



聖若瑟大學

USJ

Public and
International
Relations
Office

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Global Mind.



International Exchange Programme
Guide for Incoming Students

International Exchange Programme (IEP) Guide for Incoming Students

University of Saint Joseph

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

Published by

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Disclaimer: *The information contained in this Guide is indicative only and is designed as an easy-to-read resource for incoming exchange students at USJ. Every effort is made to provide accurate and complete information at the time of publication, but the information is subject to amendments and/or correction at any time.*

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WELCOMING MESSAGE

Dear Incoming Exchange Student,

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 is 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 learned a lot about myself and about my abilities too. Congratulations for choosing to push yourself in pursuit of that kind of experience. Get involved, try new things, and do not be afraid of making 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. Should you feel it necessary, please keep in mind that we have several resources for students on campus, such as the Office for Student and Alumni 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 Macao's culture.

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, 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!

Paula Mota
PIRO Director



UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH

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 *Universidade Católica Portuguesa*) 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.

What We Offer

The University offers a wide range of programmes across different fields of knowledge and all are available in detail in the University's [website](#).

The Macao Government accredits all our programmes, and our graduates have been able to pursue career and further study opportunities 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 the development of multiple skills and interests.

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

Aside from the specialised 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 daily lives.
- A higher education degree is increasingly indispensable for a fulfilling career and successful future. The University's Office for Student and Alumni Affairs assists graduating students in planning, starting and developing their careers, through a range of seminars (e.g., CV-writing, interview skills), an annual career fair, as well as 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 labour regulations.



International University

USJ truly offers a multicultural environment to its students and is one of the most attractive destinations in Macao for students looking to enhance their knowledge and experience.

USJ's academic year consists of two semesters: the Fall Semester, with classes starting in September; and the Spring Semester, with classes starting in late January/early February. The number of foreign

students coming to study at our University each semester grows yearly and we have welcomed more than 49 nationalities from all corners of the world!

This exposure to different cultures also comes with the opportunity to learn different languages:

- All classes and University communications are in English.
- Additionally, students must study Mandarin, the most widely spoken language in the world, and Portuguese, another of the most popular languages in the World and the native language of over 200 million people. Portuguese is also an increasingly important language for diplomacy and business in China as some Portuguese-speaking Countries, most notably Brazil and Angola, are key trading partners of China.



PUBLIC AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OFFICE (PIRO)

PIRO has been developing and expanding partnerships with premier institutions around the world to develop international cooperation, which will benefit students, faculty members and staff. PIRO encourages interactions between incoming exchange students and Macao students to facilitate students' integration into USJ campus life and to sponsor programmes and activities centered around the internationally diverse faculty and students. These efforts will lead to an enhanced multicultural awareness, essential for our University.

Along with the pre-arrival information and student orientation, PIRO welcomes incoming exchange students with a variety of services and administrative support. The following are examples:

- PIRO provides immediate answers to questions regarding class registration procedures and daily life in Macao.
- Academic advice and guidance by USJ faculty members, designated as counselors to incoming exchange students, are always available upon request to assist in a range of issues, such as course selection, assessment, etc.
- PIRO, the Office for Student and Alumni Affairs (OSAA) and the USJ Student Association organise cultural activities where local students and incoming exchange students can meet, socialise and learn about each other's cultures.



Chinese Lunar New Year Celebration

BBQ Party at Hac Sa Beach



Contact Information for Incoming Exchange Students

Public and International Relations Office (PIRO)

Tel.: +853 8592 5643/44/45

Fax: +853 2872 5517

Email: international@usj.edu.mo

ADMISSION INFORMATION

Applicants must be currently enrolled at partner institutions with which USJ has an exchange agreement. Each academic year, incoming exchange students are admitted either for the Fall Semester, the Spring Semester or for one full academic year. Students can be accepted into any academic programme offered at USJ.

For further details please click [here](#).

Application Periods

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

Nomination by the Home Institution

This nomination can be done via email and should include the following documents for each of the nominated students:

- Nomination letter by the International Affairs Office (or equivalent) of the home institution;
- Scanned copy of the passport (ID page);
- Scanned copy of the Transcript of Records; and
- Email, telephone number and programme of studies.

