



COLLEGE
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COLLEGE
of the **DESERT**

A CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
IN THE RESORT AREA OF
PALM SPRINGS

WELCOME



www.collegeofthedesert.edu/international



College of the Desert (COD) is the ideal place to begin your American education and the Palm Desert resort area of California is the ideal place to live.

College of the Desert Fast Facts

Location: *Palm Springs area of California*

Type of Institution: *2 year public community college*

Degrees offered: *Associate, University Transfer, Certificate*

Founded: *1958*

Accreditation: *Western Association of Schools and Colleges*

Total Students: *14,000*

International Students: *150*

English Proficiency Requirement:

TOEFL requirement – 40/400

IELTS – 4.5

Total Annual Cost (estimated): *Less than \$19,630*

ESL Support: *Full Intensive English Academy*

Intensive English Offered: *Yes*

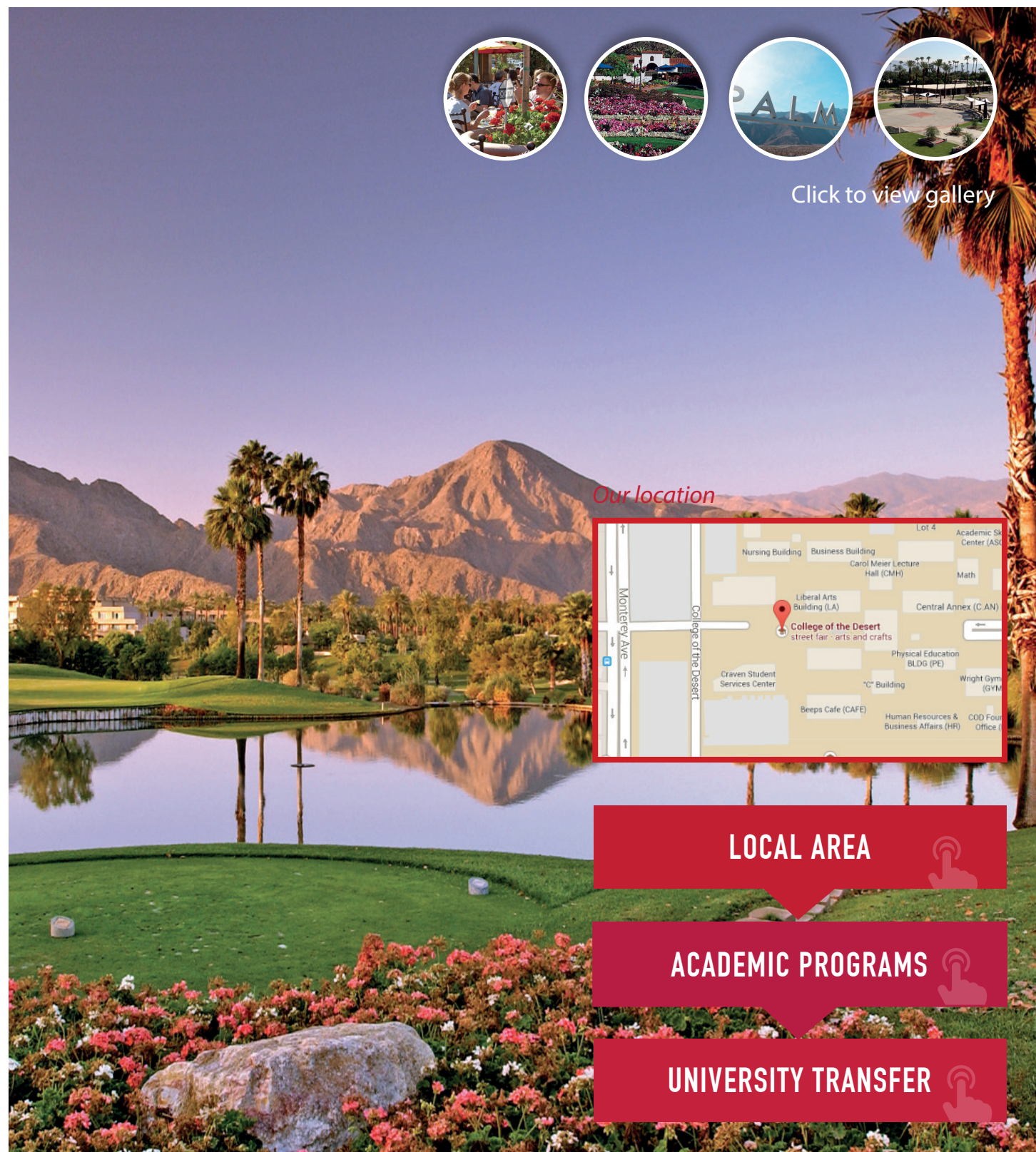
Low Cost: *Tuition costs are half that of the university system*

Affordable Living Costs: *Palm Springs is very affordable compared to other cities in California*

University Transfer: *Strong international student transfer rate to public and private four-year universities*



[Click to view gallery](#)



STUDENT LIFE AT COD

Get Active!

