

Access Guide

Visiting ArtCenter and Arrival Information for New Students

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Visiting ArtCenter

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Pasadena map



Visiting ArtCenter

Welcome!

Whether you are an incoming student or just learning more about us, this Access Guide is designed as a resource for your visit to ArtCenter College of Design. We have included information for those visiting our campuses, as well as plenty of helpful tips for new students moving to the Pasadena area. Whether your visit is long-term or just for a day, we hope you enjoy your experience with us.

Set up your visit

We encourage all students interested in applying to ArtCenter to schedule an appointment with an Admissions counselor. The appointment will include advice on portfolio development and assistance with admission and financial aid information. Appointments are available Monday through Friday, and can be reserved by calling the Admissions Office at 626 396-2373.

Department locations by campus

ArtCenter College of Design spans two campuses, both located in Pasadena. Students may have classes at either campus. Locations are subject to change.

Hillside Campus
1700 Lida St., Pasadena, CA 91103
Situated on 165 wooded acres in Pasadena, this modernist steel-and-glass structure has been home to ArtCenter since 1976.

Hillside Campus is home to the following programs:

Entertainment Design (BS)
Environmental Design (BS, MS)
Film (BFA, MFA)
Industrial Design (MS)
Interaction Design (BS)
Photography and Imaging (BFA)
Product Design (BS)
Transportation Design (BS)
Transportation Systems and Design (MS)

South Campus
870 and 950 S. Raymond Ave. and
1111 S. Arroyo Pkwy., Pasadena, CA 91105
Established in 2004, this evolving complex includes a historic supersonic wind tunnel, a former post office facility and a renovated office building.

South Campus is home to the following programs:

Advertising (BFA)
Art (MFA)
Fine Art (BFA)
Graphic Design (BFA, MFA)
Illustration (BFA)
Media Design Practices (MFA)

Campus tours

We welcome visitors to our campuses. Tours are available Monday through Friday. Hillside tours take place at 1 p.m.; South Campus tours are conducted at 3 p.m.

For help scheduling a tour appropriate for your major, call the Admissions Office at 626 396-2373. Tours are not available between semester breaks, and do not include a counseling appointment, which must be scheduled separately.

Tobacco- and smoke-free campus

In our ongoing efforts to promote wellness across the College, ArtCenter became a tobacco- and smoke-free campus as of January 2019. Prohibited items include cigarettes, vapes, e-cigarettes, cigars, pipes, cannabis, hookahs and chewing tobacco. For more information, visit artcenter.edu/tobaccofree.

Transportation

Pasadena is located about 30 miles (45–60 minutes) from Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) and about 16 miles (30 minutes) from Hollywood Burbank Airport (BUR).

From Los Angeles International Airport (LAX)

Prime Time Shuttle
(Door-to-door service)
800 733-8267 or 310 536-7922
primetimeshuttle.com

Super Shuttle
(Door-to-door service)
800 258-3826 or 310 782-6600
supershuttle.com

Public transportation from LAX to Pasadena

1. Catch the LAX FlyAway bus to Union Station in downtown Los Angeles (\$9.75 fare).
2. At Union Station, take the Metro Gold Line to Pasadena.

To Hillside Campus, located at 1700 Lida St., Pasadena, CA 91103:

1. Exit the Gold Line at Memorial Park Station.
2. Walk to the corner of Holly St. and Raymond Ave. to catch Pasadena Transit bus 51 to Hillside Campus. Be sure to check the bus schedule ahead of time as this bus does not run frequently.

To South Campus, located at 870 and 950 S. Raymond Ave. and 1111 S. Arroyo Pkwy., Pasadena, CA 91105:

1. At Union Station, take the Metro Gold Line to Pasadena.
2. Exit the Gold Line at Fillmore Station, and walk west to Raymond Ave.
3. Continue south on Raymond for 3/10 mile to South Campus, located on your left.
4. If heading to the 1111 Building, continue south on Raymond, turn left on Glenarm St., head east, cross the train tracks and ArtCenter will be on your left, at the corner of Glenarm and Arroyo.

