



## **Frequently Asked Questions**

1. What are the dates of the program for summer 2025?

The program will begin on Sunday, 22 June 2025, and will end on Friday, 8 August 2025.

2. What time do I need to arrive to UC San Diego on 22 June 2025?

The best time would be in the morning (before 12:00 PM), but there is flexibility. We do not have any official activities that day. Instructions on location for check-in will be available after you are admitted to the program.

3. How much does the program cost, and what does it include?

The cost of the program is \$6,000 USD and includes the following:

- Housing for 7 weeks at the UC San Diego dormitories. These dormitories are organized as shared apartments. Each apartment includes a living space, 4-5 bedrooms of one or two beds each, and bathrooms.
- Breakfast, lunch and dinner every day of the week (all 7 days).
- Weekend field trips.
- Personal protective equipment for the lab (safety glasses and lab coat).
- Participation in College/Graduate School Prep workshops.
- Anti-bias Training; Science & Society Lectures; Featured Scientist Lectures.

Please note that the cost of the program does not cover airfare or visa application costs.

All students that are accepted to ENLACE automatically receive a \$1,000 scholarship, whether the student applies for a scholarship or not. Thus, the cost of the program is reduced for all students to \$5,000.

4. Are there scholarships available?

Scholarships are available and are based on the financial need of the student. In order to request a scholarship, please complete the application for financial support on the ENLACE web site.

5. How can I apply to the program?

Follow the instructions available at:

<http://resilientmaterials.ucsd.edu/ENLACE>

6. I have an interest in science and/or engineering but I do not know which specific field or area yet. Can I still apply to the program?

This is more common than you might think! We invite you to check out UC San Diego's lists of faculty and researchers, to explore some of the areas for which we have research activities:

Jacobs School of Engineering:

<https://jacobsschool.ucsd.edu/faculty/profiles>

Scripps Institution of Oceanography:

<https://scripps.ucsd.edu/people/faculty>

Department of Chemistry:

<https://chemistry.ucsd.edu/faculty/alphabetical.shtml>

Department of Physics:

<https://physics.ucsd.edu/people/faculty>

Department of Medicine:

<https://medschool.ucsd.edu/som/medicine/about/faculty/Pages/Faculty-Directory.aspx>

Other departments in the School of Medicine:

<https://medschool.ucsd.edu/education/pages/departments.aspx>

Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences:

<https://pharmacy.ucsd.edu/research/faculty>

School of Biological Sciences:

<https://biology.ucsd.edu/research/faculty/index.html>

and explore the ongoing research at the laboratories. Most of the pages have extremely interesting information and links to recently published papers that might help you find which area or general field of study you would like to explore during ENLACE 2025.

7. What am I going to do inside the lab? What are the daily activities?

Your daily activities will vary significantly depending on the type of laboratory you are assigned to and the nature of the experiments. However, all students have research laboratory time approximately from Monday to Friday from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, with an hour for lunch.

In some laboratories you will be required to arrive earlier or depart later depending on the activities and experiments. Also, in some cases you will be required to read publications in the library or your dormitory in preparation for your experiments.

8. I heard there are Saturday field trips. What will be the Saturday field trips this year?

For ENLACE 2025, four field trips are currently planned:

- San Diego Zoo (<https://zoo.sandiegozoo.org/>)
- Birch Aquarium (<https://aquarium.ucsd.edu/>)
- Midway Museum (<https://www.midway.org/stories/>)
- San Diego Air and Space Museum (<https://sandiegoairandspace.org/>)

Specific field trips are subject to change until final details are defined in April/May 2025.

9. What visa is required for participation?

For international students, the B1/B2 visa is required, as well as the I-94 permit.

The description of the B1/B2 visa is available at:

<https://mx.usembassy.gov/es/visas-es/turismo-y-visitantes/>

The description of the I-94 permit is available at:

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

Under some circumstances, a J1 visa may be needed. This depends on your country of origin. Specific visa requirements and support to obtain the visa will be provided once you are accepted into the program.

10. What if I don't have a B1/B2 or J1 visa?

Once you are admitted into the program, you will receive a letter from UC San Diego that you will be able to take to a US Consulate or Embassy to process the visa.

11. Do I get to select the specific laboratory project I will work on?

You do not get to select. The process of placement is made based on the area of interest you describe in the application essay.

12. Will I be assigned to a laboratory by myself?

No. All students are assigned to laboratories in pairs.

13. Do I get to select the roommates I will live with during the summer?

No. Dormitory placements are decided by the Director of the program.

14. What can I bring to the dormitories?

Coffee machines, small microwaves and small refrigerators are allowed in the dormitories. However, they are not necessary, as all meals will be in an assigned cafeteria.

15. What about laundry?

Washing machines are available in the dormitories and can be used for a small fee. You must provide your own laundry detergent.

16. Do I need to bring a computer to the program?

Laptop computers are not required for participation in this program, but they are highly encouraged. In past years, most students brought their laptop computers with them. Please make every effort to bring a laptop computer to the program.

17. Are there access restrictions in the dormitories?

Men (this includes friends and family members) are NOT allowed in apartments assigned to girls. Women (this includes friends and family members) are NOT allowed in apartments assigned to boys. This requirement also applies to program participants. Overnight guests are not permitted in the dormitories.

18. What linens will be available in the dormitories?

UC San Diego will provide one (1) set of bed linens, one (1) blanket, one (1) pillow and one (1) set of towels. Bed linens will be exchanged weekly. Towels and toiletries (personal products) are not included. Students are free to bring their own bed linens and towels (this is recommended).

