



SAN FRANCISCO
STATE UNIVERSITY

Study Abroad in San Francisco



International Year One | 2025



Welcome

to International Year One at San Francisco State University

We understand that studying in another country can be daunting. That's why we offer international students a tailored course that helps ease the transition to U.S. undergraduate study.

With personalized academic and English language support, international students who complete their pathway program are prepared to excel in a SF State degree program. The undergraduate pathway program replaces an international student's freshman year of study so that the total length of study is the same as joining San Francisco State University directly.

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Study in America

FAST FACTS



U.S. universities and colleges enrolled over 1 million international students in 2023.



Half of the global top 10 universities are American



One-quarter of all international students in the U.S. are studying STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math)



During the 2022-2023 academic year, international students contributed \$40.1 billion to the U.S. economy and supported more than 368,333 jobs.



Employability: U.S. degrees are highly regarded internationally, and employers value the education and additional benefits that come with studying in America.

Diversity: The United States has the highest number of international students, with over one million studying in the country.

Flexibility: The U.S. university system offers students a wide range of choices in their undergraduate studies. Instead of focusing on a single subject, students can explore various fields of interest before finalizing their major at the end of their second year.

International Work Experience: All students who complete a U.S. degree are eligible for up to one year of Optional Practical Training (OPT) related to their course of study. Students who completed a STEM degree may apply for an additional two years of OPT.

Life in San Francisco

International Year One is the perfect way to start your degree at San Francisco State University.

Located in the city of San Francisco across two campuses, San Francisco State University (SF State) is one of the most desirable places to study in America. A globally influential city that's also home to some of the world's biggest tech companies, our students have the chance to build connections and experiences that will transform their careers.



Founded in 1776 by Spanish settlers



Birthplace of the United Nations in 1945



San Francisco's Chinatown is the oldest in North America (and the largest outside Asia)



It is one of the most ethnically diverse cities in America



The city has cool summers and mild winters



San Francisco International Airport is less than 10 miles from SF State





San Francisco: Embrace the Beat of a City Like No Other!

With its iconic landmarks, sloping hills, mountainous skylines and cool Pacific climate, the city of San Francisco is not only world-famous – it's also one of the most beautiful places on Earth. In fact, our students think it's the perfect place to spend four years developing, learning and building a career.

LIVING IN SAN FRANCISCO



Eclectic culture and diverse community



Opportunities for internships and employment



Proximity to global tech and Silicon Valley



Easy transportation with cycling as a popular option



Iconic sights: Ocean Beach, Golden Gate Park, the Mission District, Chinatown, Fisherman's Wharf and more



Why SF State?

For international students, SF State is the ideal place to earn a degree and prepare for a future career. Rated one of the most diverse colleges in America,¹ our campus is a vibrant mix of different races, cultures and languages where everyone can feel at home.

AFFORDABLE TUITION

Based in San Francisco, with all that the city has to offer, SF State is also part of the California State University system – meaning very **low tuition fees** for international students.

GOING PLACES

SF State is ranked **#8** in Top Performers on Social Mobility³ – meaning that the university is among the best at making it affordable for their students to graduate and obtain well-paying careers.

23,700 students
144-acre campus
1,834 faculty

SF STATE: FAST FACTS



Founded in 1899



Ranked in the Top 20 colleges nationwide for best location (Niche.com)



Bachelor's degrees offered in 97 subject areas



200+ on-campus students clubs



Ranked #178 in National Universities (U.S. News & World Report)