FlyAway Buses usually run every half hour during the day, and hourly after 1 a.m. Be sure to check the schedule ahead of time by calling 866 435-9529 or visiting laxflyaway.org.

Metro Gold Line: 323 466-3876 or metro.net

Pasadena Transit: 626 398-8973 or cityofpasadena.net/pasadena-transit

From Hollywood Burbank Airport (BUR)

Using a shuttle service is recommended as taking public transportation from Hollywood Burbank Airport to Pasadena can be challenging. If you prefer public transportation, take a Metrolink train to Union Station, then catch the Gold Line to Pasadena. (See LAX directions for getting to campus from the Gold Line.) Metrolink: 800 371-5465 or metrolinktrains.com

Arrival in Los Angeles by buses and trains

Amtrak Passenger Trains
800 872-7245
amtrak.com
Ask about student discounts.

Greyhound Bus Line
1716 E. 7th St.
Los Angeles, CA 90021
800 231-2222 or 213 629-8401
greyhound.com

Shuttle Service

A complimentary shuttle service runs frequently between each campus.
artcentershuttle.com

Taxi services

People's Taxi
800 505-2227

City Cab
818 252-1670

Flat Rate Car Service
323 369-9994
flatratelax.com

Ridesharing services

Lyft
lyft.com

Uber
uber.com

Rental cars

Most car rental agencies require a major credit card, a valid driver license and that the driver be at least 25 years of age. Enterprise Rent-A-Car may provide exceptions and rent to individuals younger than 25. Other companies will rent to drivers under 25, but require a surcharge. Rental cars can be picked up at all major airports.

Budget Car Rental
665 S. Arroyo Pkwy.
Pasadena, CA 91105
626 449-0226 or 800 218-7992
budget.com

Enterprise Rent-A-Car
665 Lincoln Ave.
Pasadena, CA 91103
626 568-8445 or 800 261-7331
enterprise.com
Ask about ArtCenter discounts.

Hertz
2070 E. Colorado Blvd.
Pasadena, CA 91107
626 578-0443 or 800 654-3131
hertz.com

Parking

Parking on campus is free and convenient at each building.

Local public transportation

The Metro Gold Line is the light rail system that runs through Pasadena and the San Gabriel Valley to downtown Los Angeles. South Campus is adjacent to the Metro Gold Line Fillmore station.

323 466-3876
metro.net

Pasadena Transit
Bus routes 51/52 provide service from Old Pasadena to ArtCenter's Hillside and South Campuses.

626 398-8973
cityofpasadena.net/pasadena-transit

Foothill Transit Authority
Bus service for the San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys. Route 187 stops near South Campus.
foothilltransit.org

Bicycling

Students can bike to ArtCenter, but should be aware that the ride to the Hillside Campus is up a very steep hill. However, there are bike racks on both the ArtCenter Shuttle and the Pasadena Transit route 51 bus.

Navigating the roads

Google Maps
maps.google.com

Waze
waze.com

In addition to these sites, AAA and the Pasadena Convention and Visitors Bureau are great resources for maps and other services.

AAA Automobile Club
of Southern California
801 E. Union St.
Pasadena, CA 91101
626 795-0601
calif.aaa.com

Pasadena Convention
and Visitors Bureau
300 E. Green St.
Pasadena, CA 91101
626 795-9311
800 307-7977
visitpasadena.com

Additional information

For more information, visit artcenter.edu or call 626 396-2246

Hotels and motels

The following hotels and motels are near ArtCenter and range from economy to luxury class.

When you make reservations, identify yourself as an ArtCenter visitor to see if they offer special rates. Special rates may change without notice.