19. How can I get around the UC San Diego campus?

The UC San Diego campus is very large. Bicycles and skateboards are allowed inside the campus for faster transportation between buildings. Both are encouraged as options for transportation. However, keep in mind that it is not unusual for bicycles to be stolen on the UC San Diego campus. Keep this in mind when making a decision about bringing a bicycle to the program.

Transportation information can be found at:  
<https://transportation.ucsd.edu/alternatives/index.html>

The campus has a bikeshare program. The bicycles and scooters in this program can be used for a small fee. Details of this program are available at:  
<https://transportation.ucsd.edu/campus/shared.html>

20. How safe is the UC San Diego campus?

The UC San Diego campus is very safe. However, when walking around campus late in the evening, an escort service is available. Information on this service is available at:

<https://police.ucsd.edu/about/cso.html>

Additional information on campus safety, thefts, crime prevention, *etc.*, can be found at:

<https://police.ucsd.edu/>

21. Can I bring pets to the program?

Pets are prohibited in the residential halls and apartments regardless of length of stay with exception of personal ‘Service or Assistance Animals’ that assist with a disability. Breach of this provision will result in a \$50.00/day/room charge for cleaning and fumigation beginning the first day of the program and ending on the day the animal is removed from the University’s premises.

22. Is smoking allowed at UC San Diego?

UC San Diego is a non-smoking campus. Smoking, use of smokeless tobacco products, and the use of unregulated nicotine products are strictly prohibited. Smoke and Tobacco Free Policy applies to all University facilities, owned or leased, regardless of location. The full smoking policy can be found at: <http://smokefree.ucsd.edu/>

23. What are the consequences for consuming alcohol or drugs?

There is zero tolerance towards alcoholic beverages and controlled substances. Any student that is caught consuming or carrying alcoholic beverages and/or controlled substances, whether inside or outside the UC San Diego campus, will be immediately dismissed from the program and sent back home. Medications must be accompanied by a prescription from a physician.

Federal Law, California State Law, and University policies prohibit the unlawful possession, solicitation, procurement, sale, consumption, or manufacture of narcotics or controlled substances. Marijuana, including marijuana for medical use, is specifically prohibited. Persons in the presence of controlled substances, with or without objective signs of intoxication, may be in violation of this policy. The possession and/or use of drug paraphernalia is prohibited in or around all University Property. The use of any prescribed medication, over the counter drugs, and other controlled substances in an abusive or recreational manner is prohibited. Prescription medication may only be used or possessed by the person to whom it is prescribed.

24. Are weapons and explosives allowed?

University and Housing policies prohibit the use or possession of firearms on campus with or without a California permit. Also prohibited on campus is the use, possession, or storage of any kind of ammunition and/or weapon(s) including but not limited to stun guns, daggers, knives with a fixed blade over 2.5 inches used for any purpose other than cooking, martial arts equipment, any device resembling a firearm (including but not limited to airsoft, paintball, bb guns, or “nerf”-type guns), slingshots, spear guns, bows and arrows, explosives, fireworks, and Taser guns. The improper discharge of a chemical agent including but not limited to mace, pepper spray, or other aerosols is prohibited. Other items or implements used aggressively or for violent purposes are prohibited.

25. Can I establish a romantic relationship with a student in the program?

Personal romantic relationships between any students in the program are strictly prohibited during the 7 weeks of the program.

26. How will minors (the high school students) be organized in the dormitories?

The high school students will be assigned to a chaperone that will handle all day-to-day security during the program. A curfew of 9:00 PM is established for all high school students.

27. Is the program open to high school and college students from all states in the USA?

Yes

28. Is the program open to high school and college students from all countries and nationalities in the Americas (North, Central and South America)?

Yes

29. Do we accept applications from students and researchers residing in countries other than the Americas (North, Central and South America)?

Yes. On a limited basis.

30. Is there any free time during the program?

Sundays are free.

31. If I live close to the UC San Diego campus, can I go home on the weekends?

Students can go home on Saturday evenings and come back to campus on Sunday evenings.

32. Can I participate in the program and choose not to live on campus?

No. All participants must live on campus during the 7 weeks of the program.

33. Is there a curfew for returning to the dormitories during the week?

There is a curfew only for high school students. The curfew is 9:00 PM.

34. If I live far away and have to travel on an airplane to participate in the program, what airport should I travel to?

There are two options:

A. Tijuana International Airport:

<https://www.aeropuertosgap.com.mx/en/tijuana-3.html>

If traveling to Tijuana, you will need to cross into the United States through the Cross Border Xpress (<https://www.crossborderxpress.com/en/>). We will pick you up at the exit of the CBX once you clear Customs and Border Protection.

B. San Diego International Airport:

<https://www.san.org/>

If you are an international traveler, upon landing in San Diego we will pick you up once you clear Customs and Border Protection. If you are a domestic (within the U.S.) traveler, then we will pick you up at baggage claim.

35. Can I arrive to San Diego before 22 June 2025 or depart later than 9 August 2025?

Yes. But you will have to find and pay for your own hotel. Dormitories will only be available starting 22 June 2025 and ending the morning of 9 August 2025.

For any additional questions, feel free to email the Director (**Prof. Olivia A. Graeve**) or the Administrator (**Dr. Fabián Martínez-Pallares**) of the ENLACE program at [enlace@ucsd.edu](mailto:enlace@ucsd.edu).