Online Application by The Student

- Apply online [here](#);
- Select **OTHERS** and choose **INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE**.

After the application is received, an email will be automatically sent confirming its registration in our system. Should no email be received within 24 hours after applying, students should contact the Public and International Relations Office at international@usj.edu.mo or via telephone at +853 8592 5643 / 44 / 45.

The confirmation email will contain the following:

- An application number – students must quote this number in any future enquiries concerning the application;
- A link to the student's "Personal Dashboard" – The personal dashboard page inside the USJ system ("**MyUSJ**") is where students can follow the status of their application.

Students must log in to their personal dashboard and upload all required documents stated 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 – with less than 512KB);
- Health certificate;
- Vaccination record with the following minimum requirements as issued by the Macao Government*:
 - Measles-containing vaccine (≥ 2 doses);
 - Rubella-containing vaccine (≥ 1 dose);
 - Tetanus-containing vaccine (≥ 3 doses – each at least 4 weeks apart, and the most recent within the past ten years);
 - Diphtheria and pertussis-containing vaccine (≥ 1 dose);
 - *Students from Pakistan, Nigeria and Afghanistan: Poliomyelitis-containing vaccine (≥ 4 doses – each at least 4 weeks apart);*
- Motivation Letter in support of the application to participate in the USJ Exchange Programme.

More information on the Macao Government's vaccination requirements [here](#).

Note: *The documents must be uploaded through the University's application system and the **original documents must be presented at arrival.***

International Medical Insurance (Mandatory)

In addition to students' personal insurance, all incoming exchange students are required to purchase a "Comprehensive Medical Insurance Plan" with full coverage of their intended stay in Macao. If a student considers exploring other destinations in the region, other than Macao, health insurance must provide coverage for these additional destinations.

Incoming exchange students are responsible for the cost of treatment during their stay in Macao. Therefore, should any medical emergencies arise, they must have medical insurance coverage as a requirement and verify that the insurance policy they carry covers hospitalisation and medical care that occur during international travel, as well as repatriation to students' home country in case of medical emergency.

Incoming exchange students must present the original medical insurance policy document upon arrival (preferable languages: English, Portuguese and Chinese).

Note: *If you have an allergic condition, it would be wise to bring your medication with you and, if required, a doctor's prescription for additional medication. Additionally, should you stay at the USJ Residential Hall, you must disclose any allergies and/or conditions you may have to the Residential Hall Office Team.*

Language Requirements

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

Fees for Incoming Exchange Students

Incoming exchange students from any of USJ designated exchange partner institutions do not incur in USJ tuition fees nor administrative application charges or others, if mentioned in the partner agreement.

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Teaching & Learning

- A variety of learning methods and activities are used to cater to various learning styles. Consequently, lectures range from research-workshops, seminars and project-based work to activity-based learning (“learning by doing”) and collaborative learning.
- 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. Students are deliberately provided opportunities to exchange ideas and readings that will ultimately contribute towards their clarification and practical application. These learning strategies break the familiar pattern based solely on theory, focusing also on its practicality.
- By having the opportunity of interacting with different discussion groups during parts of the course, students benefit from a greater awareness of different points of view, as well as of insights and contributions regarding 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 & Involvement

Students’ views are taken very seriously and there are formal and informal ways of sharing them, like reaching out to a Professor or the Course Coordinator. Feedback from students is similarly gained in two other ways. Firstly, student evaluations are routinely undertaken at the end of each module. This happens through a link that students can find in their “**MyUSJ**” platform shortly before the module finishes, where they can rate the instructor and send module feedback. Secondly, students are asked to write course evaluations of the whole programme for the purpose of monitoring and improving the service provided.

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 Grade 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 the student’s 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 have a USJ Student Card issued. Besides functioning as a student ID, it can be used for borrowing books at the USJ library, and also for the following:

- Applying for study visa,
- Applying for MacauPass,
- Applying for tourist visa to Mainland China,
- Student discounts available in the city and while travelling.

Note: Students need to report to the Academic Records Office if the card is lost as there is a fee for the student card replacement. Please refer to the “**USJ Student Handbook**” for more information.

