



Study Abroad

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Columbia, South Carolina

The University of South Carolina

The University of South Carolina (USC) is located in downtown Columbia, in the heart of South Carolina. Summers in Columbia are long and balmy, and its winters are mild and short. The campus is just a couple of minutes by foot from some of the city's best architecture, museums, galleries, historic houses, theaters, and large venues for sporting and entertainment events. South Carolina is one of the most beautiful states on the east coast, as it has many stretches of unspoiled forest, sandy beaches, and scenic lakes and rivers. It's also a great place to try iced sweet tea, the official drink of the South, and to sample authentic Southern dishes like shrimp and grits, cornbread, fried okra, and pecan pie. South Carolina's culture is as rich as its cuisine. Its citizens are known for their friendly smiles and the great hospitality they show toward visitors. South Carolina is home to minority cultural groups of Native American and African descent that cannot be found anywhere else. Columbia is also the crossroads for the southeast as all of the prominent cities in this region are easily accessible from our beautiful city. World famous beaches and resorts, the picturesque Blue Ridge Mountains, and other historic southern cities like Savannah and Charleston are within easy driving distance of Columbia. Studying at USC presents a wonderful opportunity to explore gorgeous southern landscapes while experiencing and learning about southern culture.

USC has many academic programs ranked among the nation's elite, including programs in journalism, international business, and psychology. USC is strong the fields of liberal arts and social sciences areas as well. Our university also has a new, multi-million dollar NanoCenter dedicated to cutting edge research in the field of nanotechnology.

Exchange students that study at USC can participate in more than 270 student run organizations on campus. These organizations focus on athletics, travel, adventure, the fine arts, specific professions, languages, literature, majors, religion, community service, minority cultures, politics, and more. American football is a really popular part of the campus culture. Many students participate in parades, rallies, and tailgating activities on football game days. Tailgating is particularly popular. It's a big outdoor social gathering where students and other members of the community get together and eat barbeque, chat, and meet new people before a football game.

Courses and Credits

Undergraduate students are required to enroll in a minimum of 12 U.S. credit hours per semester. Students typically fulfill this requirement by taking four 3-credit classes. Sample course offerings are listed below. A complete listing of courses open to exchange students can be found at: http://registrar.sc.edu/html/Course_Listings/

Sample Subject Offerings

- African American Studies
- Anthropology
- Biological Sciences
- Classics
- Education
- Engineering
- Film Studies
- Geography
- History

Hotel, Retail, and Tourism Management
International Business
Journalism & Mass Communications
Latin American Studies
Linguistics
Marine Science
Modern Languages
Philosophy
Physics
Political Science
Psychology
Religious Studies
Sociology
Southern Studies
Sports & Entertainment Management
Theatre & Fine Arts
Women's Studies

Living Arrangements

Exchange students will have the option of living in Bates West or South Quad. Both facilities are self-catered, apartment style housing options. While Bates West is a slightly more economical option, South Quad has newer facilities. South Quad also houses the Carolina Global Community (CGC), an on-campus residential community designed to bring American students and international students together, allowing them to learn about each other's cultures. All exchange students are welcome to take part in the CGC's excursions and other social and cultural activities regardless of which housing option they select. Both housing options are close to the Blatt Physical Education Center. This newly remodeled gym is equipped with a swimming pool, racquetball courts, weight lifting facilities, and offers aerobic classes throughout the semester. The Strom Thurmond Wellness & Fitness Center is also close and is equipped with indoor and outdoor pools, a rock climbing wall, and an indoor track.

For more information on South Quad and Bates West please visit:
http://www.housing.sc.edu/virtualtour/apartment_style_index.html

For more information on Carolina's Global Community please visit:
http://www.housing.sc.edu/pdf/apps/mark_cgc.pdf

Excursions:

The International Student Association (ISA) sponsors trips to the beach and other locations for an additional fee. The CGC also sponsors a number of trips to popular tourist attractions within our state.

Footnotes:

For more information about USC and South Carolina, check out the following websites:
South Carolina's Official Tourism Site: <http://www.discoverouthcarolina.com/>
USC's Academic Calender: <http://registrar.sc.edu/html/calendar5yr/5YrCalendar2.stm>
USC Student Organizations: http://www.sa.sc.edu/carolinacommunity/st_orgs.htm
USC Visitor's Center: <http://www.sc.edu/visitor/>