College of the Desert has a very active student population and hosts a variety of activities throughout the year. Our campus has a friendly and open atmosphere that welcomes all who study here. International students are encouraged to participate in the many clubs and organizations that are available on campus.

Our region is also famous for fun! Whether attending the Coachella Music Festival, professional sports tournaments, or DJ parties, our students know how to enjoy their time in our area!

ASCOD is COD's student government organization. ASCOD plays an active role in campus life and student participation in important events on campus. Phi Theta Kappa, the national honor society for two-year colleges, has an active chapter at COD.

Our athletic teams have won regional and state championships. All athletic teams welcome international students. Available athletic teams include:

<i>Men:</i>	<i>Women:</i>
Baseball	Baseball
Basketball	Cross-country
Cross-country	Golf
Football	Soccer
Golf	Softball
Soccer	Tennis
Tennis	Volleyball



STUDENT SERVICES AND FACULTY

SAVE MONEY WHILE YOU STUDY

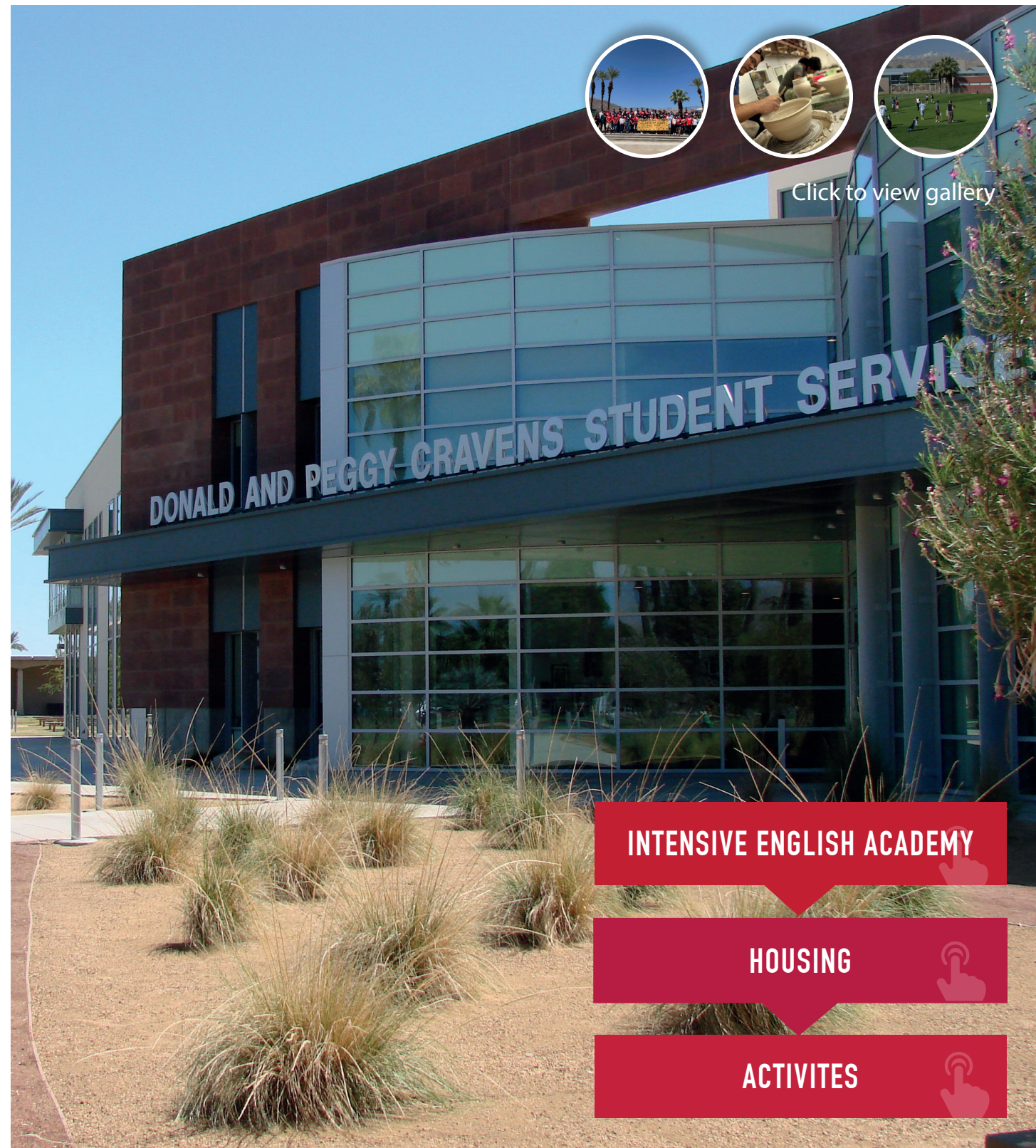
INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM

Our goal is to help you succeed

The International Student Office welcomes over 120 students from 30 different countries each year to our college and Intensive English Academy. Our office is dedicated to ensuring that our international students have an enjoyable experience in America and reach their educational goals. Our professional staff provide a variety of support services designed just for you!