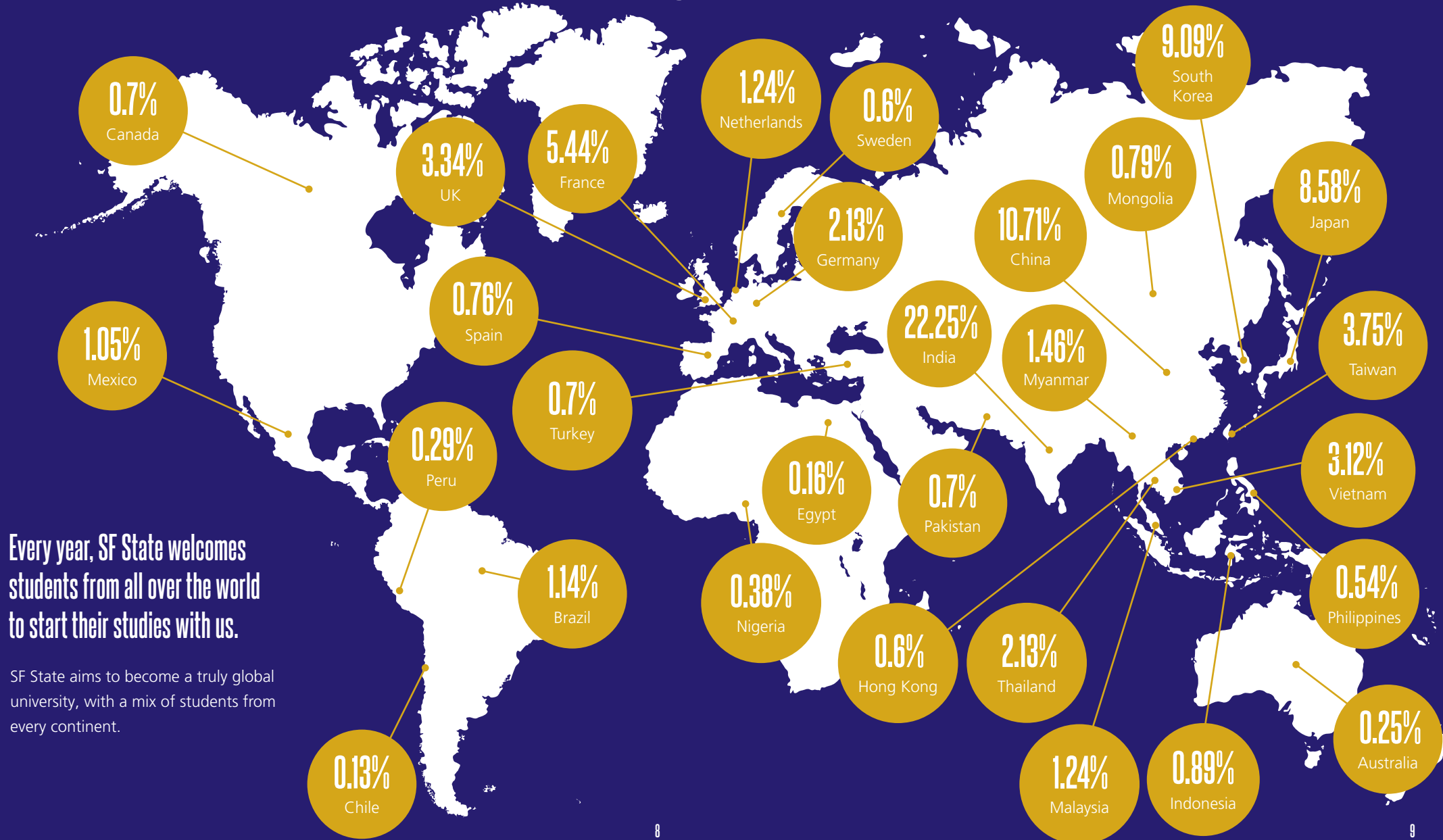


16 Academy Award winners and 49 Emmy winners among SF State alumni



21 Pulitzer Prize winners among SF State alumni

An International Community of Learners



What is International Year One?

International Year One is a special first-year program that boosts your academic English language skills and helps lay the groundwork for future success.

International Year One allows students to take credit-bearing SF State general education courses alongside additional academic and English language courses. The carefully selected credit-bearing courses allow first-year students to both discover new topics and further explore already strong subjects.

Once International Year One is completed, students proceed directly to their second year of degree study at SF State.



My most memorable experience is the amount of support I received here compared to my college back home. Oxford International helped me meet new people from different cultures.