Personal Data Amendment

Once in Macao, incoming exchange students are expected to provide their most up-to-date contact information to the University such as their address, telephone numbers, etc. Please notify the Academic Records Office at acadrecords@usj.edu.mo.

Class Registration

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

For further information, please contact Academic Records Office 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. Incoming exchange students are entitled to the selection of courses according to their needs.

Incoming exchange students can enroll in up to 22 USJ credits (one USJ credit equals 15 hours of lectures) each semester. By limiting the amount to 22 credits, incoming exchange students are allowed time to experience living like a Macao local and to appreciate Macao's rich culture. However, the student should ultimately follow the home university's guidelines, as they are the entity that will grant them module equivalence.

Adding or Swapping a Module

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

The Guidelines 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 at acadrecords@usj.edu.mo.

Study Period Extension

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

The International Relations department of the students' home institution should send a formal letter or email to USJ's Public and International Relations Office for deliberation. Approval will be granted on a case-by-case basis and only if sufficient justification is given.

Public and International Relations Office's email: international@usj.edu.mo.

Exchange Programme Withdrawal

Incoming exchange students who would like to withdraw from the Exchange Programme while in USJ are required to inform their home institution and a confirmation letter or email should be addressed to USJ's Public and International Relations Office 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 and facilities as the local and overseas students, like access to the library and other educational or research facilities, for example. 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. As examples, these can include: course work, individual and group presentations, individual and group projects, examinations, debates, class participation, essays, seminar papers, and other assignments. For more information, please refer to **"USJ Student Handbook"** available at **"MyUSJ"**.

Satisfactory attendance and punctuality are also requirements 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 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 to 20, where 10 or above is considered a "pass".

*For more information, please refer to the **"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 from the Office for Student and Alumni Affairs: studentaffairs@usj.edu.mo.

Student Support Services

Each semester, we have student ambassadors that act as buddies for the incoming exchange students. Their wide knowledge of the University and the city makes them fantastic 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

Life can be tough and everyone enjoys receiving some advice from time to time. When it comes to more serious difficulties or obstacles, some people may want advice and support in a more consistent manner.

For more information about this programme, please contact the Office for Student and Alumni Affairs via telephone: (+853) 8592 5655 or email: studentaffairs@usj.edu.mo.

Campus Facilities and Other Regulations

Please refer to the **"USJ Student Handbook"**.

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 mail, including parcels and courier packages, directly at their University apartment should they choose to live in the 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 they receive mail. Macao postal service is considerably efficient and express services are also available for a quicker delivery with premium pricing. The express companies in Macao include DHL, FEDEX, UPS and SPEED POST (EMS).

POLICIES & 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 programme-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 [here](#).

TRAVELING TO MACAO

Macao Visa

Incoming exchange students must ensure they have a valid passport before entering Macao.

Visa assessment levels are determined by country of citizenship. For the official Macao Immigration Department information on the Macao entry visa, please click [here](#).

If students transit in Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) please visit the HKSAR Immigration Department [here](#).

Reaching Macao...

...By Air: Macao’s International Airport is a busy one, offering flights to and from several popular locations in Asia including Japan, Indonesia, Thailand, India and more. More information [here](#).

...By Sea: Macao’s Ferry terminal offers ferry rides to and from Mainland China, Central Hong Kong and Hong Kong International Airport. More information [here](#).

...By Land/Bridge: Macao borders with Mainland China’s Zhuhai and its border operates from the early morning to midnight, seven days a week, making the crossing a viable option. Additionally, thanks to the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau bridge, the longest sea crossing in the world, a new option by bus is available 24h. More information [here](#).

Note: Please note that besides a Macao Entry Visa, travelling through some countries (e.g. Mainland China) may require additional visa(s). Please click [here](#).

STUDENT VISA IN MACAO

Once the USJ administrative formalities are completed, it is time to apply for the student visa!

The "Special Authorization to Stay" for Non-Resident Students is a free-of-charge service that requires the following documents (as can be seen in Macau's Public Security Police Force website [here](#)) be submitted directly to the Macau Immigration Department *:

- A completed application form for the "Special Authorization to Stay" request (that you can download [here](#));
- Documents certifying enrolment at USJ and stating the programme duration **;
- A recent 1.5-inch, full-face, no-hat, white-background, coloured or black-and-white picture of yourself;
- A copy of your valid passport/travel document (bio data page only), and the Arrival Card for the latest entry in Macau.