Services include:

- Orientation Program
- Housing Assistance
- University Transfer Assistance
- Academic Advising
- Activities
- Immigration Advising
- Counseling Services
- Tutoring
- Scholarships
- Intensive English school on campus



[Click to view gallery](#)

INTENSIVE ENGLISH ACADEMY

HOUSING

ACTIVITES

Wherever you are going, you get there from here!

For more information about College of the Desert or the Intensive English Academy, please contact us at:

College of the Desert – International Student Program
43-500 Monterey Avenue, Palm Desert, California 92260 U.S.A.

PHONE: (760) 776-7205 • FAX: (760) 862-1361

EMAIL: iep@collegeofthedesert.edu

WEB: www.collegeofthedesert.edu/international



COLLEGE
of the
DESERT

HOW TO APPLY



WHY STUDY AT COD?



Welcome to COD!

College of the Desert (COD) is a thriving community college located in exciting Southern California. Surrounded by majestic mountains, covered in lush palm trees, and bathed in sunshine for more than 300 days a year, the campus is truly an inspiring place to study.

Along with our stunning location, COD is known for our relaxed, safe, and friendly culture; for our award-winning academic programs; and for the university transfer success of our students. Explore what makes us the fastest growing and one of the best-value colleges in California!



“

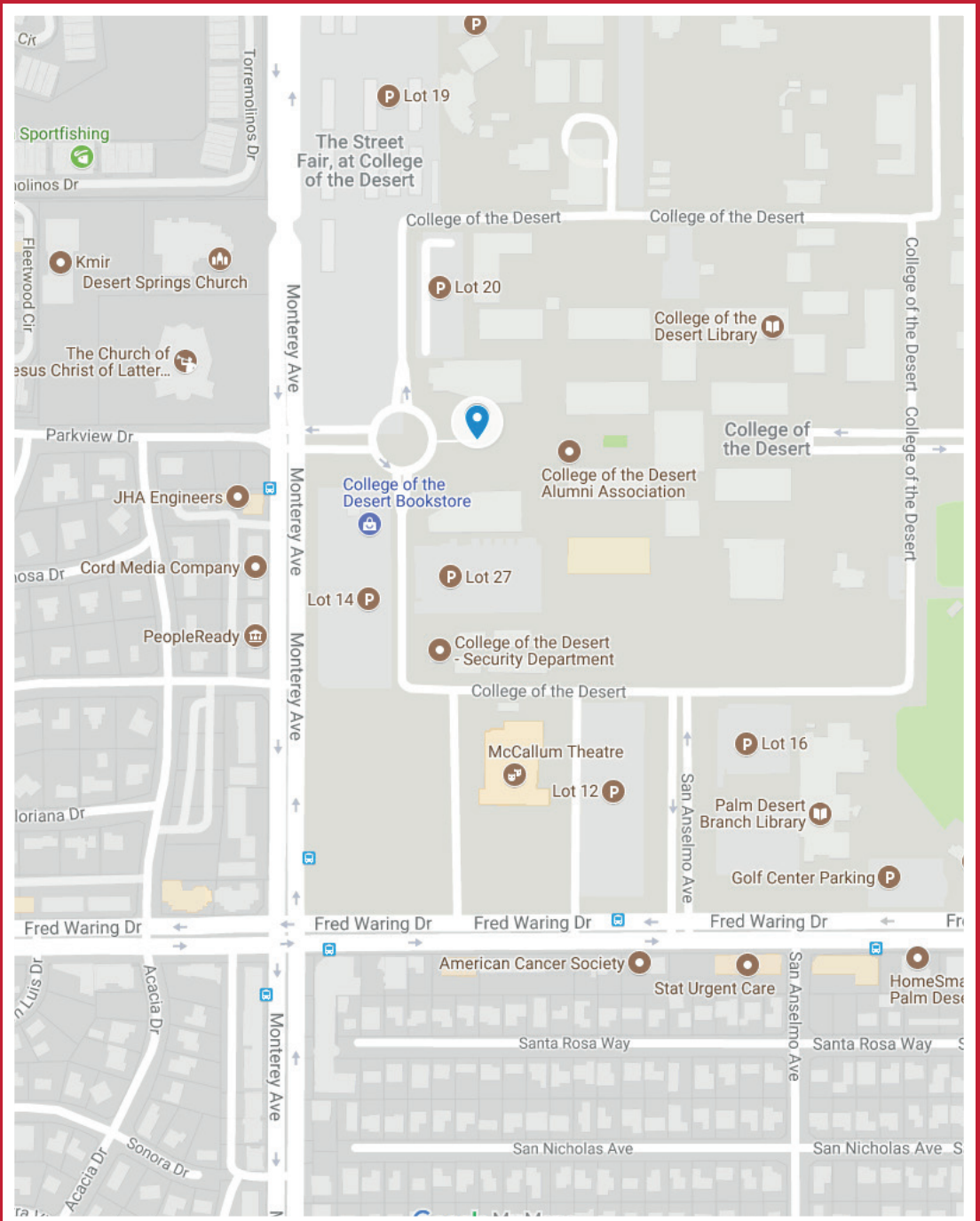
I am learning to be independent, getting a good experience making many friends who can't speak my first language.”

