ROOM, BOARD AND MORE...

HOUSING

In anticipation of your arrival, we have put together some important information for you. Please read the following carefully, and note any forms and deadlines that pertain to you. We are very excited about the upcoming academic year, and we look forward to meeting you!

New Students (Freshmen and Transfers)

There is no need to worry about finding housing. Caltech gives first priority to new incoming students. New students will live in one of the following undergraduate student residences: Avery, Blacker, Dabney, Fleming, Lloyd, Page, Ricketts, Ruddock or Bechtel, our new residence hall. If you have a disability or other housing related need that may require specific arrangements, please register for accommodations by 2019 for more information: http://www.cass.caltech.edu/.

Housing Forms

Housing Contract - This form is required from all students with a housing assignment. A copy of the contract will be included with your check-in packet. It is due upon check in. You may view the contract ahead of time and get familiar with the terms on-line at https://www.housing.caltech.edu/Undergrads.

Early Arrival Form - If you are eligible (see below) to arrive before Sunday, September 22, 2019, you must submit an early arrival form. This form is submitted online through your www.access.caltech.edu account (click on "My Housing").

Pre-Season Athletes - Early arrival housing will be available for pre-season athletes. The Athletics Department will cover early housing fees for athletes starting on the day that their particular sport begins. If you would like to arrive one day earlier than you are required to report to Athletics, you may do so, at your expense. For more information on the dates that the Athletics Department will cover housing fees for you, please contact the head coach for your sport.

Form deadline- August 1, 2019

International Students - Early arrival housing will be available for new students participating in International Orientation starting September 19, 2019. You may arrive one day before on September 18, 2019, but you will be charged for housing fees for that day.

Form deadline- September 1, 2019

Individuals arriving without a confirmed early arrival request will not be accommodated. Housing arrangements must be made in advance with the Housing Office and before the deadlines mentioned above.

Housing Office

If you have any questions, or concerns, please contact us!

Mailing Address:
Housing Office
California Institute of Technology
Mail Code 160-86
Pasadena, California 91125

Telephone Number: (626) 395-6176
Fax Number: (626) 584-7161
Email Address: housing@caltech.edu
Business Hours: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., M-F
HOLIDAYS AND WINTER/SPRING BREAKS
For no additional charge, you are welcome to stay in your assigned room during holidays and breaks. You are required, however, to notify the Housing Office if you will be here over breaks.

ROOM ASSIGNMENTS
The eight on-campus Houses can hold between 64 and 135 students. They are divided into “alleys,” hallways accommodating 8 to 16 students, with bathroom and shower facilities. Each house has its own dining hall, lounge, laundry rooms and kitchenettes, which students use to prepare snacks and occasional meals. The houses are co-educational.

The rooms in the North Houses (Lloyd, Page and Ruddock) are designed for double occupancy. Avery and South Houses (Blacker, Dabney, Fleming and Ricketts) have single, double and triple occupancy rooms. All rooms are carpeted and furnished with a bed, desk, closet and drawers.

We also have a new residence on the north side of campus: Bechtel. Bechtel is multi-generational, with space for up to 36 freshmen. The building can hold 211 students. Most rooms are divided into suites of various sizes (4, 6, 8 and 12 bedrooms.) Each suite has bathroom/shower facilities and a private lounge. The building has community lounges, kitchens, laundry rooms, study rooms and a very spacious multi-functional dining hall.

All freshmen are required to live on campus for their first academic year.

Before permanent housing assignments are made, you may spend time visiting each of the houses (while continuing to live in your temporary room assignment). This process, known as Rotation, provides incoming freshmen and transfer students with the opportunity to meet members of each house. Rotation begins after New Student Orientation and allows enough time to gain a general impression of the accommodations, traditions and members of each house or residence.

You will receive your housing assignment for your first year shortly after Rotation. Therefore, you may wish to have many of your belongings sent after you move into your permanent assignment, or purchase them at a local store. At that time, you will have a better feel for what you will need.

HOUSE GOVERNMENT
The heart of student life at Caltech centers on the activities of the houses. Each house elects officers, known as the Executive Committee, who plan an impressive array of social, cultural and athletic programs throughout the year. The presidents of the eight houses along with the IHC chair and secretary form the Interhouse Committee (IHC), which oversees matters of common concern for all houses.

RENTERS INSURANCE
Caltech does not insure the personal property of students. Students keeping personal property in their rooms do so at their own risk and are responsible for the safekeeping of their property. For those who wish to be insured for fire and theft, the Housing Office can provide information on available coverage. You may also wish to check your parents' homeowner's insurance to see if your belongings are covered under their policy.

BICYCLES
Bicycles are a good means of getting around campus and Pasadena. Bicyclists will enjoy the pleasant surroundings of Caltech and the nearby community. For storage, bike racks have been installed around each building. For safety reasons, bikes cannot be stored in corridors, stairways, or other public areas inside the houses and apartment buildings. We recommend a U-lock to secure your bike. It can be purchased at most bike shops and discount stores.

PETS
Students are not allowed to bring any pets to campus.

APPLIANCES
Appliances with heating coils (toasters, popcorn poppers and hot plates) are not allowed in student rooms for safety reasons. You are permitted to have a small refrigerator (not to exceed 5.8 cubic feet) and a small microwave in the room.
EMPLOYMENT
Freshmen students may not work during fall term.