Adham Mohamed - Egypt

SUPPORT AT EVERY STAGE

Individualized support/advising across the program, plus open office hours so students can easily connect with program staff.

Class sizes of approximately 18 students for bespoke support (non-credit).

Full SF State student status, with access to all university facilities from day one.

Preparation for success in subsequent studies.



Discover a World of Opportunity

Oxford International operates the International Year One Pathway Program in partnership with San Francisco State University.

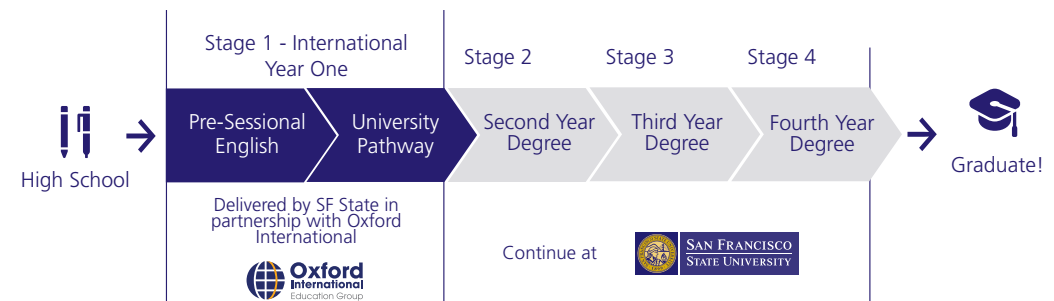
Founded in 1991, Oxford International is an accredited, private education provider that operates embedded pathways, vocational career colleges and English language schools across the UK and North America to create life changing experiences for students worldwide.

Our courses help over 70,000+ students from over 100 countries achieve academic success every year. We have built strong relationships with education consultants worldwide and pride ourselves on delivering the best programs for students.

Learn more about us
www.oxfordinternational.com

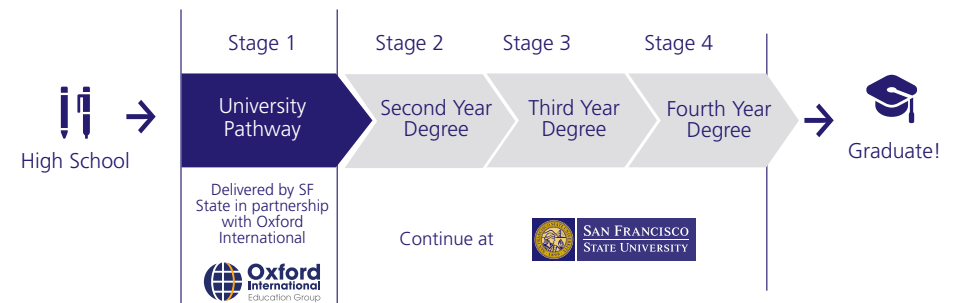
Your Journey Through SF State University

Entry at Under 5.0 IELTS



Students with an International Year One placement into Pre-Sessional English advance to the University Pathway Program before progressing to San Francisco State University.