Extended stays

The Guest and Conference Center at Fuller Seminary
700 Locust St.
Pasadena, CA 91101
626 204-1100, 626 578-1050 or
800 235-2222 ext. 5545
guestcenter@fuller.edu
fuller.edu/guestcenter

Travelodge Pasadena Central
2131 E. Colorado Blvd.
Pasadena, CA 91107
626 796-3121 or 800 760-6483
Includes breakfast, microwave, refrigerator, Wi-Fi, cable TV, pool and spa.
Daily, weekly and monthly rates available.
travelodge.com

Short-term stays

Best Western Pasadena Inn
3570 E. Colorado Blvd.
Pasadena, CA 91107
626 796-9100
Includes complimentary continental breakfast, high-speed Internet access, outdoor pool and spa, and guest laundry services.
bestwestern.com/pasadenainn

Old Town Courtyard
180 N. Fair Oaks Ave.
Pasadena, CA 91103
626 403-7600 or 888 236-2427
Parking not included.
courtyard.com

DoubleTree by Hilton Monrovia
924 W. Huntington Dr.
Monrovia, CA 91016
626 357-1900
Restaurant, pool, spa and fitness center.
doubletree.com

EconoLodge
1437 E. Colorado St.
Glendale, CA 91205
818 246-8367
econolodge.com

Hilton Pasadena
168 S. Los Robles Ave.
Pasadena, CA 91101
626 577-1000
Walking distance from Old Pasadena.
hilton.com

Holiday Inn Express Hotel and Suites
3500 E. Colorado Blvd.
Pasadena, CA 91107
626 792-1363 or 888 465-4329
hiexpress.com

The Langham Huntington
1401 S. Oak Knoll Ave.
Pasadena, CA 91106
626 568-3900
pasadena.langhamhotels.com



Arrival Information for New Students

Saga Motor Hotel
1633 E. Colorado Blvd.
Pasadena, CA 91106
626 795-0431 or 800 793-7242
Includes breakfast buffet, heated pool
and laundry.
thesagamotorhotel.com

Sheraton Pasadena Hotel
303 Cordova St.
Pasadena, CA 91101
626 449-4000
Includes full-service, 24-hour
business center, Soleil Restaurant
and Charlie's Bar.
sheraton.com/pasadena

Super 8 Motel
2863 E. Colorado Blvd.
Pasadena, CA 91107
626 449-3020
super8pasadena.com

Hotel Le Reve
3321 E. Colorado Blvd.
Pasadena, CA 91107
626 796-9291
hotellerevepasadena.com

The Westin Pasadena
191 N. Los Robles Ave.
Pasadena, CA 91101
626 792-2727
starwood.com/westin



Getting settled

To find housing, students can access ArtCenter's off-campus housing website at offcampushousing.artcenter.edu. This secure site lists apartments, houses, rooms for rent and studios available in the Pasadena area. Students can also find roommates using this site. Accepted students receive a password to the site in their acceptance packet. More complete housing information will be sent upon admission.

Other online resources include:
la.craigslist.org
places4students.com
westsiderentals.com

For assistance with your housing research, contact the Center for the Student Experience at 626 396-2323 or housing@artcenter.edu.

Driving in California

If you are a visitor to California 18 years of age or older, and have a valid driver license from your home state or country, you can drive in this state without getting a California driver license as long as your home state license remains valid.

If you become a California resident, you must get a California driver license within 10 days. Residency is established by voting in a California election, paying resident tuition, filing for a homeowner's property tax exemption, or any other privilege or benefit not ordinarily extended to nonresidents.

How to apply for a California driver license

The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) requires acceptable birth date and legal presence documents, a Social Security number and proof that you are in the United States legally. International students are not required to have a U.S. Social Security number.

Finding a local DMV office

Visit the DMV website at dmv.ca.gov to locate the DMV office nearest you. Study the *California Driver Handbook* to prepare for the written and driving tests. The handbook is available online at dmv.ca.gov or at any DMV office. We recommend you call 800 777-0133 to schedule an appointment with a local DMV office to avoid having to wait in line.

Pasadena DMV Office
49 S. Rosemead Blvd.
Pasadena, CA 91107
800 777-0133
dmv.ca.gov

Registering a vehicle in California

If you purchase a vehicle from a dealership, they will normally handle registration for you. If you purchase a vehicle from a private party, be aware that you are responsible for transferring the vehicle registration with the DMV within 10 days of purchase.

