



INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMME (IEP)

Guide for Incoming Students



聖若瑟大學
UNIVERSITY OF
SAINT JOSEPH

GLOBAL EDUCATION, GLOBAL MIND...



聖若瑟大學
UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH

IEP Guide for Incoming Students

UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH

Estrada Marginal da Ilha Verde,
14-17, Macau, China

Published by

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and Regional Cooperation (OIR)**

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Updated on 27 November 2017

The content of this guide is updated from time to time. An updated version is shared to public in the USJ website under Student Exchange.

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WELCOME MESSAGE

Dear Prospective Incoming Exchange Students,

Welcome to the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) and thank you for choosing to join us in Macao.

I hope you will quickly make yourself at home here and enjoy your Macanese experience. As an immigrant myself, I can attest it's a wonderful city.

I am still grateful to have spent time living in another country, rather than just passing through as a visitor. I not only learned a great deal about another culture, I also learned a lot about myself and about my abilities. Congratulations for choosing to push yourself in pursuit of that kind of experience. Get involved, try new things, and take mistakes in your stride – they are part of the learning process too.

In USJ we pride ourselves for being a place where everyone is welcome. Please know that we have resources on campus that can offer support should you need it, including the Office for Student Affairs. I hope you will take advantage of their many activities as you explore your new campus and the city, while broadening your understanding of the culture of Macao.

Whether your home is across an ocean or just a few hours flight away, and no matter how long you will be with us at USJ, please know that we are very glad to have you here.

We look forward to meeting you and hope your stay with us will be rewarding.

My best wishes for a wonderful and fruitful stay at USJ!

Office for International Relations and Regional Cooperation (OIR)

Paula Mota

UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH PROFILE

The University of Saint Joseph was created in Macao in 1996 by the Catholic Foundation for Higher Education (owned in equal parts by the Diocese of Macao and Catholic University of Portugal) with the aim of setting up a Catholic University in Macao, closely following the model and standards of top European universities.

The university follows an honourable and long history of Catholic tertiary education in Macao, initiated in the late 16th Century by Fr. Alessandro Valignano, founder of the University College of Saint Paul, to facilitate culture interchange between East and West.

Faculties

- ❖ Faculty of Religious Studies (FRS)
- ❖ Faculty of Humanities (FHM)
- ❖ Faculty of Creative Industries (FCI)
- ❖ Faculty of Social Sciences (FSS)

Schools

- ❖ School of Business (SBU)
- ❖ School of Education (SED)

Institute

- ❖ Institute of Science and Environment (ISE)

What We Offer

The university offers a wide range of programmes across different fields of knowledge.

The Macao Government accredits all our programmes, and our graduates have been able to pursue careers and further studies with local and international institutions, thus endowing us with a high level of recognition and credibility. Aside from the academic programmes, being a student at USJ is an enriching and comprehensive experience that enables you to develop multiple skills and interests.

In order to help our students to achieve the standards we set for them, we provide ample academic, scientific and personal resources (tutorials, mentoring, and counselling).

Aside from the specialized classes that students must take in each programme, our undergraduate programmes have the following characteristics:

- ❖ All undergraduate students are required to take a set of core modules. These core modules are interdisciplinary courses, where students from different programmes research, understand and critique major trends, theories and complex issues that affect our lives today.
- ❖ A university education is increasingly indispensable for a fulfilling and successful future. The University's Internship and Career Office (ICO) assists graduating students to plan, start and develop their careers, through a range of seminars (e.g. CV-writing, interview skills), an annual career fair and talks and workshops by potential employers, recruitment agencies, high-profile professionals, public workers and business people. Incoming exchange students are welcome for consultation, however incoming exchange students cannot be placed in any work or internship positions unless they satisfy Macao's labor regulations.

An International University

USJ provides a truly multicultural environment to its students. USJ is one of the most attractive destinations in Macao Special Administrative Region for incoming exchange students looking to enhance their knowledge and experience. The number of foreign students coming to study at our university has grown yearly and we welcome more than 49 nationalities from various continents including: Europe, America, Africa, and Asia & Oceania.