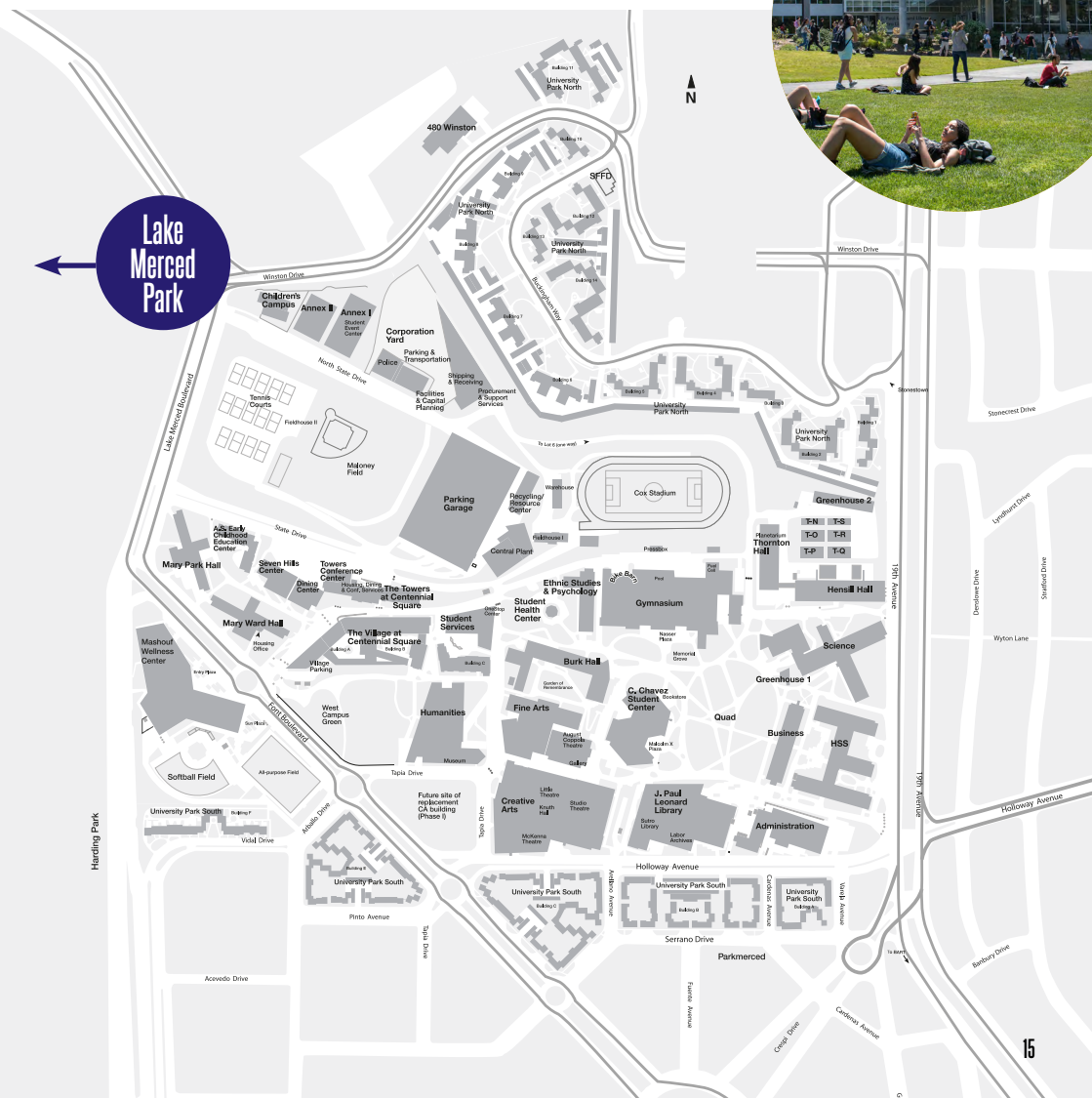
Entry at 5.0+ IELTS




SF State is ideally situated in uniquely beautiful areas of San Francisco.



SF State University's main campus is located just east of Lake Merced, a quiet and picturesque area of the city with acres of parks for relaxation.



Vibrant Campus Life



Whatever your passions,
you'll never run out of things
to do at SF State.

12

Division II
Athletic teams

15

Sports clubs

200+

Student
organizations

CLUBS

Athletics, Judo, Jiu Jitsu,
Taekwondo, Wrestling, Water
Polo, Swimming, Rugby, Tennis,
Volleyball and Cheerleading.

FACILITIES

Indoor basketball courts,
climbing walls, heated swimming
pools, sauna, outdoor tennis
courts, baseball grounds,
athletics, soccer pitch

Life at SF State University

CAREER EVENTS

These include fall and spring career fairs, a part-time job fair, and a graduate school fair. SF State University also offers a wide variety of workshops to all current students and alumni.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Part of SF State's Career and Leadership Development's (CLD) mission is to develop visionary, goal-driven and action-oriented student leaders. Students will develop lifelong skills through character development, creative and critical thinking, interpersonal communications, practical knowledge and career preparation.

