAC)) is: 401 I Street, Sacramento Valley Station, Sacramento, CA 95814	
Amtrak Station (Sacramento, CA(SAC))	When you arrive at the Amtrak Station(Sacramento, CA(SAC)), you should take the Amtrak to the Amtrak Station(Merced, CA(MCD)). You could book the ticket at: www.amtrak.com	Price: \$23-\$41
↓ (Amtrak)	IMPORTANT: 1) Please check the available time before you arrive, at: www.amtrak.com ; 2) You could also buy the ticket online beforehand, at: www.amtrak.com	
Amtrak Station (Merced, CA(MCD))	When you arrive at the Amtrak Station(Merced, CA(MCD)), you could take a taxi to UC Merced or any place you want in this city. You could search online the taxi's phone number. Here's some numbers we find online: 209-722-8294 or 209-723-0000.	Price: \$25-\$40
↓ (taxi)	Note: The address of UC Merced is: 5200 N. Lake Road, Merced, CA 95343	
UC Merced	You arrive at UC Merced.	

Option 6

OAK (Oakland)	When you arrive at the OAK, you could walk to the Amtrak Station(Oakland Int'l Airport) by cross-walking the street once you exit OAK. For detailed instruction, please take a look at info about BART public transportation at OAK (click me) .	Price: free
↓ (walk)	Note: The address of the BART Station(Oakland Int'l Airport) is: 4 Airport Drive, Oakland, CA 94621	
BART Station (Oakland Int's Airport)	When you arrive at the BART Station(Oakland Int'l Airport), you should take the BART to the BART Station(Coliseum). You could book the ticket at: www.bart.gov	Price: \$6
↓ (BART)	IMPORTANT: 1) Please check the available time before you arrive, at: www.bart.gov ; 2) You could also buy the ticket online beforehand, at: www.bart.gov	
BART Station (Coliseum)	When you arrive at the BART Station(Coliseum), you should take the Amtrak to Merced city. To get to the Amtrak station, you should go cross the Pedestrian Bridge when you arrive at the Coliseum BART Station, and then you will reach the Amtrak Station(Coliseum/Airport(OAC)).	Price: free
↓ (walk)		
Amtrak Station (Coliseum/Airport(OAC))	When you get there, you are at the Amtrak Station(Coliseum/Airport(OAC)). From there, your destination is the Amtrak Station(Merced, CA(MCD)). You could book your ticket at: www.amtrak.com	Price: \$33-\$50
↓ (Amtrak)	IMPORTANT: 1) Please check the available time before you arrive, at: www.amtrak.com ; 2) You could also buy the ticket online beforehand, at: www.amtrak.com	
Amtrak Station (Merced, CA(MCD))	When you arrive at the Amtrak Station(Merced, CA(MCD)), you could take a taxi to UC Merced or any place you want in this city. You could search online the taxi's phone number. Here's some numbers we find online: 209-722-8294 or 209-723-0000.	Price: \$25-\$40
↓ (taxi)	Note: The address of UC Merced is: 5200 N. Lake Road, Merced, CA 95343	
UC Merced	You arrive at UC Merced.	