



MASTER
SCHOLAR



UC SANTA BARBARA | EXTENSION
International Programs

July 6th - July 26th, 2025

UCSB

MasterScholar

Summer Research Program

University of California, Santa Barbara

UCSB MasterScholar
Summer Research Program
University of California, Santa Barbara



University of California, Santa Barbara

• Location

UCSB's campus, minutes from downtown Santa Barbara, sits on a coastal bluff overlooking the Pacific Ocean. The scenic location and Southern California's warm weather make it a great place for students to enjoy outdoor activities, play sports, and relax on campus with friends. The campus features an extensive system of paths for walking and bicycling, as well as its own campus beach!

• Research and Innovation

At UCSB, teaching and research go hand in hand. The school is a tier-one research university where undergraduates can dive into hands-on research from the very beginning of their studies. With accessible, highly motivated faculty, students explore various fields of study, gain lab experience, build their academic networks, and may even contribute to new discoveries.

• Student Life

At UCSB, education extends well beyond the classroom, with over 500 student organizations, the record-breaking Gaucho soccer team, and a vibrant, inclusive community committed to student wellness and success. Students can enjoy kayaking, surfing, and paddleboarding at UCSB's Campus Point, as well as adventure programs that provide opportunities to explore and enjoy nature.

Rankings

Ranked #8

in Forbes Top 25 Public Colleges
(Forbes Magazine, 2024–2025)

Ranked #13

in Top Public Universities
(U.S. News & World Report, 2025)

Ranked #39

in National Universities
(U.S. News & World Report, 2025)

Ranked #35

in Best Undergraduate Engineering Programs
(U.S. News & World Report, 2025)

Ranked #37

in Physical Sciences
(Times Higher Education, 2024)

6 UCSB faculty members have won Nobel Prizes for landmark research in chemistry, physics, and economics

• City of Santa Barbara

Nestled on the Southern California coast, Santa Barbara boasts year-round sunshine, warm weather, and beautiful beaches—perfect for surfing, swimming, and sunbathing. The city is a popular tourist destination, with gourmet restaurants, shopping, and cultural highlights like the Museum of Art and the historic Presidio. Los Angeles is less than two hours away, providing an exciting opportunity for weekend outings.



Program Overview

The UCSB MasterScholar Summer Research Program (offered in collaboration with KSE Global Education) provides an engaging and immersive pre-college academic experience for high school students interested in sustainability, engineering, and environmental science.

Throughout the intensive three-week program, students dive into UCSB's innovative, student-centered science and engineering curriculum, benefiting from the university's focus on research and its unique location. After choosing a research field to study, participants learn crucial academic skills, cultivate their critical thinking abilities, and gain research experience through collaborative discussions and hands-on exploration.

UCSB MasterScholar

Program Highlights

- **Guidance from UCSB Faculty**

UCSB's accomplished professors bring their expertise directly to students, guiding them through the latest advancements in science and engineering. Small, discussion-based classes and expert-led lectures mimic the collaborative research environment at UCSB, providing students with academic experience rooted in real-world application and innovation. After meeting program completion requirements, students receive UCSB PaCE professional-level credits and a certificate of completion.

- **Interdisciplinary Exploration**

With a focus on interdisciplinary learning, the program encourages students to approach their research questions from multiple academic viewpoints. Guided by UCSB faculty and teaching assistants, students deepen their understanding of research topics while building skills in research methodology, data analysis, and academic writing—laying a solid foundation for their future university studies.

- **Immersive Campus Experience**

Students experience campus life at UCSB, with full access to on-campus housing, dining, libraries, and recreational facilities. This immersive setting helps students adapt to the rhythm of college life, supported by teaching assistants who provide guidance and help them integrate into UCSB's vibrant campus community.

- **Global Cultural Exchange**

The program offers a unique platform for students to connect with peers from around the world. Through shared coursework and extracurricular activities, students build international friendships, enhance cross-cultural understanding, and broaden their perspectives, creating lasting memories and connections.