This exposure will also be completed with the opportunity to learn different languages:

- ❖ USJ's academic year consists of two semesters. Classes start in September for the Fall Semester and in late January or early February for the Spring Semester.
- ❖ All classes are taught in English.
- ❖ Additionally, students must study Mandarin, the most widely spoken language in the world.
- ❖ Students must study Portuguese, the native language of over 200 million people, making it one of the most popular languages in the World. Portuguese is also an increasingly important language for diplomacy and business in China as some Portuguese-Speaking Countries, most notably Brazil and Angola, key trading partners of China.

OFFICE FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND REGIONAL COOPERATION (OIR)

The Office for International Relations and Regional Cooperation (OIR) has been developing and expanding partnerships with premier institutions around the world to develop international cooperation, which benefit our students, faculty members and staff. The OIR encourage interactions between incoming exchange students and Macao students to facilitate incoming exchange students' integration into USJ campus life and to sponsor programmes and activities centered around the internationally diverse faculty and students which lead to enhanced multicultural awareness among them.

Along with the pre-arrival information and the orientation, OIR welcomes the incoming exchange students with a variety of services and administrative support including:

- ✓ OIR provides immediate answers to questions regarding class registration procedures and daily life in Macao.
- ✓ Academic advice and guidance by USJ faculty members, designed as counselors to incoming exchange students, are always available upon request on a range of issues such as course selection, assessment, etc.
- ✓ OIR and the Office for Student Affairs (OSA) organize cultural activities where Macao resident students and incoming exchange students can meet, socialize and learn about each other's cultures.

CONTACT INFORMATION FOR INCOMING EXCHANGE STUDENTS

Office for International Relations and Regional Cooperation (OIR)
Tel.: +853 8592 5643 / +853 8592 5644
Fax: +853 2872 5517
Email: international@usj.edu.mo
University of Saint Joseph
Estrada Marginal da Ilha Verde, 14-17, Macau, China

ADMISSION INFORMATION

Applicants must be currently enrolled at partner institutions which USJ has an exchange agreement. Each academic year, incoming exchange students are admitted either for the Fall Semester or the Spring Semester or one entire academic year. Students can be accepted in any academic programme offered at USJ. For further details please visit: <http://www.usj.edu.mo/en/education>.

Application Periods

- ❖ For Fall Semester: 1st – 30th of May
- ❖ For Spring Semester: 1st – 30th of October

Nomination by the home institution

Nomination can be via email.

The nomination should include the following materials for each of the nominated students:

- Nomination letter by the International Affairs of home Institution,
- Scanned copy of the passport (signature page),
- Scanned copy of the Transcript of Records and
- E-mail, telephone number and programme of studies.

Online application by the student

- Apply online at <http://www.usj.edu.mo/en/education/admissions>
- Selected **OTHERS** and choose **INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE**

After the application is received, an email will be automatically sent confirming that the application has been registered in our system. Should no email received within 24 hours after applying, please contact the Office for International Relations and Regional Cooperation at international@usj.edu.mo Telephone: +853 8592 5644 / +853 8592 5643.

The confirmation email will contain:

- ❖ Application number – please quote this number in any future enquires concerning the application;
- ❖ A link to “Personal Dashboard”- The personal dashboard page inside our system is where the status of the application can review.

Get into the personal dashboard and upload all required documents as below:

- Transcript of records.
- Passport copy with an expiry date of more than six months after the end of the exchange period.
- Recent passport-sized photo (1.5 inch full-face on a white background, in electronic format (tiff, jpeg) less than 512KB).
- Health certificate.
- Tetanus vaccination Record.
- Motivation Letter in support of the application to participate in the USJ Exchange Programme.

Note: *The above documents must be uploaded through the university's application system and the originals must be presented to USJ for verification on the arrival.*

International Medical Insurance (Mandatory)

In addition to your personal insurance, all incoming exchange students are required to buy “Comprehensive Medical Insurance Plan” with full coverage of your intended stay in Macao. If you consider exploring other destinations in the region other than Macao, your health insurance must provide coverage for these additional destinations.

Incoming exchange students are responsible for the cost of treatment during their stay in Macao. Should any medical emergencies arise, you must therefore have medical insurance coverage as a requirement and verify that the insurance policy you carry covers hospitalization and medical care occurring during international travel, as well as repatriation to your home country in case of medical emergency.

Incoming exchange students must present the original of the medical insurance policy upon arrival.