Out-of-state vehicles

If you own a vehicle registered in another state or country, you must register the vehicle with the DMV in California within 20 days of establishing residency here.

Auto insurance

Vehicles driven on California roads are required by law to carry liability auto insurance—a minimum of \$15,000 for injury/death to one person; \$30,000 for injury/death to more than one person; and \$5,000 for damage to property—that proves financial responsibility for any damage or injury caused by a traffic accident, regardless of fault. You must carry proof of insurance at all times when driving. If you do not have acceptable proof of liability and have an accident, you may lose your driver license for up to four years. Bring documents (translated into English, if necessary) confirming your previous good driving record from your home state or country. Insurance companies will review your previous records to determine insurance rates.

Automobile insurance companies

ArtCenter does not endorse any specific insurance company, but the following companies are often used by students:

AAA Automobile Club
of Southern California
801 E. Union St.
Pasadena, CA 91101
626 795-0601
calif.aaa.com

Allstate
980 S. Arroyo Pkwy., Suite 260
Pasadena, CA 91105
626 356-0634
allstate.com

Farmers Insurance
501 S. Marengo Ave.
Pasadena, CA 91101
626 765-0288
farmers.com

State Farm Insurance
181 E. Glenarm St., Unit #108
Pasadena, CA 91105
626 765-9440
statefarm.com

Road service

AAA Automobile Club
of Southern California
800 400-4222
calif.aaa.com

Pasadena AAA offers a special group rate to ArtCenter. Identify yourself as an ArtCenter student.

Many insurance companies also offer roadside assistance services. Check with your insurance agent.

Freeway Service Patrol (FSP)

This program is a free service of privately owned tow trucks that patrol designated routes on congested urban California freeways. FSP operates during peak hours, and all day in predetermined freeway construction zones. FSP can be reached by calling 511 and saying "Motorist Aid" from your phone or by calling from a freeway call box.

For more information, visit:
metro.net/projects/fsp

Banking services

Documents needed to open a banking account are a current driver license and/or a major credit card. International students must also present a valid passport.

Ask your home bank if they have a sister branch or related bank in Los Angeles. ArtCenter does not endorse specific banks, but below are a few local banking options.

Banks in Pasadena

Bank of America
399 E. Colorado Blvd.
Pasadena, CA 91101
626 683-8324
bankofamerica.com

Chase Bank
860 E. Colorado Blvd.
Pasadena, CA 91101
626 795-5177
chase.com

Citibank
161 W. California Blvd.
Pasadena, CA 91105
626 219-7036
citibank.com

Wells Fargo Bank
350 W. Colorado Blvd.
Pasadena, CA 91105
626 449-3661
wellsfargo.com

Currency exchange

Exchange rates and currency exchange for U.S. dollars:
x-rates.com

International Currency Express, Inc.
427 N. Camden Dr., Suite G
Beverly Hills, CA 90210
310 278-6628

International Currency Exchange booths are located in the departures and arrival halls of several terminals at Los Angeles International Airport. For exchange rates, call 310 646-0553 or visit iceplc.com.

Check cashing and checking accounts

Plan to use traveler's checks until you have opened an account with a local bank. Many banks require that you show a valid California driver license before opening an account. A cashier's check from another state will take 10–15 days to clear. ArtCenter will accept personal checks for tuition and art supplies.

Monthly Service Fees:
Many banks will waive their monthly service fee if you keep a minimum balance in your checking or savings account. Be aware of that amount, and keep at least that total in your account at all times.

Overdraft Protection:
This option protects you from bouncing checks. Your bank will automatically transfer money from your savings account to cover a large check amount. Many banks offer this service at no additional charge.

Check Limits:
Some banks limit how many checks you can write each month. Make sure you know how many checks you can write to avoid being charged an extra fee.

Cash/ATM machines

Banks charge extra fees if you use cash machines at banks other than your own. You may want to open an account with a bank that has offices in many locations and cities in the Los Angeles area. An ATM is available at Hillside Campus, outside the Student Store, and at South Campus, in the 870, 950 and 1111 Buildings.

