

June 9, 2017

Greetings New Students,

We're your Graduate Student Representatives and fellow Econ graduate students, responsible for helping you acclimate to the first year of the Economics Graduate Program at UC Davis. We've enclosed some information that you may find helpful. We urge you to read the material provided as soon as possible in order for you to begin preparing for your first year of graduate school in Davis, California.

As residents of Davis, we'd be very happy to show you around both the town or the University campus itself before the start of Math Camp (September 6, 2017). If we haven't met you by Math Camp, don't worry, we'll introduce ourselves in person during Math Camp. Please feel free to contact us via e-mail or phone if you have any additional questions or concerns. Most importantly, we and the rest of the current Economics graduate students look forward to your arrival and hope that we can do as much as possible to make the transition into graduate school smooth.

Regards,

Natasha Orlova, Derek Rury, Justin Wiltshire  
*Your GSC representatives*

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## Information For New Graduate Students Admitted for Fall 2017

### I. MATH

We *strongly* recommend that you attend Math Camp, which takes place from **September 6 to September 25**. Math Camp is a good overview of some of the math skills required for your first year courses. The material covered includes multivariate calculus, linear algebra, set theory, and optimization.

A syllabus and sample problems have been included in this packet. The sample problems may or may not seem familiar now, but they should by the end of Math Camp. Most importantly, Math Camp is a perfect opportunity to meet your new classmates!

### II. BOOKS

You'll need several new textbooks this year. Purchasing and browsing through them early should give you a basic idea of some of the material that will be covered in the first year of the program.

- **Textbook for Math Camp:**

*Mathematics for Economists*, by Simon, C.P. and Blume, L. (1994), Norton, New York\*  
Professor Burkhard Schipper will teach Math Camp.

A Math Camp Syllabus is not available yet and will be provided later.

- **Textbook for Econ 200A, Fall 2017:**

*Microeconomic Theory*, by Andreu Mas-Colell, Michael D. Whinston, and Jerry R. Green, New York, Oxford University Press, New York (1995). \*  
Professor Burkhard Schipper will teach Econ 200A and plans to use this standard text.

An Econ 200A Syllabus is not available yet and will be provided later.

- **Textbook for Econ 239, Fall 2017:**

Hogg, McKean and Cragg, *Introduction to Mathematical Statistics, Seventh Edition*, (2013) by Pearson\* (Much of the class will follow this book. The book is often more detailed than what will be covered in this class).

**The text is more advanced than an undergraduate text and has relatively few real data examples. It is "mathematical statistics" not "statistics".**

**Professor Cameron strongly recommends also having an undergraduate probability and statistics text that presents material more simply and with more examples, especially for those students with less previous exposure to formal probability and statistics.**

Two such books are:

Robert V. Hogg and Elliot Tannis, *Probability and Statistics*, Pearson.

Richard Larson and Morris Marx, *Introduction to Mathematical Statistics and its Applications*.  
The older the edition, the cheaper the book.

Professor A. Colin Cameron will teach Econ 239.

He has not yet prepared the Econ 239 syllabus for Fall 2017. He will cover similar material to 2016, but will re-order some of the material.

Last year's syllabus is at <http://cameron.econ.ucdavis.edu/e239/e239syl.html>

\* UC Davis Bookstore prices are high and subject to change without notice. Also, purchasing new versions of these books is not necessary, but used versions can be hard to come by. Look around for the best deal at online resellers such as <http://www.abebooks.com> or [www.allbookstores.com](http://www.allbookstores.com).

You might find some textbooks at cheaper prices at [Amazon.co.uk](http://Amazon.co.uk) (even cheaper than Amazon.com)

### III. HOUSING

Housing in Davis has been, historically, **VERY DIFFICULT TO FIND**. Vacancy rates can be less than 3%. We recommend that you secure housing as soon as possible. We repeat: **DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE TO LOOK FOR HOUSING!**

There are several resources that can aid you in finding a place to live.

- Try the following websites:

**Housing for Graduate Students:**

<http://housing.ucdavis.edu/prospective/graduate-professional-housing.asp>

**SISS Office information for International Students seeking housing:**

<http://siss.ucdavis.edu/resources/resources-everybody/housing.html>

<http://chl.ucdavis.edu/> **(Community Housing)**

<http://daviswiki.org/>

<http://sacramento.craigslist.org/>

[uloop.com](http://uloop.com) is a website that is basically a cross between facebook and craigslist, where students post room vacancies; you can access the UC Davis version with a UC Davis password.

8<sup>th</sup> and Wake is a brand new housing community specifically designed and built for UC Davis Graduate Students. The property is located at 1440 Wake Forest Drive, Davis CA 95616. See this website: <http://www.8thandwake.com/>

- For those students with a family:

<http://housing.ucdavis.edu/housing/apartments-solano-park.asp>

[tandemproperties.com/property.aspx?id=16](http://tandemproperties.com/property.aspx?id=16)

- Also, coordinating housing with future classmates is a viable option
- Also, you can feel free to email your GSC reps if you want tips or opinions on finding and assessing housing.

#### IV. “DAVIS LIFE”

Here are some tips for living in Davis:

- Getting Around

Bicycles are the primary mode of transportation in Davis. If you don't already own a bike, you'll probably want to buy one as soon as you arrive. Used bikes are cheap and easy to find in Davis. A good place to find used bikes is the Davis Bike Exchange at 511 L Street or the Bike Barn on campus. In general, the roads are very bike-friendly, and most shops and services are a short, flat bike ride from campus.

##### Alternative Transportation

The UCD bus system, called Unitrans, is very extensive as well and costs \$1.00 per ride for graduate students. It's a good idea to find housing conveniently located near the bus system.

- [Taps.ucdavis.edu](http://Taps.ucdavis.edu) is a good resource:  
Unitrans bus passes can be bought at a discount by registering at TAPS. To buy a campus parking permit, go to TAPS. Also, register your bike at TAPS (especially since bike theft is high).
- Maps  
There is an information booth in the Memorial Union (just a few steps away from the Economics department) where you can find campus maps and other resources for new students.
- Hot Spots (to name just a few)  
Mishka's coffee shop on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Sophia's Thai Kitchen and Bar on E Street, the campus Memorial Union game room and bowling alley, the Greenbelt park on the north side of town for jogging and biking, and the Farmer's Market. Visit <https://localwiki.org/davis/> for more information.

#### V. ESTABLISHING RESIDENCY

##### **If you are a U.S. citizen or permanent resident of the U.S.**

For tuition purposes, if you are not a “California resident”, you will need to establish California residency right away. This means opening a bank account, getting a California driver's license,

and registering to vote in California (if applicable). **You must do these things *before* the start of Fall Quarter in order to be classified as a California resident for the following year.** Otherwise, you will have to pay additional out-of-state fees in your second year. You also need to file a Petition for Classification to Resident Status. See this website for further information about this: <http://registrar.ucdavis.edu/tuition/residence/processes/classification-instructions.cfm>

**If you are an International student**

International students are not eligible for California residency status, but Non-Resident Tuition Fellowships are available from the department after your first year in the program; these fellowships are based on individual performance in the program.