Note: *If you have an allergic condition, it would be wise to bring your medication with you. Also, a doctor's prescription for additional medication if required.*

Language Requirements

USJ uses the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (hereafter CEFR). Therefore, all accepted incoming exchange students must demonstrate proficient command of English B2.

Fees for Incoming Exchange Students

Incoming exchange students from any of USJ designated exchange partner institutions do not incur USJ tuition fees and nor the administrative application charge or otherwise if mention in the partner agreement.

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Teaching and Learning

- ❖ A variety of learning methods and activities are used to cater for various learning styles. Thus, research-workshops, seminars, project-based work and activity-based learning ('**learning by doing**') and collaborative learning; additionally, lectures are employed.
- ❖ Emphasis is placed on active, interactive, collaborative and concept-based learning in the course. Lectures are complemented by research activities and practical application of the material studied. Many opportunities are to be deliberately provided to exchange ideas and readings with other members of the group, towards clarification and application. These learning strategies are to break the familiar pattern based solely on lectures and readings.
- ❖ It is envisaged that, by having differing membership of discussion groups during the different parts of the course, students benefit from the insights and contributions of others in addressing the relevant issues.
- ❖ Assessment methods in each module vary and are frequent so that all students have the opportunity to show their strengths and receive timely feedback from the teacher.

Student Representation and Involvement

Students' views are taken very seriously on their courses; there are formal and informal ways of students exchanging their views and concerns. Feedback from students into the course is gained in two other ways. Firstly, student evaluations of each module are routinely undertaken at the end of each module. This is through a link that students can find in their '**MyUSJ**' platform and they can rate their instructor and send their feedbacks regarding the module. Secondly, students are asked to write course evaluations of the whole programme for the purpose of monitoring and improving the service that we render.

Transcripts

The transcript is issued by the Academic Records Office and comprises the complete student academic record of courses taken at USJ and the respective Graduate Point Average (GPA).

A transcript is issued to each incoming student when they complete the International Exchange Programme. The original transcript will be sent to the International Relations of home institution, within one month after the completion of each semester. The student copy can be printed directly from 'MyUSJ.'

Student Card

Incoming exchange students will be issued with a USJ Student Card. It functions as a student ID, for borrowing books at the USJ library, and can also be used to do the following:

- ❖ Apply for study visa,
- ❖ Apply for Macau Pass,
- ❖ Apply for tourist visa to Mainland China.

Note: *Students need to report to the Academic Records Office (ARO) if the card is lost; there is a fee for student card replacement, please refer to 'USJ Student Handbook'.*

Personal Data Amendment

Incoming exchange students once in Macao, are to provide their most up-to-date information to the university such as address; telephone numbers, etc. Please notify the Academic Records Office (ARO) at acadrecords@usj.edu.mo.

Class Registration

Registration for modules should be done before the semester starts, thus we strongly suggest the incoming exchange students to arrive at least one week before classes begin.

For further information, please contact Academic Records Office (ARO) at acadrecords@usj.edu.mo.

Note: *Be prepared to be flexible with the module selection, as we cannot guarantee enrolment in any specific module.*

Workload Per Semester

This is according to the requirements set-forth by the home institution. The incoming exchange students are entitled to the selection of courses according to their needs.

Incoming exchange students can enroll in up to 22 credits each semester, however the student should follow the home university guidelines. The 22 credits are taken to allow the incoming exchange student time to experience living in the local environment and appreciate Macao culture.

Add or Swap a Module

Adding and swapping modules will be available up to three days before the respective class starts. During the orientation, you will get information on how to register for courses. Incoming exchange students may add/swap modules to their normal schedule.

The Guidelines to do so are available as an Appendix to the '**USJ Student Handbook**' (See Add or Swap Modules Procedures). *For more information please contact the Academic Records Office (ARO) at acadrecords@usj.edu.mo.*

Extension of Study Period

Incoming exchange students are encouraged to complete their study within one semester, however the study period can be extended up to one academic year with prior approval by their home institution and confirmation by USJ.

The International Relations of the student's home institution should send a formal letter/email to the International Relations of USJ for consideration of the extension requested. Approval is only granted if sufficient justification is given and is treated on a case-by-case basis.

E-mail of Office for International Relations and Regional Cooperation (OIR):
international@usj.edu.mo.

