

GROW

GRADUATE
ORIENTATION
WEEK

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED

Hello Zabir,

We are writing to update you about the upcoming Fall 2020 semester at UC Merced so you can plan for the start of your graduate career. You are probably aware that COVID-19 infections have risen dramatically the past couple of weeks, and Merced County was put on the Governor's COVID-19 watch list. On Wednesday, the university made the decision to further restrict in-person instruction on campus this fall, which you can read about [here](#).

While most instruction will be delivered remotely, in-person [research](#) is taking place and still relaunching on campus. The delivery mode for individual courses is still being finalized and departments are now working on determining which courses will remain in-person. To get the most up-to-date information, please connect with the faculty and staff contacts in your graduate program concerning your particular courses and research activities. You may ask them about the possibility of being fully remote your first semester, and the Graduate Division will support you and the programs in your decisions. We still hope to see many of you on campus this Fall, hopefully sooner rather than later!

Below you can find resources useful for relocating to Merced.

Housing

You will find that UC Merced offers the lowest cost of living compared to any of the other University of California campuses. This low cost of living ensures that our students can worry less about paying rent and instead focus on what really matters- their academics and research!

Currently UC Merced does not offer on-campus housing for graduate students. We encourage you to visit the Off-Campus Housing [site](#) to see what options are available. Another widely used resource is the Facebook group, [UC Merced Classifieds](#) (please note that this is not a UC Merced sponsored group).

The UC Merced Graduate Division has also created the Facebook group, [UC Merced Grad Life Facebook Forum](#) as a space for incoming, current and graduate student alumni to connect on topics related to grad student life (such as housing) at UC Merced. This is a private group, please [request to join](#) and we will accept your request once we confirm your graduate student status.

Life at UC Merced

Besides being a world-class public research university with the feel of a small, private campus, there are a lot of reasons why people are increasingly interested in becoming a Bobcat. UC Merced is a special place where intelligent, spirited people gather to learn, grow and reach their highest potential. Bobcats are people who care about each others' success and ability to thrive, and care about the world around them. Located in the center of California's agricultural Central Valley, Merced is a quintessential small town, with a tree-lined downtown filled with mom-and-pop shops, restaurants and theaters, but with amenities that a larger town might have, such as a mall and larger eateries. UC Merced's central location makes it the ideal place to pursue graduate studies. Our pastoral setting allows our students to focus on research, while our proximity to all of Northern California's major destinations encourages our students to get out and explore during much deserved down time.

CITY ON THE RISE IN THE HEART OF CALIFORNIA

Just over **80,000** people

262 sunny days per year

**UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
MERCED**

RECREATION WITHIN 2 HOURS

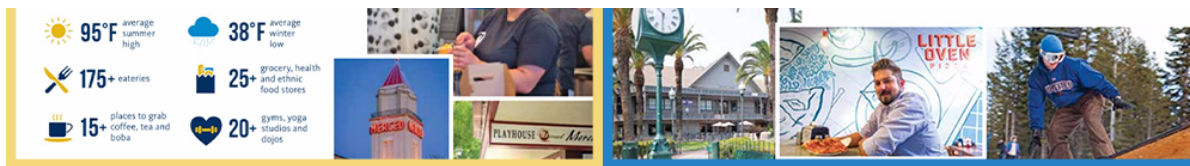
- 10 large lakes
- 2 rivers
- 2 ski resorts
- 35 campgrounds

Exchequer Mountain Bike Park overlooks scenic Lake McClure and boasts 700 acres with 900 feet of elevation change.

Merced boasts one of the top city bikeway systems in the U.S.

WAYS TO GET AROUND MERCED

- CatTracks UC MERCED
- THE BUS
- zipcar



7 Destinations within 2 Hours of UC Merced

- **Yosemite National Park.** There's a reason why Yosemite is considered one of the wonders of the world. UC Merced students regularly take advantage of the fact that being one with nature is only a short drive away.
- **San Francisco. Golden Gate Bridge.** Clam chowder in a sourdough bowl (but take a picture of it first). Diverse neighborhoods. Giants games. Alcatraz (spoiler alert: no actual inmates).
- **Santa Cruz.** Dozens of beaches by day, boardwalk arcades and rides by night. A movie on the beach or monarch butterfly sightings if you time your trip right.
- **Monterey Bay Aquarium and Cannery Row.** Stunning marine life up close, rocks on the shore to climb afterward, and a famous waterfront street to wander once your shoes and socks are soaked.
- **Dodge Ridge and China Peak.** Skiing and snowboarding. (Hot cocoa in the lodge is okay, too!)
- **Sacramento.** State capitol tours. Gold Rush-era buildings, restaurants and museums in historic Old Sacramento. (The state fair takes place here).
- **Gold Country.** Quaint and thriving downtowns in Columbia, Jamestown, Murphys, Sutter Creek and more. Gold panning and live re-enactments for your history fix.

Transportation around Merced

Getting around town is easy! Our campus offers a bus system exclusively for UC Merced students. The [CatTracks system](#) connects our campus to the rest of Merced. Many of our graduate students also choose to ride their bike, skateboard or scooter to campus!

[Zipcar](#) is also a great option for when you need a set of wheels to get around town (student pricing is available). For trips outside of Merced, [Amtrak](#) and [Boutique Airlines](#) are great low rate options for getting around the state quickly.

Have questions about [campus parking permits](#)? Please stay tuned for future updates regarding parking on campus.

Save the Date!

Our next virtual webinar **How to Complete Your New Hire Paperwork** will be held Wednesday, July 15 at 1pm PST. Click [here](#) for the Zoom link.

As a reminder, GROW [registration](#) is now open! Please register by **Friday, July 31st at 12pm PST**. Please don't hesitate to [reach out](#) if there is anything we can help you with.

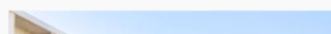
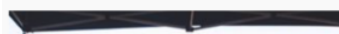
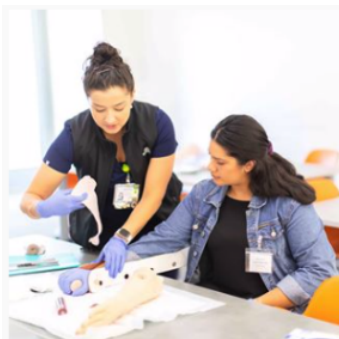
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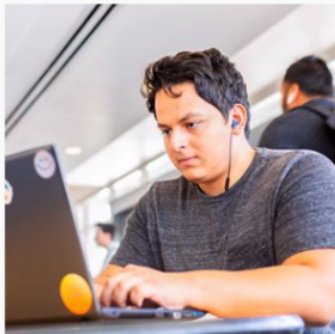
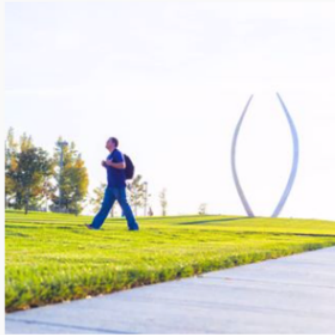
UC Merced Graduate Division and the GROW Committee

2020 Grow Committee

Graduate Division
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 Human Resources Payroll Center (HRPC)
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 Office of Research and Economic Development
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Follow [@lifeatucmerced](#) to see more shots of undergraduate & graduate student life at UC Merced!





grad@ucmerced.edu

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
MERCED

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