RESOURCES

Career and Leadership Development provides a number of career-oriented webinars, as well as written and video guides on how to write resumes, apply for internships and approach graduate school admissions. Face-to-face practice interviews in various fields are also offered.

PARTNERSHIPS WITH INDUSTRY

Collaborations with strategic partners like Genentech and the CSU Entertainment Alliance create many work opportunities for students in the state's top industries.

SPECIAL ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS

SF State offers a wide array of special enrichment programs to help students gain the skills necessary to excel in the job market including the President's Leadership Fellows Program (PLFP).



Accommodation

International Year One students can choose from a range of accommodation options such as:

- Homestay
- SF State Housing
- Private Housing



StudentRoomStay

StudentRoomStay (SRS) welcomes international students and encourages students to live in personally-matched homes with local families to get a once in a lifetime cultural experience. They provide students with a welcoming family and a place to call home while pursuing their education. The SRS Concierge specializes in providing safe, easy and world-class homestay experiences.

Learn more at: go.studentroomstay.com/oxford-international-education-group-san-francisco



As its residents describe, living on campus at SF State is a fulfilling and delightful experience. The location of SF State is prime, situated in a desirable and safe area of San Francisco. Convenient access to public transportation and bike routes is readily available to all residents. Additionally, SF State Housing provides fully furnished move-in ready bedrooms and unfurnished options for those who prefer to bring their own furniture.

Learn more at: housing.sfsu.edu



The Village at Centennial Square is an apartment-style community that provides residents with a social/lifestyle experience by incorporating a courtyard, eating options, and a convenience store.

SF State will place most international students into the Village at Centennial Square for the 2024-2025 academic year. This controlled-access community is centrally located on campus and has all the amenities students need for a successful academic year. Students will benefit from a safe, supportive environment with easy access to their classes and campus facilities.

- 9-month lease
- 2 and 3 bedroom units available, with kitchens, living areas, and bathrooms
- Single and double occupancy rooms available
- Meal plan required

See more info at: <https://housing.sfsu.edu/village-centennial-square>



Your First Year of Study

Duration: 2 terms

Boost your English
language skills

Earned Credits: 18-22
towards your
SF State Degree

During your first year of study you will have a combination of general education credit courses alongside English language classes. Once you have successfully completed your first year by earning 18-22 credits and completing the English Language requirements, you can progress into the degree of your choice.

ENGLISH AND ACADEMIC SUPPORT CLASSES

During your first year of study you will have a program of mandatory classes which give both academic and English language support. These include the following topics:

- English for Academic Purposes to strengthen and develop listening, speaking, reading, writing, and critical thinking in the university context
- Academic acculturation on matters such as plagiarism, study skills, collaboration, critical thinking, active class participation, course requirements/ expectations and research
- Small group seminars to support academic courses
- Living in San Francisco

EXTRA SUPPORT

Our full-time Student Support Advisor will also be on campus to provide International Year One students with **ongoing assistance and guidance**. This support covers academic issues as well as practical, social and emotional needs arising from the transition to studying in the U.S.



“

Oxford International helped me to improve my English in all ways possible. My skills are better in writing and reading. My most memorable experiences that I had at the school was definitely in class, studying 'Living in San Francisco', I have a lot of good memories and I've met a lot of people at the same time.

Allisson Escandon - Ecuador

”



Academic Course Overview

PRE-SESSIONAL ENGLISH FOR STUDENTS WHO ENTER AT IELTS UNDER 5.0

Students with IELTS under 5.0 will be placed in the Pre-Sessional English program for 1-2 terms, depending on their language proficiency.

The Pre-Sessional English program is designed to enhance student's comprehension and usage of the English language and academic skills required for university level studies. After successfully completing the assigned Pre-Sessional term(s), students will progress to the International Year One Pathway Program (IY1). Upon successful completion of IY1, students will be admitted to SF State.