Withdrawal of the Exchange Programme

Incoming exchange student's who would like to withdraw from the Exchange Programme while in USJ is required to inform their home institution and a confirmation letter/email should be addressed to the Office for International Relations and Regional Cooperation of USJ for further handling.

Exchange Students Status at USJ

Incoming exchange students will be registered at USJ as a full-time non-degree student. All incoming exchange students are eligible to have the same services, all facilities as the local and overseas students, such as access to the library and other educational/research facilities. The incoming exchange students are also entitled to participate in different university clubs of their interest, during their exchange period.

Assessment Strategies

Incoming exchange students will be deliberately introduced to a range of assessment strategies during their studies. These will include, for example: course work, individual and group presentations, individual and group project, examinations, debates, class participation, essays, seminar papers, and assignments. For more information, please refer to '**USJ Student Handbook**' available at '[MyUSJ](#).'

Satisfactory attendance and punctuality are also requirements in order for students to be eligible for assessment. Incoming exchange students whose attendance does not meet the USJ requirements for attendance and punctuality will be sanctioned unless arrangements have been made between the home institution and the USJ.

The Grading System

The grades will be submitted through MyUSJ within one month of the last session or exam date. The module is graded on a numerical scale ranging from 0-20.

*For more information, please refer to '**USJ Student Handbook**' available at '[MyUSJ](#)'.*

Academic Rules, Policy and General Regulations

*Please refer to the '**USJ Student Handbook**' available at '[MyUSJ](#)' or ask for a copy through Office for Student Affairs (OSA): studentaffairs@usj.edu.mo.*

Student Support Services

Each semester we have student ambassadors to act as buddies for the incoming exchange students. Their wide knowledge of the University and the city makes them very good volunteers. They are ready to help the incoming exchange students to settle into life and study at USJ.

For more information on academic and support resources, please refer to 'USJ Student Handbook'.

Student Well-Being and Cross-Cultural Adjustment Programme

Everyone may require some counselling services from time to time. Others may need special time and attention due to more serious difficulties and challenges.

For more information, please contact the Office for Student Affairs (OSA) at Tel: (+853) 8592 5655, E-mail: studentaffairs@usj.edu.mo.

Campus Facilities and Other Regulations

Please refer to the 'USJ Student Handbook' available at the USJ Website.

Postal Services

Incoming exchange students can use the Post Offices located in the city to send mail or faxes. Incoming exchange students can also receive mails, including parcels and courier packages directly at their university apartment should they consider the option of living within a university residence. Hall Administration staff members are happy to sign, on behalf of the residents, for their courier packages, and residents will be notified by email in case there are mails for them. Macao postal service is considerably efficient. Express services are also available in Macao, for a quicker delivery with premium pricing. The express companies in Macao include DHL, FEDEX, UPS and SPEED POST (EMS)

POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

University policies and procedures apply to many aspects of student life. As an incoming exchange student in USJ, you must comply with both University-wide and program-specific regulations:

- ❖ Academic Regulations
- ❖ Policy on Academic Integrity
- ❖ Laptop and Computer Policy
- ❖ Anti-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy
- ❖ Email Policy for Students
- ❖ Computer Facilities
- ❖ Lost and Found
- ❖ Rules on Filing and Settlement of Complaints and Disputes

Please refer to the **Policies and Regulations in 'USJ Student Handbook'** available at the USJ Website or at the link below:

<http://www.usj.edu.mo/en/office-student-affairs-osa/important-policies/>.

TRAVELING TO MACAO

Macao Entry Visa

Incoming exchange students are responsible to ensure that they have a valid passport before entering Macao.

Visa assessment levels are determined by country of citizenship. For Macao entry Visa, please visit: http://www.fsm.gov.mo/psp/eng/EDoN.html#EDoN_VII

If transit in Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, please visit Immigration Department link: <http://www.immd.gov.hk/en/services/hk-visas/visit-transit/visit-visa-entry-permit.html>

Options on Transportation

Arrival to Macao:

By Air: Macao's International Airport is a busy one, offering flights to and from a handful of popular locations in Asia including Japan, Indonesia, Thailand, India and more.