Wiring funds to ArtCenter for tuition and fees

If you want to wire funds to pay ArtCenter tuition, use the following information:

Wells Fargo Bank
1000 Lakes Dr.
West Covina, CA 91790
Account Number 400-0022293
ABA Number 121-000-248
Make sure your name (not your parents' names) is on the transfer information.
Do not send your tuition deposit by wire transfer.

Student health insurance

All ArtCenter students are automatically covered by student health insurance at the time of registration. This is not an optional plan; it is offered at no cost to each student as a benefit of being a student here. A copy of your health insurance policy will be provided at orientation.

Exploring Los Angeles

Your educational experience at ArtCenter will extend beyond the classroom and into Pasadena and Los Angeles. Pasadena is a vibrant city with a population of about 140,000. Known as a "City of Learning," Pasadena contains the second-highest concentration of art, cultural and educational institutions in the United States. Pasadena has a rich architectural and design history that includes works by Frank Lloyd Wright, the Greene brothers, Wallace Neff and artisans of the Arroyo Craftsman style. It also hosts an impressive collection of cultural institutions including: the Norton Simon Museum; The Huntington Library, Art Collection and Botanical Gardens; the Armory Center for the Arts; and the USC Pacific Asia Museum.

Located just minutes from campus, the city of Los Angeles is home to a thriving art scene with some 350 art galleries and several world-class museums including the Getty Center, the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and the Museum of Contemporary Art. Each neighborhood and district—from downtown to Beverly Hills, from Hollywood to Santa Monica—has something unique to offer.

Following are some websites that can help you explore and take advantage of the cultural and recreational resources available to you.

General resources

Pasadena Official Visitor's Site
visitpasadena.com

Discover Los Angeles (Official Site)
discoverlosangeles.com

Craigslist Los Angeles
losangeles.craigslist.org

News

Los Angeles Times
latimes.com

KPCC / LAist
kpcc.org / laist.com

Pasadena Star-News
pasadenastarnews.com

Cultural guides

Flavorpill
flavorpill.com

Juxtapoz Art & Culture Magazine
juxtapoz.com

LA Weekly
laweekly.com

Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs
culturela.org

Pasadena Now
pasadenanow.com

Pasadena Weekly
pasadenaweekly.com

Time Out Los Angeles
timeout.com/los-angeles

Artist and gallery information

ArtSlant
artslant.com/la

Visual Art Source
visualartsource.com

Artillery magazine
artillerymag.com

For Your Art
foryourart.com

Film and cinema information

American Film Institute Film Festival (AFI Fest)
afifest.com

American Cinematheque
americancinematheque.com

Cinespia
cinespia.org

Film Independent
film-independent.org

Laemmle Theaters
laemmle.com

New Beverly Cinema
thenewbev.com

Outfest
outfest.org

Pasadena International Film Festival
pasadenafilmmfestival.org

International students

The Center for the Student Experience (CSE) provides the support services, advice and social activities essential to every student's ArtCenter journey. CSE also coordinates assistance for international students enrolled in ArtCenter degree programs. Students receive detailed information at the time of admission.

CSE's International Advisor is available for general assistance regarding adjusting to life in the U.S. and for advising on enrollment, employment and other matters related to international students. For more information regarding programs and services, admitted incoming and current students should contact the International Advisor by calling 626 396-2370, via email at international@artcenter.edu or by visiting inside.artcenter.edu.

For accepted international Fall students, ArtCenter also offers Design Culture Immersion, a six-week summer program that provides an intensive introduction to life at ArtCenter. Included is a design class for course credit, an immersive English language class and activities that introduce students to Pasadena and Los Angeles.

Prospective international students should contact the Office of Admissions at 626 396-2373 or admissions@artcenter.edu.