FIRST TERM OF STUDY FOR STUDENTS WHO ENTER AT IELTS 5.0+

Below are details of the courses you will study in this term:

Living in San Francisco (Credits: 1)

Learn about the historical, geographic, environmental, socio-cultural, and political context of the Bay Area that draws people to this place.

Writing the First Year: Global Perspectives of Multilingual Speakers Stretch I (Credits: 4)

The first semester of the stretch version of the First-Year Writing Seminar for multi-lingual students. Focused on developing the academic reading and writing skills necessary for university coursework.

One of the following Mathematics classes depending on desired major:*

- Business Calculus (Credits: 3)
- Elementary Statistics (Credits: 3)
- Pre-Calculus (Credits: 4)
- Calculus I (Credits: 4)

University support classes with a total of 18hrs study

- Immersive Experience
- High Intermediate English for Academic Purposes
- Academic Success Skills
- Academic Support

*Students will need to meet additional requirements before being able to take one of these classes.





FINAL TERM OF STUDY

Below are details of the courses you will study in your final term of your Pathway Program:

Writing the First Year: Global Perspectives of Multilingual Speakers Stretch II (Credits: 4)

Students will need to have achieved a C- or better in the first term of this class. The second semester of this class will allow extra time to revisit and practice reading and writing strategies to improve English fluency.

Critical Thinking and the Ethnic Studies Experience (Credits: 3)

Basic skills involved in understanding, criticizing, and constructing arguments by using materials reflective of experiences of ethnic/racial groups in the U.S.

One to two of the following General Education Courses*

- Fundamentals of Oral Communication (Credits: 3)
- Introduction to Microeconomic Analysis (Credits: 3)
- Survey of U.S. History for International Students (Credits: 3)

University support classes with a total of 12-14hrs study

- Immersive Experience
- Advanced English for Academic Purposes
- Academic Success Skills

**Students will need to meet additional requirements before being able to take one of these classes. Some elective courses options may not be available every term.*

UNIVERSITY SUPPORT CLASSES

English for Academic Purposes

The course teaches students the English language and critical thinking skills needed to achieve academic success according to American university expectations.

Academic Success Skills

This course will focus on the social, academic, and professional skills required to succeed in an American higher education setting and on the campus of San Francisco State University.

Academic Support

In a small group, students are encouraged to talk, think, and share more readily than in a larger group. Students also receive **ongoing individual support** from the Student Support Advisor and the Program Director throughout International Year One.

Immersive Experience

SF State offers a range of co-curricular and extra-curricular activities that ensure all international students enjoy a truly immersive experience, nurturing individual success and community connections.



Moving into Your Second Year

Once you have successfully completed your International Year One Pathway program you will be able to move into the degree of your choice.

BACHELOR OF ARTS

Liberal/Creative Arts	German	Spanish	Mathematics (STEM)
American Studies	History	Studio Art	Physics (STEM)
Anthropology	Humanities	Theatre Arts	Physics – Astronomy (STEM)
Art	International Relations	Women & Gender Studies	Psychology
Art History	Italian	Ethnic Studies	Health/Social Sciences
Bilingual Spanish Journalism	Japanese	Africana Studies	Child & Adolescent Development
Broadcast & Electronic Communication Arts	Journalism	American Indian Studies	Child Development Pre-K to 3rd Grade
Chinese	Liberal Studies	Asian American Studies	Criminal Justice Studies
Cinema	Linguistics	Latina/Latino Studies	Pre-Social Work
Classics	Modern Jewish Studies	Race & Resistance Studies	Recreation, Parks & Tourism Administration
Communication Studies	Music	Race, Ethnicity, and Health	Sociology
Comparative & World Literature	Music BM	Science/Engineering	Urban Studies & Planning
Creative Writing	Philosophy	Biology (STEM)	Business
Dance	Philosophy & Religion	Chemistry (STEM)	Economics
English	Political Science	Earth Sciences (STEM)	Labor & Employment Studies
French	Professional Writing & Rhetoric	Environmental Studies (STEM)	
		Geography	