By Sea: Macao's Ferry terminal offers ferry rides to and from Mainland China, Central Hong Kong and Hong Kong International Airport. Please visit this link: <http://www.turbojet.com.hk/en/>

By Land: Macao borders with Mainland China's Zhuhai and its border operate from the early morning to midnight 7 days a week, making the crossing a viable option.

NOTE: Please note that travelling through some countries, e.g. PR China might require an additional visa. Please visit: http://english.gov.cn/service/imm_va.htm

STUDY VISA IN MACAO

Once complete the entire administrative formalities in USJ it's time to apply for the study visa:

Required Documents:

A completed Macao Visa Application Form, available at the Immigration department

- Photocopies of the bio data page and used inside pages of a valid passport/travel document.
- Recent 1.5-inch full-face white background color photo.
- Declaration provided by the University of Saint Joseph.
- Your USJ student Identity Card.

For more information, please visit: www.fsm.gov.mo/psp.

TRANSPORTATION TO USJ

The University of Saint Joseph makes an effort to assist foreign students arriving in Macao who stay in the USJ University Residential Hall (RH) by picking them up upon arrival in Macao 24/7. Students must provide clear and up-to-date information about their travelling schedule (date, time, flight number as well the arrival time in Macao, and the arrival meeting point in Macao) thus, students must be in contact before and during the travel to the USJ Hall Administration Team at residence@usj.edu.mo.

How to get to USJ**UNIVERSITY ADDRESS**

UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH
 Estrada Marginal da Ilha Verde, 14-17, Macau, China
 聖若瑟大學
 中國澳門青洲河邊馬路 14-17 號

By Bus: There are bus stops near USJ and the following routes are available: 8, 8A, 23, 28B, 28BX, H2. For more information regarding the bus routes in Macao, please visit <http://www.dsat.gov.mo/>.

By Taxi: The flag-fall charge of Macao's taxi is MOP19.00 for the first 1,600 meters, with MOP2.00 added for every 240 meters thereafter.

On Walk: As Macau is a relatively small city, many locations are within walkable distance. It should take only 15 to 45 minutes to get to USJ if you are within Macau Peninsula.

COST OF LIVING

It is difficult to provide a precise estimate of the likely living costs because it varies from one person to another. Individual circumstances will determine individual costs while studying abroad. As a guide, minimum of MOP 4,500 (approximately USD\$560 or EUR\$470) per month can cover meals, transportation, utilities (gas, electricity, water bills) and other living expenses. This amount does not include student residence rental fees.

ACCOMMODATIONS**University Residential Hall**

Students can apply for accommodation in the USJ University Residential Hall (RH) managed by the Hall Administration Team. All the rooms are fully but simply furnished, and equipped with air conditioning and wireless Internet. Cleaning service of the common areas is provided on a regular basis. For information regarding the rental fees, please contact the Hall Administration Team at residence@usj.edu.mo.

How to Request for the Accommodation

Please contact the USJ University Residential Hall (RH) Administration Team at residence@usj.edu.mo.

Important: Rooms are limited and requests are processed on a first-come-first-serve basis.

How to Pay the Accommodations

There are different options available to pay the residence fees, either using direct transfer to the Bank Account, or by bank cheque/ bank draft/ credit card/ cash.

Details are available in the application and relevant documentations of Residential Hall (See Residence Fee Payment Policy). For more information please contact the Hall Administration Team at residence@usj.edu.mo.

ACADEMICALLY RELATED COMPETITIONS AND ACTIVITIES

There are many academic related competitions in the university from time to time that assist students in being more creative and for personal interest. Competitive activities include singing contest, design contest, and debate contest. From time to time, the university joins in national, regional and global competitions. Foreign students are encouraged to participate in any competitions available during their stay in Macao depending on guidelines of the individual event.

Social Activities

Our students also compete in other social activities in Macao like dragon boat competition, and other events like 'Walk for a million-charity walk', and other periodic charity donations and visitations.

These activities aim at personalizing the philosophy of the university to the student. However, through different clubs students participate actively in different social activities.

This link refers to different clubs in the university: <http://www.usj.edu.mo/en/students/student-association>

Sports Competitions

The university conducts different sport competitions from time to time. These competitions promote friendship, the development of individual talents and to keep fit. Exchange students are also encouraged to participate actively in any of these events.