* The Macau Immigration Department is open from Mondays to Thursdays from 9AM to 5:45PM and Fridays from 9AM to 5:30PM; it is closed during government holidays.

The Immigration Department's Foreigners Subdivision is located at the Travessa 1 do Cais de Pac On, in Taipa. Should you have any questions please email them directly at sminfo@fsm.gov.mo.

** You should request the declaration for the Immigration Department at the Academic Records Office (acadrecords@usj.edu.mo) by filling out a request form at USJ's Main Office (G/F of the Academic Building). The declaration certifying your course registration/enrolment and specifying the total programme duration will be issued within 3 working days.

Once the Macau Immigration Department has processed your visa application, they will issue a receipt in English. Students must bring this receipt whenever they leave and enter Macau until their "Special Authorization to Stay" is granted. The whole process takes about 30 days but you can track its progress [here](#).

TRANSPORTATION TO USJ

USJ tries to assist the foreign students arriving in Macao that will stay at the Residential Hall by picking them up on arrival.

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 should be in contact with the Residential Hall Office Team (residence@usj.edu.mo) before and during their journey.

How to Get to USJ

University's Headquarters: Ilha Verde Campus

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 (the closest ones are M24 "Cons. Borja / Colégio S. José" and, on the opposite side of the road, M25 "Ilha Verde / S.A.A.M") with the following routes available: 8, 8A, 23, 28B, 28BX, H2. For more information regarding the bus routes in Macao, please click [here](#).

Each bus ride will usually cost MOP6.00, and it will be cheaper if students have a MacauPass bus card as the fee is reduced to 50% of the original.



Pictures by Macau Buses, Transport and Weather Information Station

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.



Pictures by Macau Business

To ask your driver to take you to campus, please show him the following:

請帶我去 聖若瑟大學,
中國澳門青洲河邊馬路 14-17 號,
澳門自來水股份有限公司 附近

*Please take me to the University of Saint Joseph,
Estrada Marginal da Ilha Verde 14-17,
near the Macao Water Company*

On Foot: As Macao 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 the Macao 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 general rule, however, a minimum of MOP4,500 (approximately USD\$560 or EUR\$470) per month should be sufficient to cover meals, transportation, utilities (gas, electricity, water) and other living expenses. This amount does not include the student residence fees.

ACCOMMODATION

University's Residential Hall

Students can apply for accommodation in USJ's Residential Hall, managed by the Residential Hall Office Team. All the rooms are furnished with the essentials (for example, bed, desk and closet), and equipped with air conditioning and wireless Internet. Cleaning service of the common areas is provided on a regular basis. Rooms are limited and requests are processed on a first come first served basis.

How to Pay for Accommodation

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

More details are available in the Residential Hall application document as well as in other relevant documents (see Residence Fee Payment Policy).

For information regarding the rental fees, bookings or general queries, please contact the Residential Hall Office Team at residence@usj.edu.mo.

ACTIVITIES & COMPETITIONS

USJ has many activities that assist students in their personal and professional development. These range from internal activities like singing competitions and debates; to regional and international competitions, such as those related to sports. Foreign students are encouraged to participate in any competitions coincident with their stay in Macao, depending on the guidelines of the activity.

Through different clubs, students may also participate actively in local activities. More information on the existing clubs in the University [here](#).

Sports

The university conducts different sports competitions too! These promote friendship, the development of individual talents and help students maintain a healthy lifestyle. Exchange students are encouraged to participate in any of these events.

Students' activities are available in the University's website [here](#).

Heritage and Social Responsibility

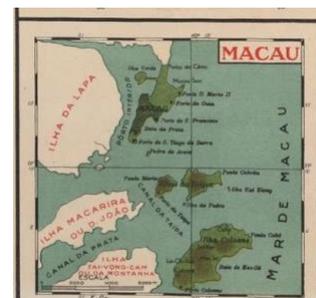
USJ students and staff also participate in activities that honor Macao's heritage, such as dragon boat competitions, and events that are congruent with USJ's commitment to social responsibility, like the "Walk for a Million" charity walk, charity donations and visits to associations.