UCSB MasterScholar



Program Details

 **Program Duration:** • July 6th – July 26th, 2025

 **Key Dates:**

- **July 6th:** Arrival & Check-In
- **July 7th:** Orientation & Classes Begin
- **July 25th:** Closing Ceremony
- **July 26th:** Program Close & Student Check-Out

 **Housing:**

- UCSB Housing – Santa Catalina Residence Hall
- Four-person suites (two double rooms connected by a common bathroom)

 **Dining:**

- UCSB Dining Commons Meal Plans (15 meals/week)

 **Curriculum Features:**

- Introduction to Research Lecture Series
- Mentorship Seminars
- Presentation Seminars
- GRIT (Groundbreaking Research/Innovative Technology) Talks
- UC Admissions Information Sessions
- Research Showcase

 **Extracurricular Activities:**

- UCSB campus tour
- Group sports activities
- Kayaking, surfing, and stand-up paddleboarding at UCSB Campus Point
- Los Angeles city tour and UCLA campus tour (may require extra fees)

 **Class Size:**

- 20 students in each research field
- Each research field is divided into 5 groups of 4 students



Academic Structure

Meetings include lectures, mentorship sessions, discussions, group work, and special workshops. The Research Showcase will be presented in two steps: scholars will first present their findings within their research concentration, and then the top team from each concentration will advance to compete in the final MasterScholar Forum.

Research Concentrations

- **Innovative Technologies for Ocean Health**
- **Environmental Economics and Policy Strategy**
- **Renewable Materials and Bioengineering**
- **Data Science and AI for Environmental Solutions**
- **Urban Sustainability and Smart City Design**
- **Data Analytics and Machine Learning for Engineering Solutions**
- **Human-Centered Design and Engineering Innovation**

In this three-week program, students will conduct research in a university setting under the guidance of experts in wide-ranging fields. By choosing a unique concentration in areas such as sustainability, engineering, and environmental science, scholars will navigate topics that intersect with data science, economics, humanities, and social sciences. Working in teams, students will develop a research question to gain interdisciplinary understanding and specialized knowledge by investigating diverse perspectives.

Academic Structure



Introduction to Research Lectures

- **Required for all students**

Scholars will learn research communication skills to effectively present their findings at the end of the program. They will develop content that establishes a foundation of knowledge through motivation, literature review, research goals, and methodology. Students will learn field-specific approaches to present their findings, including tables, graphs, images, figures, etc. Finally, they will gain technical skills to leave the audience with a clear understanding of the explored research question and potential future work.



Mentorship Seminars

- **Concentration-specific**

Each afternoon, students attend study sessions led by UCSB researchers that highlight different themes, including:

- Research Mentorship: meetings focused on establishing research goals, enhancing technical skills, receiving feedback on progress, and suggesting ways to overcome setbacks.
 - Research Group Discussions: guided group study focused on advancing research questions, brainstorming, facilitating collaboration, and practicing presentation of findings.
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Presentation Seminars

- **Concentration-specific**

This series of workshops prepares students to effectively communicate their research findings to a diverse audience by learning to design slides for impact. Students will receive specialized coaching to develop skills in crafting concise elevator pitches that translate into compelling research presentations.



GRIT Talks Lecture Series

- **Registration required**

The UCSB GRIT (Groundbreaking Research/Innovative Technology) Talks lecture series will give scholars access to some of the best minds in the research community. This exclusive opportunity allows students to gain insight into advanced interdisciplinary research fields that impact humanity and the world. They will interact with notable faculty and observe professional presentation skills while learning about cutting-edge research.



UC Admissions Info Sessions

- **Required for all students**

UCSB Admissions Officers will offer information sessions that highlight insights into academic programs, student life, and the latest admissions policies in the UC system. Students will gain first-hand knowledge of what a world-class university looks for in its ideal candidates.



Research Showcase

- **Required for all students**

The program culminates in a professional research forum where student groups showcase their contributions and findings—an experience synthesizing the program's emphasis on research and technical communication, providing excellent preparation for future university-level presentations.