ArtCenter contacts

Hillside Campus
1700 Lida Street
Pasadena, CA 91103

South Campus (870 Building)
870 S. Raymond Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91105

South Campus (950 Building)
950 S. Raymond Avenue
Pasadena, CA 91105

South Campus (1111 Building)
1111 S. Arroyo Parkway
Pasadena, CA 91105

Main Switchboard
626 396-2200

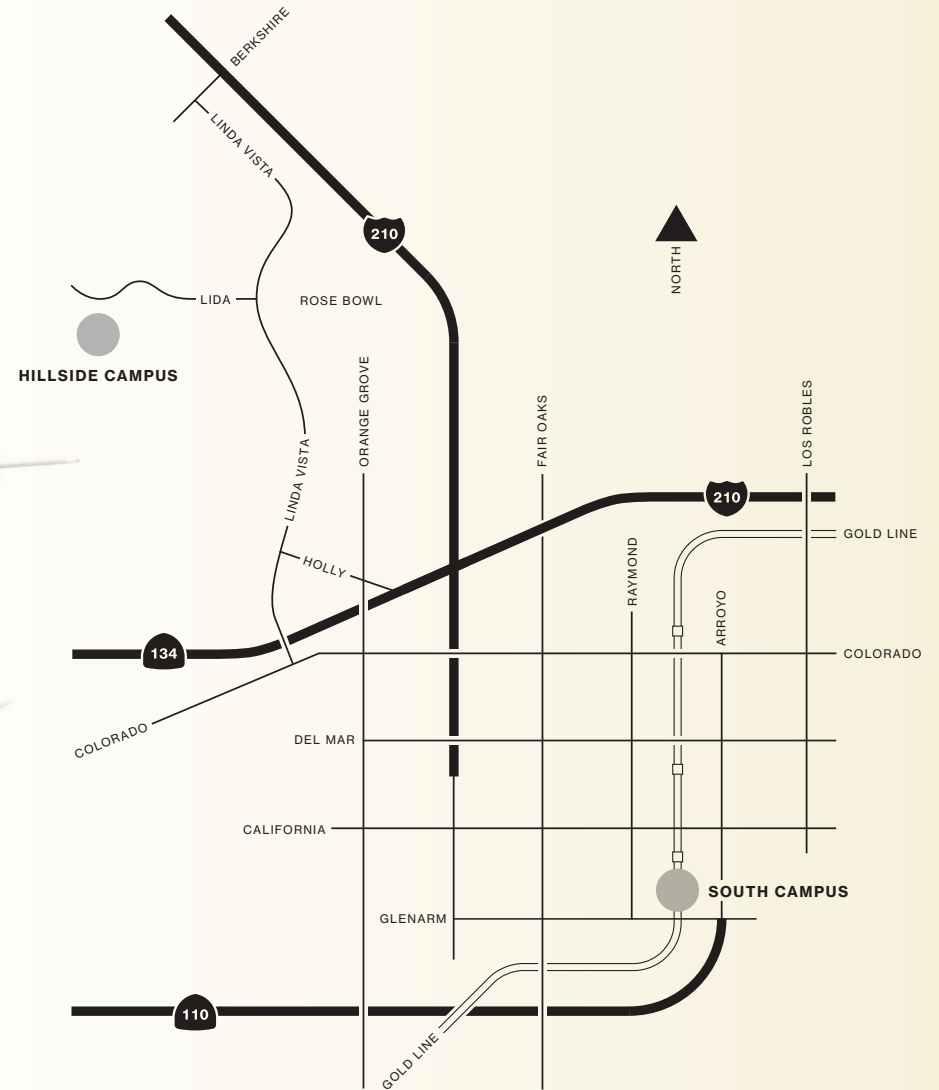
Office of Admissions
626 396-2373
admissions@artcenter.edu

Housing Information
626 396-2323
housing@artcenter.edu

Center for the Student
Experience (CSE)
626 396-2323
cse@artcenter.edu

International Students
626 396-2370
international@artcenter.edu

Pasadena map



For a map of the shuttle route between Hillside and South Campuses, visit artcentershuttle.com

ArtCenter College of Design
1700 Lida Street
Pasadena, California
91103

626 396-2200

artcenter.edu



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