**Information for Students**

| A. | University | **University of Southern California**<br>*[Commonly referred to as USC; exchange is with USC Viterbi School of Engineering only]*<br><br>http://www.usc.edu/ | http://ois.usc.edu/ | Incoming Exchange Page |
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| B. | Location | Los Angeles, California, USA |
| C. | Academics | |
| | i) Module Mapping & Credits Transfer | Please ensure your Study Plan is approved by the academics at your home School or Faculty before the exchange.<br><br>Modules approved in the past may not be offered by the host university or approved by your Faculty when it is time for your SEP. Please check the latest course offerings at the host university while you develop your Study Plan. |
| | ii) Academic Calendar | **Semester 1 (Fall):** August to December<br>**Semester 2 (Spring):** January to May<br><br>https://academics.usc.edu/calendar/ |
| | iii) Exchange Duration | One semester |
| | iv) Examination | Students should check the exam timetable at their host university, and ensure they can stay at their host university until after the end of the official exam period. |
| | v) Curriculum Structure | https://classes.usc.edu/registration/ |
| | vi) Entry Requirements | CAP of 3.5 out of 5.0 with no grade below C |
| | vii) Language Proficiency Requirements | English<br><br>New regulations have been issued by the U.S. Department of State for the J-1 Exchange Visitor Program, including a new requirement to document that all J-1 exchange visitors have an adequate level of English proficiency to carry out their proposed program at the university. These changes will be in effect from the Fall 2015 exchange program applications.<br><br>Students can meet this requirement with a TOEFL iBT score of 90 with no less than 20 on each section or an IELTS score of 6.5 with no less than 6 on each band score. Copies of test scores will need to be submitted with students' exchange application.<br><br>Students who do not have TOELF or IELTS can opt for a telephone or Skype interview, which will be conducted by the USC Admission & Student Affairs |

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| | | Office. USC will contact students to arrange the interview on receipt of their application. This arrangement for the English Language Proficiency evaluation is subject to change. |
| **viii)** | **Modules Compatibility** | The NUS-USC exchange is through USC Viterbi School of Engineering only making it a suitable SEP destination for **FoE** and possibly **SoC** students, depending on their academic requirements. NUS Business School also has a Business-specific exchange with USC. Please reach out to the BBA Dean's Office to find out more.<br><br>**Course Selection**<br><br>Exchange students are expected to enroll in 12-18 units. This can be anywhere from 3 to 5 courses, depending on how many units each individual course is worth. In your application, please select as many courses as possible to ensure that you are able to enroll in at least 12 units.<br><br>Each 4-unit course at USC meets for approximately 4 hours a week. Final exams are scheduled over a 1-week period at the end of the semester. The times for all exams are set prior to the semester, and exam times CANNOT be changed. Please pay attention to the final exam schedule when selecting classes.<br><br>**Registering for Courses**<br><br>After you have been accepted to USC, you will be sent an email with your USC ID number, as well as instructions on registering for courses. We do our best to place you in your first choices, but due to classroom size limitations, we are not always able to do so. You will be able to change your registration until the end of the third week of classes.<br><br>**Helpful links to get started**<br><br>• Schedule of classes: https://classes.usc.edu/<br>• UCS Catalogue: https://catalogue.usc.edu/<br><br>Other helpful tips from USC:<br><br>• Make sure your final schedule has no time conflicts. You cannot enroll in courses whose class meeting times conflict.<br>• Some courses include a lecture section, a discussion section and a quiz section. Consider all components of the course when planning your schedule.<br>• You are allowed to change courses up through the third week of classes. But there is NO GUARANTEE that you will find space in the course or time that you want. |

| ix) | Module restrictions and pre-requisites | Students can only take courses from USC Viterbi School of Engineering, with the exception of appropriate math and science courses. All other Schools and Programmes at USC are unavailable.<br><br>In addition, please note:<br><br>• You may not enroll in graduate courses numbered 500 or higher.<br>• Courses may require pre-requisite courses or the equivalent coursework. Make sure you meet all qualifications before selecting for such courses. |
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**D. Application**