Foreign students are free to join any club of their choice. The student's activities are available at the university website: <http://www.usj.edu.mo/en/students/>

INFORMATION ABOUT MACAO

The fishermen of Fujian and farmers of Guangdong were the first settlers known to have settled in Macao. At that time, the area was known as "OuMun", or "trade door" due to its location at the mouth of the Pearl River, downstream from Guangzhou (Canton). Centuries ago this port city was on the famous Silk Route, from where boats would load silk and sail all the way to Rome.

Even after China ceased to be a center for global trade, Guangzhou continued to thrive through maritime trade with Southeast Asian countries and the local entrepreneurs welcomed the arrival of the Portuguese explorers and merchant-explorers. They followed in the wake of Jorge Alvares, who landed in southern China in 1513 and set about to find suitable trading posts.

In the early 1550's, the Portuguese reached "OuMun" which the locals also called A Ma Gao, "place of A Ma", in honor of the Goddess of Seafarers, whose temple stood at the entrance to the sheltered Inner Harbor. The Portuguese adopted the name, which gradually changes into the name Macao and the permission of the Guangdong's Mandarins, established a city that within with a short time had become a major platform for trade between China, Japan, India and Europe.

Macao in Chinese 澳門 also spelled Macau, today is one of the two Special Administrative Regions of the People's Republic of China, the other being Hong Kong. Macao lies on the western side of the Pearl River Delta across from Hong Kong to the east, bordered by Guangdong province to the north and facing the South China Sea to the east and south. The territory's economy is heavily dependent on gambling and tourism, but also includes some manufacturing.

Today Macao benefits from the principle of “one country two systems”. The tiny SAR is growing in size – with more buildings on reclaimed land – and in the number and diversity of its attractions. The greatest of these continues to be Macao’s unique society, with communities from the East and West complementing each other and the many people who come to visit.

Population

A majority of the population are ethnic Chinese and the remaining 6% includes Portuguese and other nationalities.

Language

The official languages in Macao are Chinese and Portuguese. In everyday life, most people speak Cantonese (a dialect of Chinese) and some speak Portuguese. Some local people are able to speak English and Mandarin, but learning common expressions such as numbers, names of places and food in Cantonese, allows better interaction with local students. An English speaker can easily get by in Macao.

Electricity

Electricity in Macao is at 220V, 50Hz. The powers plugs are used in Macao are of the three-pin, square-shaped or round-shaped type. It is suggested to check before using any electrical appliance.

Health and Medical Treatment

Vaccination certificates are required only in exceptional circumstances, either in Macao or through the Region, where vaccinations are need.

In a medical emergency, contact the following hospitals:

- ❖ S. Januário Hospital/ Chinese name (仁伯爵綜合醫院 / 山頂醫院) located in Estrada do Visconde S. Januário, Macao (澳門若憲馬路), Tel: 2831 3731
- ❖ Kian Wu Hospital/ Chinese name (鏡湖醫院) located in Estrada Visconde Coelho do Amaral, Macao, (澳門連勝街) Tel: 2837 1333
- ❖ Macao University of Science and Technology Hospital/Chinese name (科大醫院) located in Block H, Macao University of Science and Technology, AvenidaWai Long, Taipa, Macao (澳門氹仔偉龍馬路澳門科技大學 H 座) Tel. 2882 1838

Emergency services in these hospitals are open 24 hours. In less urgent cases foreign students can go to Health Centre in Macao. The most central one is the Tap Seac Health Centre (塔石衛生中心) located between Rua do Campo and Av. Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida (荷蘭園正街), Tel. 2852 2232.

Climate

Macao has a warm tropical climate with an annual average temperature of just over 20° C. The temperature can rise over 35° C in summer and drop below 10° C in winter. Temperature can suddenly drop to a lower temperature during the winter season. Humidity is high with an average value ranging from 73% and 90%. The annual heaviest rainfall is in summer months; the best season is autumn (October - December), when days are sunny and warm, the humidity is low and the temperature is around 16° C. Winter (January – March) is cold but sunny and the

temperature is around 10° C. In April, the humidity starts to build up and from May to September, the temperature is around 30° – 34° C.