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Health/Social Sciences	Biology – Microbiology (STEM)	Physics – Physics for Teaching (STEM)	Business Administration - Management
Apparel Design & Merchandising	Biology – Physiology (STEM)	Statistics (STEM)	Business Administration - Marketing
Public Health	Chemistry (STEM)	Business	Hospitality & Tourism Management
Interior Design	Computer Science (STEM)	Business Administration - General Business	Liberal & Creative Arts
Kinesiology	Civil Engineering (STEM)	Business Administration - Accounting	Industrial Design
Nutrition & Dietetics (STEM)	Computer Engineering (STEM)	Business Administration - Business Analytics	Visual Communication Design
Science & Engineering	Earth Sciences (STEM)	Business Administration - Decision Sciences	Education
Applied Mathematics (STEM)	Electrical Engineering (STEM)	Business Administration - Finance	Speech, Language & Hearing Sciences
Biochemistry (STEM)	Mechanical Engineering (STEM)	Business Administration - Information Systems	
Biology – Cell and Molecular Biology (STEM)	Environmental Science (STEM)	Business Administration - International Business	
Biology – Ecology, Evolution, and Conservation Biology (STEM)	Environmental Studies – Natural Resource Management (STEM)		
Biology – Marine Science (STEM)	Physics (STEM)		
	Physics – Astrophysics (STEM)		



#96
in Top Public Schools

#178
in National Universities

#49
in Best Undergraduate Engineering Programs

97
Majors

Admission Requirements

Before admission to International Year One, applicants must satisfy our minimum requirements for English language skills and academic achievement.

ENGLISH ENTRY CRITERIA

The following English proficiency exams and levels are accepted for entry into the International First Year at SF State:

International Year One	Oxford ELLT	IELTS	TOEFL IBT*
2 Term Advanced	5+	5.5+	55+
2 Term Standard	4	5	50
Pre-Sessional English	Under 4	Under 5.0	Under 50

OXFORD ELLT



Scan to find out how you can take your English language test with Oxford ELLT.

Alternatively, applicants who are able to demonstrate 2 years of full-time academic study in the following countries where the language of instruction was English, are **exempt from supplying an English proficiency exam for admission** into the International Year One at SF State:

Antigua	Ghana	Nigeria
Australia	Grand Cayman Islands	Northern Marianas
Bahamas	Grenada	Palau
Barbados	Ireland	Papua New Guinea
Belize	Jamaica	Scotland
Bermuda	Kenya	Sierra Leone
Botswana	Lesotho	South Africa
Canada	Liberia	St. Kitts
England	Malawi	St. Lucia
Gambia	New Zealand	St. Vincent & Grenadines

Kingdom of Eswatini
Tanzania
Trinidad & Tobago
Uganda
United States
Virgin Islands
Wales
Zambia
Zimbabwe

Correct at time of print- subject to change.



START DATES: January / June / August

REQUIREMENTS FOR TRANSFER TO SF STATE – YEAR 2

To complete International Year One and matriculate into the second year at SF State, students must successfully complete a minimum of 18 academic units earning a “C” (2.0) Grade Point Average or higher and demonstrate English proficiency by earning a C- (or CR or 2.0) in ENG 202.

COUNTRY SPECIFIC ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS



For full list of all countries entry requirements visit:
oxfordinternational.com/admissions/country-entry-requirements

ONLINE APPLICATION FORM



Apply online:
oxfordinternational.com/admissions/apply

How to Apply

Once you have met our admissions requirements, applying to International Year One at SF State is easy.

All you need to do is complete our application form and return it to your local representative. The application must include copies of all relevant academic transcripts and certificates of English language qualifications.



A copy of a valid passport



A copy of your original qualification certificates and transcripts
(Certified translation if applicable)



Any current or previous U.S. visas and I-20 forms



Proof of English proficiency



Proof of financials

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