MACAO SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION

The fishermen of Fujian and farmers of Guangdong were the first 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 centre 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 merchants. They followed in the wake of Jorge Álvares, who docked 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 the Sea and Protector of Seafarers, whose temple stood at the entrance of the sheltered Inner Harbor. The Portuguese adopted the name, which gradually changed into the name "Macao" ("Macao" in English) and, with the permission of Guangdong's Mandarins, established a city that, within a short time, become a major platform for trade between China, Japan, India and Europe.



Picture by Macau Antigo

Nowadays, Macao (in Traditional Chinese "澳門") 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

(澳門連勝街)

Hospital:

Macao University of
Science and Technology
(科大醫院)

Address:

Block H, Macao University of Science and Technology,
Avenida Wai Long, Taipa

(澳門氹仔偉龍馬路澳門科技大學 H 座)

 2882 1838

In less urgent cases, students can go to a Macao Health Centre. The most central one is the Tap Seac Health Centre (塔石衛生中心; telephone number 2852 2232), located between Rua do Campo and Av. Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida (荷蘭園正街).

The closest health centre to the Ilha Verde Campus is the Ilha Verde Health Centre (青洲衛生中心; telephone number 2831 0033), located in the G/F of the Cheng I building in Rua Nova da Ilha Verde (澳門青洲新街青怡大廈第一座地下).

Additionally, the closest “Farmácia Popular” to campus is located in the G/F of the Av. de Venceslau de Moraes, Edifício Lei Tak Kok, “C” (慕拉士大馬路利德閣地下 C 舖).

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. Temperatures can suddenly drop during the winter season. Humidity is high with an average value ranging from 73% to 90%. The annual heaviest rainfall happens during the summer months, thus, the best season is usually autumn (October - December), when days are sunny and warm, humidity is low and the temperature is around 16°C. Winter (January – March) is cold but sunny, with temperatures around 10°C. Humidity starts to build up and from May to September, and in April the temperature is usually around 30° – 34°C.

Typhoon: Natural weather disaster in Macao. A typhoon (also known as a “hurricane” in the Atlantic and Northeast Pacific) is a mature tropical cyclone, with strong blowing wind and with a great potential for destruction. When one is approaching the city, the Macao Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau updates people, on a daily basis, about the weather through text messages, television news bulletins, and the government’s official website ([here](#)). Typhoons range from signal 1, to 3, to 8 and above, depending on its distance and strength. Although it is unusual to have typhoons with a rating of over 8, preventive action has been taken both in structure and services. The university suspends all activities during these situations.

From typhoon signal 8 upwards, people are advised to stay indoors and take safety precautions. Similarly, ferry services to and from Hong Kong are suspended.

For more information please refer to the “USJ Student Handbook”.

More information about Macao is available in “Practical Tips for Living in Macao”, published by the Macao Government and available in PDF format [here](#).

Telecommunications

Macao's 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 (a deposit is required for non-Macao residents) at the main four telecommunication companies in Macao. There are many types of cards with different features such as long-distance calls, internet connection, etc., so students should make sure to do some research before buying theirs.

Besides at their own shops, these cards are also available at Macao convenience stores such as 7-11 or Circle K. For reference, please check the following websites:

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 and university apartments have free Wi-Fi for students. The access code can be obtained at the university library. There are also some hot spot areas for wireless Internet service in Macao, where you can get Internet service free of charge. An example of this service is WiFi GO, a free service provided by the Macao government.

For more details, please go click [here](#).

Security in Macao

Macao is a safe place. Students can find CCTV (monitoring cameras) in all public places. Public transportation companies (including taxi and bus companies) communicate with Macao police, in case of an emergency. Most residential buildings have in-house lock and open systems too, so foreigners in Macao generally feel safe. Should students be at a security risk, they should immediately dial "999" and they will have immediate police attention.

In Macao, there usually is a police officer near you within 10 minutes. However, cases of theft and pickpocketing are prevalent inside public buses, or crowded areas so some precaution is advised. Please note that if students forget anything inside a taxi, it is extremely unlikely that they will be able to retrieve it, so it is encouraged that students pay attention to the taxi identification number in case of any disputes – this advice is also pertinent for taxi rides abroad.