PHARMACIES
Before coming to Caltech remember to transfer your important prescriptions to a local pharmacy. Caltech has a health center on campus that offers reduced rates on prescription medicine. Other options include: Brown and Welin (626) 795-5918, Rite Aid (626) 796-5539, Walgreens (626) 583-8066, and CVS (626) 844-5049.

CLEANING SERVICE
Individual student rooms are cleaned once per term by the Caltech Custodial Staff. A cleaning schedule may be obtained from the appropriate custodial office. Students may request additional cleaning from Housing Maintenance for a fee.

LAUNDRY
Coin-operated laundry machines are available on-campus. Most laundry machines accept student I.D. cards that will charge your student account.

CALTECH LOGO MERCHANDISE AND SUPPLIES
The Student Auxiliary Service Store (Caltech Store) is located on 1st Floor of the Hameetman Center and features Caltech insignia merchandise, computer supplies, along with the prestigious Caltech author book section and school supplies. Store hours are Monday through Friday, 9:00 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

TEXTBOOKS
Students can find the textbooks for their course at the Current Book List page. Caltech’s Online Bookstore, MBSDirect (http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/caltech.htm) is scheduled to open the last week of August for fall book purchases. Students will be notified by the Registrar’s Office via email on that day. Students can also shop for their textbooks at other outlets such as Amazon but be attentive of the ISBN or edition required for the course.

While MBS Direct guarantees availability and competitive pricing, students are free to purchase their books from any vendor they choose, online or otherwise. Should you wish to purchase from another vendor, you may find a list of all required and optional texts on the Caltech Registrar’s website (http://registrar.caltech.edu) listed under Academic Information. However, if you do choose to order from an alternate vendor, please ensure that the ISBNS and editions are the same as those listed on the Registrar's site.

Caltech Library also places textbooks on reserve for courses in Sherman Fairchild, Geology, and Cahill Libraries. Most are located in Sherman Fairchild Library. There are two types of course reserves: Open reserves which can be freely read in the library, and closed reserves which must be checked out to read. Both types can be loaned out for three hours. Visit https://caltech.tind.io and select “Course Reserves” to search for available textbooks.

Please note that some faculty members continue to add texts until the beginning of instruction. If one of your classes does not list any required texts, please consult your syllabus or check with your instructor to verify that none is required.

COMPUTERS
There are several computer and printing facilities on campus that students can use. The highest concentration of those is in the Sherman Fairchild Library, which is open 24 hours, Monday through Friday with extended hours on the weekends. Laptops are available for checkout. The other 4 libraries are open various hours. Please see http://library.caltech.edu for more information. Additionally, there are computing labs in each of the student houses.

While it may be more convenient to bring your own computer and printer to campus, it is not necessary. If you plan to purchase a new computer, discounts are available through The Student Auxiliary Services Store. Internet access is available in all rooms of the houses.
MEALS

All undergraduates living on campus are required to purchase the board program. From Monday – Friday, food is available for purchase as part of the board plan at locations across campus from 7 am – 2 am. Weekend service is provided in Chandler Café from 9 am – 3 pm and the Red Door Marketplace from 3pm -2am.

For complete information on locations, times and offerings please visit www.dining.caltech.edu or email dine@caltech.edu – your request or question will be returned promptly. Students with allergy (or other dietary) issues should contact us via email to set up an appointment to discuss accommodations. If you like to cook, students are welcome to use the refrigerators, microwaves, ovens and stoves in the house kitchenettes. We look forward to serving you.

TELEPHONES

Students interested in having a campus phone extension in their room can find details on how to make that request at http://imss.caltech.edu/node/502.

Long Distance: If you would like to make long distance phone calls from campus extensions and charge them to your student account, please visit the Telephone Office in person at 263 S. Chester, Room 111 (building 10 on the campus map) to request a long distance authorization code. Make sure to bring your campus I.D. The Telephone Office is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

SHIPPING YOUR LUGGAGE/BELONGINGS

If you need to send some things in advance of your arrival, you should make all of the necessary arrangements (do not send it collect) and ship them to the address below.

Any package weighing over 50 pounds and shipped by FedEx, DHL, and Airborne or any packaged shipped by UPS, Fed-Ex Ground, or a trucking company should be shipped to the following address:

Your name
Incoming Student
c/o Caltech Central Receiving
391 S. Holliston Ave. Pasadena, CA 91125

Please note, Central Shipping and Receiving will hold packages only for up to one week, so do not send packages too far in advance. When you arrive and wish to retrieve your items, you should contact Central Shipping and Receiving at (626) 395-4893 for pick-up instructions.

Business Hours: Monday - Friday, 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

TECH EXPRESS

The “Tech Express”, is located on the Olive Walk, and is a convenient undergraduate mail services office to pick up student packages from couriers UPS, FedEx, US Postal Service, etc.

Students can also drop off campus mail, letters and small packages for the USPS. Other mailbox services include mail forwarding/holds, and key replacement. The phone number is (626) 395-3703. Hours are Monday through Friday, 12 p.m. – 4 p.m.

MAIL DELIVERY

Mail will be delivered Monday through Friday to your personal mailbox located near the North Undergraduate Houses. Your MSC number (which you will keep the entire time that you are a registered student at Caltech) will be assigned via email in late August. In the meantime, your mail will be held at the campus post office if addressed to:

Your Name
Incoming Student
California Institute of Technology
Pasadena, CA 91126