Sample Schedule

2025 UCSB MasterScholar Research Program Schedule						
Week 1	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Weekends
Morning	Orientation	Intro to Research Lecture	Intro to Research Lecture	Intro to Research Lecture	UC Admission Seminar	Outings and Recreational Activities
Afternoon	Research Mentorship	Research Group Discussions	Research Mentorship	Presentation Seminar	Research Group Discussions	
Evening	GRIT Talks	Extracurricular Activities	GRIT Talks	Extracurricular Activities	Extracurricular Activities	
Week 2	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Weekends
Morning	Presentation Seminar	Intro to Research Lecture	Intro to Research Lecture	Intro to Research Lecture		Outings and Recreational Activities
Afternoon	Research Group Discussions	Research Mentorship	Presentation Seminar	Research Group Discussions	Research Mentorship	
Evening	GRIT Talks	Extracurricular Activities	GRIT Talks	Extracurricular Activities	Extracurricular Activities	
Week 3	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Weekends
Morning	Research Mentorship	Intro to Research Lecture	Intro to Research Lecture	Intro to Research Lecture	MasterScholar Research Showcase	Move Out
Afternoon	Presentation Seminar	Research Mentorship	Research Group Discussions	Concentration Research Showcase	Closing Ceremony	
Evening	Extracurricular Activities	Extracurricular Activities	Extracurricular Activities	Extracurricular Activities	Extracurricular Activities	



Student Life

- **Campus Housing**

UCSB MasterScholar students reside in the Santa Catalina Residence Hall. Many rooms offer breathtaking views of the ocean, mountains, and surrounding towns. The residence hall features four-person suites (two double rooms connected by a common bathroom), its own dining commons, a 25-meter swimming pool, basketball courts, and sand volleyball courts.

- **Campus Dining**

Students eat their meals at dining commons located in the Santa Catalina Residence Hall or at the main campus dining commons. With a diverse daily menu featuring a range of cuisines prepared with fresh, locally-sourced ingredients, UCSB's dining program is consistently rated among the best in the nation.

- **Campus Resources**

Students enjoy extensive access to campus facilities, including the library and other academic research resources. They also have access to the University Recreation Center (RecCen), which offers a wide array of amenities such as basketball, volleyball, racquetball, and squash courts, weight rooms, state-of-the-art fitness equipment, an Olympic-sized swimming pool, tennis courts, and a running track.



Program Outcomes

- UCSB PaCE Professional-Level Credits
- Certificate of Completion
- Interdisciplinary Research Project

Program Fees

Total Program Fees:	\$11,250
Program Fees Include:	Tuition fees, teaching facility usage, international student travel health insurance, airport pick-up and drop-off, housing, meal plan, management fees, and student services fees.
Program Fees do NOT Include:	Round-trip transportation expenses to and from Los Angeles International Airport (LAX), all expenses associated with visa processing, weekend activity fees, personal expenses during weekend outings, international student registration fee, and official UCSB transcript fee.





Application Requirements

Eligibility Requirements:

- Eligible applicants include rising 10th–12th graders, recent high school graduates, or students taking a gap year, aged 15 to 19.
- Participants must be at least 15 years old at the start of the program.

Application Requirements:

• Application Form

Applicants must complete the program application form, upload supporting documents, pay the application fee (\$20), and submit an application prior to the submission deadline.

• Academic Records

High school transcript containing all available grades starting from 9th grade (or the equivalent of the U.S. 9th grade) to the present. Transcripts must be in English or come with a translation.

• Personal Statement

Submit a personal statement (250–500 words) responding to a prompt specified by UCSB MasterScholar faculty.

• English Proficiency Requirement

International students must provide proof of English proficiency. Please visit master-scholar.com to learn more about the English Proficiency Requirement.

Key Dates & Deadlines

The UCSB MasterScholar Program reviews applications on a rolling basis. Applicants will receive a decision within seven business days of submitting their application.

- **Applications Open:** 11/30/2024
- **Final Application Deadline:** 3/31/2025
- **Decisions Released:**
Within 7 business days of application submission
Last possible release date: 4/7/2025
- **Deposit Payment Deadline:**
3 weeks after applicant receives their decision
Last day to submit deposit: 4/15/2025
Deposit fee: \$6,750
- **Full Program Fee Payment Deadline:** 4/30/2025
Full program fee: \$11,250 (includes deposit fee)
- **Program Start:**
7/6/2025

The MasterScholar support team will provide pre-departure information to help students prepare for the program.





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**Elevate Your
Academic Journey**

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