Welcome once again to the Master of Arts graduate program in Economics at UC Santa Barbara. Below you will find information to assist you in planning your move to Santa Barbara and answers to questions you may have concerning registration, orientation, employment, housing, etc.

REGISTRATION
The Office of the Registrar will send you an email, which will refer you to the "New Student" portion of the Registrar's website. There, you will find instructions for registering for classes as well as other enrollment information. All new and continuing students register online via the GOLD system usually between September 3\textsuperscript{rd} and the first day of classes.

The registration instructions you receive will be easy to follow. Please see the enclosed information about which courses to register for Fall 2015 and beyond. The MA program requires you to take electives. If you choose to take an upper-division undergraduate class as one or two (maximum) of your elective options you are required to email the course option first before enrolling in the course so that I can check to make sure space is available. Please note that not all courses are open to Masters students.

If you have not received an email from the Registrar's Office by September 1\textsuperscript{st}, give us a call and we will notify the appropriate person. Please be sure to inform us if your permanent and/or email addresses change during the summer.

ORIENTATION
If you don't already live in Santa Barbara, you should plan to arrive in Santa Barbara as early as possible. This will give you an opportunity to get settled before orientation meetings begin. The Fall 2015 Calendar of events is enclosed.

HOUSING
Please give housing some serious thought right away. Santa Barbara has a relatively low vacancy rate for rental units, so it is important to get an early start on securing a good place to live. University-sponsored housing is convenient and affordable. Please visit the housing website: www.housing.ucsb.edu for all the necessary information.

Graduate students interested in the San Clemente Graduate Student Housing (http://www.housing.ucsb.edu/residences/san-clemente-villages) and are entering UCSB in Fall 2015 and want to apply for 2015-2016 single graduate student apartments, must apply online (http://www.housing.ucsb.edu/applications/new-graduate-student-housing-contract) for this type of housing no later than May 15, 2015. You also must submit your intent to enroll at UCSB to the Graduate Division by: May 15, 2015.
It is important to note that the final deadline to submit the online Statement of Intent to Register (SIR) is June 15, 2015, however the housing deadline requires you to submit it earlier.

If you opt for private housing, you may need some time to look around before you decide where to live. I would suggest starting to look right away. The Community Housing Office (http://www.housing.ucsb.edu/cho) can be contacted at (805) 893-4371, the Graduate Students Association housing/roommate listings, and the local newspaper the Santa Barbara Newspress will be your best sources for housing vacancies. Some additional websites that may be helpful are:

- Santa Barbara News-Press: http://class.newspress.com/sect/rentals
- UCSB Community Housing Board: http://www.housing.ucsb.edu/hchoices/cho-rental-home.htm
- Santa Barbara Independent (publication): http://www.independent.com/classified/adpage/

For single students who prefer to eat on campus, a campus meal plan (10, 14 or 19 meals per week) can be purchased through the Housing and Residential Services Office.

**RESIDENCY**

Eligible non-California residents should, immediately upon arrival, take all of the necessary steps to establish California residency. This may include obtaining a California driver’s license, establishing a local bank account, registering to vote and designating California as your permanent address on all school and employment records. Information about how to establish California state residency can be found online at http://www.registrar.ucsb.edu/residenc.htm#who or by contacting the Office of the Registrar at (805) 893-3033.

**ACCESS Card**

All students are issued a UCSB identification card (your primary UCSB student I.D.), which is used as proof of registration and to gain access to student services on campus, such as the dining commons, Davidson Library, computer labs, and the Recreation Center. The ACCESS card also allows students to enter sporting events and ride the local bus system for free.

The ACCESS card can also be activated to become a personal debit card, called the ACCESS card. There is a one-time processing charge of $25 to activate the ACCESS card. Purchases are automatically deducted from the starting balance, just like a regular bank debit card. ACCESS cards are very convenient for students as they are accepted at many campus locations, including the bookstore, post office, cashier, copy centers, Parking Services pay stations, on-campus restaurants and stores, as well as at many privately-owned businesses near campus.

You may obtain your card at the ACCESS Photo Center located in the University Center (UCen) Main Level, Monday through Friday from 10:00am to 4:00pm. Please bring proof of registration (your letter of admission should work), a photo ID, and $25 for the one-time processing charge. An alternative I.D. card which has limited uses is available at no charge.

**COMPUTER ACCOUNTS and EMAIL:**

All Economics graduate students will be issued a login and password for a departmental Graduate Computer Lab account. A required form, to be completed by you for this account, will be handed out during the M.A. program orientation or can be picked up from the Graduate Program office, North Hall 2120. Departmental email accounts (@econ.ucsb.edu) are no longer issued to new graduate students. You will need to establish a UCSB 'U-
Mail' (email) account. **It is imperative that once this email account is set up for you, that you start checking it for new email on a regular basis** (you can set-up this account to forward email to your personal account). This is the primary means of communication between the Economics Faculty, Staff and you.

When your U-Mail account is activated, you will receive your 'UCSBnetID'. Your UCSBnetID will allow you to register using GOLD as well as enabling you to access your information at other UCSB web pages such as Financial Aid, Housing and BARC. It is imperative that you also get in the habit of checking your messages on GOLD. This is how the many central offices on campus including the Registrar’s and BARC communicate to you registration open and closing times and information on deadlines for payments, avoiding late registration, etc.

If you have trouble establishing your U-mail account or UCSBnetID, contact the Help desk at 1517 Phelps Hall or call (805) 893-5542, Monday through Friday from 8:00am – 5:00pm, or you can email them from: http://www.umail.ucsb.edu/help/request/.

**QUESTIONS**

I will be available most of the summer to answer questions about the program, the campus or the community. Feel free to contact me via email (see address below) or telephone at (805) 893-2205. I am generally available between 8:00am – 12:00pm and 1:00pm – 3:30pm Monday through Friday, appointment are required for the afternoons.

Have a wonderful summer. I look forward to seeing you in September, if not before.

Sincerely,

Mark Patterson
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