Immigration Checks Inside Macao

Macao law authorises the police to stop any foreigner at any time and place to check his/her visa status. Foreign students are advised to **always** have their student identification card (ID) or copies of their passport ID page and visa page. Without proof of legal entry, the police are authorised to arrest and detain the student until someone can provide identification.

Local Transportation

Bus

In Macao, visitors will find efficient bus services, not only in the city but also in the islands. Visitors can look for the destinations and itineraries in every bus stop's information panels in Chinese, Portuguese

and English. All buses have air-conditioning and most of the bigger buses are accessible for disabled passengers.
For more details, please click [here](#).

Additionally, there is a **free local bus app** that can help students get around the city:

- [iPhone](#)
- [Android](#)

Taxis

The flag fall charge is MOP\$19.00. Waiting on a passengers' request will be charged by the minute. There is also a radio-taxi service, which you can order by calling one of the following phone numbers: (+853) 2881 2345, (+853) 8500 0000, and (+853) 2828 3283.

Currency

"Pataca" ("MOP"; one is composed of 100 "avos") is the official unit of currency in Macao. It is pegged by the government to the Hong Kong dollar ("HKD"), which circulates freely in Macao at the rate of MOP \$103 = HKD \$100. It has an estimated exchange rate of MOP \$8 = USD \$1 or MOP \$10 = EURO \$1. The bank notes and coins are in the following denominations:



MOP \$10



MOP \$20



MOP \$50



MOP \$100



MOP \$500



MOP \$1000



MOP \$0.10; MOP \$0.20; MOP \$0.50; MOP \$1; MOP \$5

Pictures by Numis Collection, Bank Note Index, Bank Note 24, Expediente Sínico, António Ferreira

In Macao shops and supermarkets, MOP and HKD are used interchangeably (MOP \$1 = HKD \$1). Some major supermarkets also accept the Chinese Yuan (CNY) in the same rate (MOP \$1 = CNY \$1).

Upon arrival, incoming exchange students may either change their USD traveler cheque into Hong Kong dollars (HKD) but a maximum of USD300 should be considered for expenses per day and a fee of MOP\$50/USD\$6/EURO\$5 will be charged per transaction. We advise students to use their VISA cards to get cash directly from the bank and also to bring a certain amount in USD or EURO to exchange in the bank without any service fee(s) or limited amount.

Banks & Other Financial Services in Macao

There are financial service companies in Macao, that are both local and global. Hong Kong Banking Corporation ([HSBC](#)) has several branches in Macao and operates [online](#). Other global banks include:

- [Standard Chartered Bank](#)
- [BNP Paribas](#)
- [CITI Bank](#)
- [BNU Bank](#)

Regional banks that operate in Macao are:

- [Bank of China](#)
- [DBS](#)

There are also other sub-regional and local banks in Macao. Foreign students can get details for possible linking of their local global bank accounts with a Macao branch directly from the chosen bank's website.

Note: *Some banks may be unable to open a new bank account for an exchange student because of the short duration of stay in Macao. The banks in Macao, according to the Macao monetary authority are instructed to open a bank according to the customer's visa status.*

Other Financial Services

Other financial services companies in Macao, like Western Union Money Transfer, are available in Macao. This might be helpful in case the student needs to receive a relatively small amount of money from a sender in their home country. Please note that Paypal is **not available** in Macao, but services like Alipay and WeChat pay are available in several supermarkets and shops.

Currency Exchange

There are several shops and companies, like the banks mentioned above, that offer instant over-the-counter currency exchange services and they are located all throughout Macao.

Some kiosks at the Macau airport and other places more frequented by tourists have a large margin between their buy and sell rates so it is best if students have an idea of the usual exchange rate before doing so as to not be misled.

Shopping

The main shopping areas of Macao include the "Avenida de Horta e Costa" area and the "Leal Senado"/"Rua do Campo" areas. Between the island of Taipa and Coloane you can find the Cotai strip, where hotels like The Venetian and Sands Cotai Central, to name a few, have all sorts of shops inside.