The natural weather disaster in Macao is typhoon. This is strong tropical ocean wind blowing at a higher frequency with destructive tendencies. Macao metrological institution gives a regular notification about the weather through some telecommunication companies SMS, Television stations, government official website (<http://portal.gov.mo/web/guest/cityinfo/weather>), on daily basis. Preventive actions have been taken for a long time, both in structure and service. Over a long time Typhoon over 8 rating is not common in Macao. The university suspends all her activities during the period when the Typhoon signal is 8+. For more information please refer to '**USJ Student Handbook**'. From 8 signals upward, Typhoon is considered destructive and individual are advised to stay indoors. Equally ferry service to and from Hong Kong is also suspended with this signal.

Telecommunications

Macao area code is 853. Easy call cards (prepaid phone cards) allow you to make local and long-distance calls at public phones. Mobile phones are popular in Macao and run on GSM system. You may purchase pre-paid GSM cards or subscribe to service plans (deposit is required for non-Macao residents) at the four telecommunication companies in Macao. There are many types of cards with different features such as long distance, Internet connection, etc. Do some research before buying. These cards are available at Macao convenience stores such as 7-11 or Circle K. For reference, please check the following websites:

<i>Company</i>	<i>Telephone</i>	<i>Websites</i>
CTM	1000	http://www.ctm.net
Hutchison Telecom	1118	http://www.three.com.mo
SmarTone	1628	http://www.smartone.com.mo
China Telecom	1888	http://www.chinatelecom.com.mo

Internet Service in Macao

Macao uses fiber broadband, making Internet relatively cheap and fast. All the university campuses have free wireless for students. The access code can be obtained at the university library. The University apartments have Internet access too. There are also some hot spot areas for wireless Internet service in Macao. These are the areas you can get Internet service free of charge. (WiFi GO is a free service provided by the government). For details, please go to this link: <http://www.wifi.gov.mo/en/>.

Security in Macao

Macao is a safe place. CCTV (monitoring cameras) are installed in all the public places. Taxis and commercial buses communicate with Macao police, in case of any emergency. Most residential buildings have in-house lock and open system. Foreigners in Macao have no special security threat. When you are at security risk, dial police number from your mobile phone or 999 and you will have prompt police attention. At any point in Macao, there is usually a police officer near you within 10 minutes. However, cases of theft and pickpocketing are prevalent inside the public buses, or crowded areas so some precaution is advised. Please note that if you forget **ANYTHING** inside a taxi, it will be miracle that you can get it back. Try always to note the taxi identification number (inside and outside Macao) in case of any eventuality.

Immigration Checks Inside Macao

Macao law authorizes the police to stop any foreigner at any time and at any place to check his/her visa statue. Foreign students are advised to always go around with their student identification card (ID) or with their passport data page and visa page. Without any of the

documents, the police are authorized to arrest and detain the student until a friend provides the said identification.

Local Transportation

Bus

In Macao visitors will find an efficient bus service, not only in the city but also in the islands. Visitors can look for the destinations, itineraries and stops in the information panels in Chinese, Portuguese and English located in every bus stop. All buses have air-conditioning. For details, please visit this link: <http://www.dsat.gov.mo>

Apps for free download for:

“IPHONE: <http://itunes.apple.com/hk/app/id449821559?mt=8&ls=1>”

“ANDROID: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.dsat.dsatmobile>”

Taxis

The flag fall charge is MOP\$19.00. Waiting on passengers' request will be charged for every minute.

There is also radio-taxi-service: Tel. (853) 2881 2345; (853) 8500 0000 & (853) 2828 3283.

Currency

The Patacas (composed of 100 avos) is the official unit of currency in Macao. It's pegged by the government to the Hong Kong dollar which is circulated freely in Macao at the rate of MOP \$103 = HKD \$100.

The bank notes and coins are in the following denominations:

Bank notes: 10, 20, 50, 100, 500, 1000 Patacas

Coins: 10, 20, 50 cents; 1, 2 and 5 Patacas

*MOP – this is Macao official currency Patacas abbreviation, which has an estimated exchange rate of MOP8 = USD 1 or MOP10 = EURO\$ 1

Currency in use in Macao: Macao Patacas and Hong Kong dollars are used interchangeably in Macao. Some major supermarkets give the equivalent of the any of the two currencies in returning a balance. Some major supermarkets also accept Chinese Yuan.

