



# Helpful Housing and Transportation Tips for Salk Foreign Nationals

## HOUSING

Housing in San Diego is very expensive. It is best to plan on spending at least \$2,000/month for housing. However, the price range, even in the same neighborhood, can vary greatly. Factors that affect the price range are the apartment size, amenities, location and neighborhood, and specific offer, etc. To get an up-to-date overview of the rental prices in San Diego or a certain neighborhood, you can visit real estate websites such as [www.zillow.com](http://www.zillow.com). Popular neighborhoods among Salk employees are University City (UTC), Pacific Beach, Clairemont, Mira Mesa, and Hillcrest. Inland housing is generally less expensive, but it also entails longer commute times because of heavy traffic. This website provides more information about individual neighborhoods and their vibes: <https://bestneighborhood.org/best-neighborhoods-san-diego-ca/>

The San Diego rental market is flexible, and you can often move into your new home within a few days. Therefore, upon arrival to San Diego, we recommend finding temporary housing in a hotel, motel, or Airbnb. A week or two in one of these accommodations allows you to explore neighborhoods and visit potential housing options in person (scam advertising, unfortunately, is very common). Most apartments are not furnished but have a kitchen (oven, stove & fridge). Rental prices normally include water. Other utilities, heating, electricity, and an internet connection usually require extra fees. In some apartment complexes, an additional monthly fee for general maintenance (like gardening, common areas, pools, etc.) must be paid.

## WHERE CAN YOU FIND HOUSING OPTIONS?

- Websites such as [zillow.com](http://zillow.com), [trulia.com](http://trulia.com), [apartments.com](http://apartments.com), [zumper.com](http://zumper.com), [realtor.com](http://realtor.com), [forrent.com](http://forrent.com), [hotpads.com](http://hotpads.com), [roomchazer.com](http://roomchazer.com), [craigslist.org](http://craigslist.org), and [sabbaticalhomes.com](http://sabbaticalhomes.com).
- Facebook groups of neighborhoods (Rent PB, UCSD Student Off-Campus Housing)

## WHAT ELSE IS THERE TO CONSIDER?

- Please be wary of scams. Never transfer money from abroad and always visit the place first.
- Sometimes landlords/agents do not reply to email and/or text messages. You might have a better chance of obtaining more information about the apartment if you call them.
- It is common that landlords/agents ask for credit scores or a deposit. If you move to San Diego from outside the USA, you most likely won't have a credit score history (credit cards from other countries do not count). However, you can build your credit score once you become a Salk employee. Sometimes showing your offer letter or higher deposit can be a workaround.
- Some places require a background check prior to moving in. Applicants (you) usually pay for this fee, which might be reimbursable should you decide not to pursue the property rental.
- Always sign an agreement even when it is between roommates or a sublease.
- Ask your future colleagues where they live and what they recommend. You can also join the Salk Ambassador program and inquire with your ambassador about it.





## TRANSPORTATION

### BY CAR

San Diego is a city designed for automobiles. Therefore, most of Salk's employees commute by car and it is usually the fastest and easiest way to get to the institute. If you plan to buy a car, there are websites that provide price estimates and advise whether the advertised price is a good deal. These websites include: [notcargurus.com](http://notcargurus.com), [carfax.com](http://carfax.com), and [Kelley Blue Book \(kbb.com\)](http://Kelley Blue Book (kbb.com)). If you do not have a car or do not know how to drive, you can bike or ride the bus. However, it will most likely be a longer commute.

### BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT

The only bus that stops at the Salk Institute is Line 101. This bus departs from the UTC transit center (at the Westfield UTC mall) and ends in Oceanside. During the day, the ride to and from the UTC transit center is about 30 minutes, but keep in mind that buses only depart every 25-30 min. After 8 p.m. departure intervals slow to every hour and service stops around 10 p.m. For more information to help you plan, visit this site: <https://gonctd.com/wp-content/uploads/transit/101.pdf>.

There are other buses and a trolley line that stops at the UCSD transit center, which is a 20-25 min walk from Salk.

### BY BIKE

Biking to Salk is possible, but keep in mind the city is very spread out. If you do not live in a neighborhood close to Salk (UTC or certain parts of La Jolla), the ride can be longer than four miles (6.5 km). Also, roads leading to Salk carve through steep canyons. UTC is the only Salk accessible neighborhood that doesn't include a steep elevation gain. E-bikes are a good option and very popular among commuters. Even though the city has bike lanes, biking in

San Diego can still be dangerous. There is usually no barrier to divide bike and car lanes. Bike lanes are only painted lanes next to cars going up to 60 mph (100 kmph) and many drivers are still not used to sharing the road with bikes. If you are biking to Salk, it is recommended to practice defensive riding and have a good set of lights for evening or early morning commutes. Salk has several designated bike racks where you can lock your bike.

### OTHER TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS

- Ridesharing apps: Uber and Lyft are ridesharing apps that operate in San Diego. However, using rideshare apps every day will be costly.
- Carsharing apps: Zipcar and Getaround are apps where you can rent a car and pay only for the time (hours) you will use them. Zipcar requires an annual membership fee and has stations close to Salk at UCSD. However, pick-up and drop-off locations must be the same. If you are a postdoc, using your visiting scholar UCSD ID card can get you a student discount on the annual fee.
- Renting a car: Salk employees have discounts with car-rental companies ([find more information here](#)). You can also rent cars on the Turo app. Dirt Cheap Car rental in Old Town is a company that caters to international and local students.