For your daily life, however, convenience stores, supermarkets and discount stores are extremely important facilities and so we have listed below some you may want to become familiar with.

STORE	CLOSEST TO THE ILHA VERDE CAMPUS WEBSITE	REMARKS
CONVENIENCE STORES		
Circle K ("OK")	Avenida Marginal do Lam Mau, 499	<i>Open 24 hours</i>
7/11	Avenida da Concórdia, 85	<i>Open 24 hours</i>
SUPERMARKETS		
Royal	Travessa do Conselheiro Borja 20-38	<i>Has a home section</i>

ParknShop	Son Wo Kong Cheong, 112-196	<i>Has a home section, international and Portuguese products</i>
Seng Cheong	Avenida Dr. Sun Yat Sen, 243 (Taipa island)	<i>Known for having international and Portuguese products</i>
Welcome	Avenida de Sidónio Pais, 48	<i>Known for having international and Portuguese products</i>
Grand Mart	Estrada Governador Albano de Oliveira, 200 (Taipa island)	<i>Known for having products from all over the world</i>
Supreme	Avenida Dr. Sun Yat Sen, 83 (Taipa island)	<i>Known for having products from all over the world</i>
San Miu	Estrada do Arco, 118	<i>Open 24 hours</i>
Sunsco	Rua da Ribeira do Patane, 181	<i>Open 24 hours</i>
STATIONERY		
Chi Fu	Avenida Horta e Costa, 77	<i>Has all types of stationery, as well as fitness and sport accessories, decorations and toys</i>
DISCOUNT STORES		
Daiso	Edifício Hung Wan Kok	<i>Has everything from MOP15, including stationery, home accessories and decoration, kitchen utensils, etc.</i>
Miniso	Avenida do General Castelo Branco, 67	<i>Has everything including home accessories and decoration, kitchen utensils, etc.</i>
Japan Home Centre (JHC)	Rua Manuel Arriaga, 5	<i>Has everything including home accessories and decoration, kitchen utensils, etc.</i>

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. Only a few countries have their consulates or honorary consulates in Macao, namely the Portuguese-speaking countries. Embassies or Consulates in Mainland China or Hong Kong Special Administrative Region extend their function to Macao. For further information please click [here](#). This will allow any foreign student to be aware of and have consular assistance should they require it or see fit.

Festivals and Holidays

Since Macao is a city greatly focused on tourism and entertainment, there are a lot of events to celebrate.

For more information, please visit the website of the Macao Government Tourist Office [here](#).

Useful Macao Apps

There are several different apps you can download to make your time exploring Macao more enjoyable!

The following are some of them:

- **FreeWiFi.MO** by the Macao Government: [iOS](#) and [Android](#)
- **What's On, Macao** by the Macao Government Tourism Office: [iOS](#) and [Android](#)
- **Step Out, Macao** by the Macao Government Tourism Office: [iOS](#) and [Android](#)
- **Experience Macao** by the Macao Government Tourism Office: [iOS](#) and [Android](#)
- **World Heritage Macao** by the Macao Government Cultural Affairs Bureau: [iOS](#) and [Android](#)
- **Macao Price Information** by the Macao Government Consumer Council: [iOS](#) and [Android](#)
- **Walking through Macao's Nature** by the Macao Government's Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau: [iOS](#) and [Android](#)
- **Walking through the streets of Macao** by the Macao Government's Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau: [iOS](#) and [Android](#)

Useful Macao Telephone Numbers and Websites

Tourist Hotline	(853) 2833 3000
Emergency Number	
Emergency	999/110 (Mainland Tourists) 112 (International Tourists)
Police	999 or 2857 3333
Fire Department	(853) 2857 2222
Hospital Numbers	
Conde S. Januário Hospital	(853) 2831 3731
Kiang Wu Hospital	(853) 2837 1333
Macao University of Science and Technology Hospital	(853) 2882 1838
Telephone Number Enquiry	
Macao	181
International	101
Cantonese/Portuguese	1311
Taxi	
Taxi	(853) 2851 9519 / 398 8800
Macao Radio Taxi Ltd.	Online

Jetfoil

TurboJet Macao

(853) 8790 7039

Cotai Jet Macao

(853) 2885 0595

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