Upon arrival, incoming exchange students may either change their USD traveler cheque into HKG dollars but a maximum of USD300 could be allowed per day and a fee of MOP\$50/USD\$6/EURO\$5 will be charged for each transaction. We advise you to use visa card to get cash directly from the bank and bring a certain amount in USD or EURO and change in the bank without any service charge(s) and in unlimited amount.

Banks and Other Financial Services in Macao

There are other financial service companies in Macao, like elsewhere, both local and global. The world's local bank, Hong Kong Banking Corporation (HSBC) (<http://www.hsbc.com.mo/1/2/>), have their branches in Macao and operates online Transactions (<http://www.hsbc.com.mo/1/2/personal-en/internet-banking>). Other global banks are:

- ❖ Standard Chartered Bank: <http://www.standardchartered.com/about-us/global-network/asia/>
- ❖ BNP Paribas: <http://bank.bnpparibas.com/en/pid722/bnp-paribas-in-Macao.html>
- ❖ CITI Bank: <http://www.citibank.com/us/home.htm>

Regional banks that operate in Macao are:

- ❖ Bank of China: <http://www.bocMacao.com/>
- ❖ DBS: <http://hk.dbs.com/en/consumer/mainlandMacao/>

There are also other sub regional and local banks in Macao. Foreign students can get details for possible linking of their local global banks account with Macao branch, from different banks websites.

For your information: Some banks may be unable to open a fresh bank account for an exchange student, because of the short duration of stay in Macao. The banks in Macao, according to Macao monetary authority are mandated to open a bank account to customers based on the customer's visa status, which is updated periodically.

Other Financial Services

Other financial services companies in Macao like Western Union Money Transfer is available in Macao offering their services like in every other country. It might be helpful in case the student needs to receive a relatively small amount from the home country.

Paypal service is NOT available in Macao.

Money Exchange

Companies that offer exchange of one currency in place of the other are located at different points in Macao. Like banks and other financial companies mentioned above. They offer instant over the counter exchange of various currencies.

Some kiosks at the Macao airport have a large margin between their buy and sell rates. You need to ask what the exchange rate is before making any exchange.

Consular or Embassy Assistance

Macao is a Special Administrative Region of People's Republic of China. For this reason, countries have consulates and not embassies in Macao. Few countries have their consulates or honorary consulates in Macao, especially the Portuguese speaking countries. Embassies or Consulates in Mainland China or Hong Kong Special Administrative Region extends their function down to Macao. Further information please visit:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_diplomatic_missions_in_Macao

This will enable any foreign student to have a consular assistance s/he may deem fit.

Festivals and Holidays

Since Macao is a tourism city, there are a lot of official celebrated events. For information, please visit the link of Macao Government Tourist Office:

<http://whatson.macaotourism.gov.mo/index.php>

More information about Macao is available in "Practical Tips for Living in Macao", published by Macao Government and available as PDF on www.ias.gov.mo/en/stat.

Macao Useful Telephone Numbers

Tourist Hotline	(853) 2833 3000
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Tourist Information Counter

Macao Ferry Terminal	(853) 2872 6416
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Barrier Gate	(853) 2843 9310
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Macao International Airport	(853) 2886 1436
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Hong Kong Ferry Terminal	(852) 2857 2287
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Emergency Number

Emergency	999/110 (Mainland Tourists) 112 (International Tourists)
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Police	999 or 2857 3333
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Fire	(853) 2857 2222
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Hospital Numbers

Conde S. Januario Hospital	(853) 2831 3731
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Kiang Wu Hospital	(853) 2837 1333
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Macao University of Science and Technology Hospital	(853) 2882 1838
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Telephone Number Enquiry

Macao	181
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International	101
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Cantonese/Portuguese	1311
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Rent-a-car

Avis Rent-a-car	(853) 2870 1786
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Taxi	(853) 2851 9519 / 398 8800
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Turbo JET

Macao	(853) 8790 7039
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Hong Kong	(852) 2859 3333
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New World First Ferry

Macao	(853) 2872 6289
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Hong Kong	(852) 2131 8181
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Cotai Jet

Macao	(853) 2885 0595
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Hong Kong	(852) 2359 9990
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Disclaimer: The information contained in this Guide is indicative only and is designed as a help to prospective incoming exchange students at USJ. Every effort is made to provide accurate and complete information at the time of publication, the information is subject to amendments and/or correction any time.