| i) | Procedures | All NUS students have to be nominated by NUS before they can apply for a fee-waiver exchange at the host university. The application procedures and list of supporting documents needed by the host university can be found in the SharePoint. Please look for the SEP coordinator at your Dean's Office for the link to the SharePoint.<br><br>Please prepare your supporting PDF documents before beginning your USC exchange application. Supporting documents are:<br><br>• Letter from your Exchange Program Coordinator nominating you to participate in this program.<br>• Financial Statement providing proof of your ability to fund your education and living expenses.<br>• A copy of the front page of your passport, showing your full name, photo, passport number, and expiration date.<br>• Transcript of all your previous and in-progress coursework (can be unofficial).<br>• TOEFL or IELTS exam scores.*<br>• Your current resume, including work/professional experience, extracurricular undergraduate activities, academic or professional honors or awards, languages of fluency, and computer knowledge.<br>• Examples of coursework that show you have met pre-requisites for courses you are requesting to enroll in at USC. This may include syllabi, homework projects and final exams.<br><br>It is very important that all information in your application is entered accurately and exactly as it appears on your passport. Errors may cause delays in processing your J-1 visa application or other difficulties when entering the U.S.<br><br>*Exchange applicants can demonstrate their proficiency via a recognized English language test or a documented interview conducted by the sponsoring department. |
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| ii) | Deadlines | All NUS students must abide by the internal application deadline set by their home Faculty for exchange participation in the following academic year. |

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| | After clearing the internal application and selection process, students have to take note of the application deadline set by the host university. |
| | Failure to submit a formal application to the host university by the stipulated deadline, may result in your exchange being forfeited even if you have been selected by NUS for the exchange. |
| | Spring (Semester 2) Key Dates: |
| | <ul><li>USC Application Available – August 1</li><li>USC Application Due – September 10</li><li>Decisions Sent – Mid to Late October</li></ul> |
| | Fall (Semester 1) Key Dates: |
| | <ul><li>USC Application Available – Feb 1</li><li>USC Application Due – March 31</li><li>Decisions Sent – Mid to Late April</li></ul> |

| **E. Accommodation** | |
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| **i) University Accommodation** | Exchange students may apply for USC Housing. Space is not guaranteed, but USC will try their best to place all interested exchange students in on-campus housing. Be certain to indicate on your application that you are interested in USC Housing, and remember that you are responsible for paying for your housing costs.<br><br>For more information, please refer here:<br>https://viterbiundergrad.usc.edu/overseas/exchange/housing/ |

| **F. Visa** | |
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| **Consular/Visa Regulation** | Your J-1 visa will be good for the length of the programme of study. You are able to enter the U.S. 30 days prior to the start date of the visa and stay in the U.S. up to 30 days after the end date of the visa. This allow you to arrive in the U.S. prior to as well as remain after the program ends to travel. If you arrive before the 30 day grace period, you will only be able to enter the U.S. as a tourist. Please note, if you enter the U.S. as a tourist, you MUST leave, and then re-enter to validate your visa, before you can attend classes. Please arrive within the specified period, unless you plan on leaving and returning before the program begins.<br><br>An admission packet will be mailed to you after you complete the application process. In this packet, you will find:<br><ul><li>Your J-1 visa documents (DS-2019)</li><li>Your acceptance letter</li><li>Your SEVIS number</li></ul> |

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| | • Where and how to pay the SEVIS fee<br><br>• Additional information about making interview appointments |

**G. Safety, Health & Medical Insurance**

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| i) **Health/Medical Insurance** | All registered NUS students are covered under the university health insurance and the blanket travel insurance. For more information on the blanket travel insurance, please refer to the following link: https://myportal.nus.edu.sg/studentportal/student-insurance/all/<br><br>Students are strongly encouraged to purchase a supplemental travel insurance to ensure they are adequately covered during their exchange semester.<br><br>In addition, students will be required to enrol in the compulsory health insurance policy or scheme at their SEP host university.<br><br>*USC requires that all international students either have proof of U.S.-based health insurance or enroll in the USC Student Health Insurance Plan. Enrollment in the USC plan is automatic (you do not need to do anything). In addition, all USC students, even those with non-USC health insurance, are required to pay a Health Center Fee for the semester. For more information, please refer here (scroll down to the Insurance & Immunizations section):*<br><br>***https://viterbiundergrad.usc.edu/overseas/exchange/prearrival/*** |
| ii) **Emergency Number at host university** | https://dps.usc.edu/ |

**H. Cost of Living**

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| i) **Estimated Monthly Living Expenses** | https://viterbiundergrad.usc.edu/overseas/exchange/finances/ |

**Information correct as of July 2021. Please refer to the USC links for the latest information.**