Haruki
from Japan

WhyStudyHere?



OUR LOCATION





WELCOME TO THE PALM SPRINGS LIFESTYLE

Over 12 million visitors come to our area each year to experience the great weather, relax by a pool, play outdoor sports, attend festivals, or otherwise enjoy our welcoming culture. Palm Springs is only a short drive from Los Angeles, San Diego, the beach and the mountains. Our location is perfect for those wishing to save money with our low cost-of-living, but still have easy access to famous Southern California attractions. Our small town atmosphere offers students a safe environment in which to live and study. In fact, our students say it is like being on vacation while going to school!

For more information please visit:

www.visitgreaterpalmsprings.com



PALM SPRINGS FAST FACTS

Hotels and Resorts: **225**

Golf Courses: **115**

Tennis Courts: **600**

Restaurants: **620**

Sunshine: **Average of 350 days per year**

Rainfall: **5.5 inches annually**

Temperatures: **December 20°C / April 28°C**

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

Whether you are planning on transferring to university, completing an Associate degree or obtaining a Certificate in your desired field, COD has excellent academic options for you. In addition to extensive academic support, our international students are offered priority course registration every term!

Accounting				Culinary Management				Philosophy	
Administration of Justice	●	●	●	Digital Design & Production		●	●	Physics	●
Advanced Transportation Technology		●		Drafting/CAD		●	●	Plant Science	●
Agriculture, General		●		Early Childhood Education (ECE)	●			Political Science	●
Agri-Business	●	●		ECE Teacher			●	Psychology	●
Air Conditioning		●	●	ECE Master Teacher			●	Recreation	●
Alcohol/Drug Studies		●	●	ECE Site Supervisor			●	Retail Management	
Anthropology	●			Economics	●			Social Science	●
Architectural Technology	●	●	●	English	●			Sociology	●
Automotive Air Conditioning			●	Environmental Horticulture	●	●	●	Spanish	●
Automotive Alternative Fuels Technician			●	Environmental Science/Natural Resources	●	●		Studio Arts	●
Automotive Electrical Technician			●	Environmental Studies/Interdisciplinary	●			Theater Arts	●
Automotive Performance/Emission Control			●	Fire Technology		●	●	Turf Grass Management	●
Automotive Standard Transmission			●	French	●			Intensive English Academy	
Automotive Suspension & Alignment			●	Geography	●				
Biology	●			Geology	●				
Business Administration	●			Golf Management		●	●		
Business, General		●		History	●				
Building Inspection Technology			●	Hospitality Management	●				
Chemistry	●			Human Resources Generalist			●		
Communication Studies	●			Journalism	●				
Computer Information Systems		●	●	Kinesiology	●				
Computer Science	●			Liberal Arts	●				
Construction Management	●	●	●	Mass Communication	●				
Culinary Arts, Basic			●	Mathematics	●		●		
Culinary Arts, Intermediate			●	Music	●		●		
				Natural Resources	●	●			
				Nursing, Registered *		●			
				Nursing, Vocational *		●			

University Transfer Degree ● Associate Degree ● Certificate ●

**Impacted major, admission not guaranteed*

UNIVERSITY TRANSFER OPTIONS

As the fastest growing community college in California, we make transfer to the University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU) systems a simple process for our students. International students can also transfer to other public and private universities throughout the United States by first completing two years of study at our community college.

How does it work?

Students complete year 1 and 2 general education and foundation courses at COD, and transfer this coursework to a university. After completing year 3 and 4 at the university, students obtain their Bachelor's degree. There is no difference in the Bachelor's degree whether you do all four years at the university or complete the first two years at a community college.

The main difference is the tremendous cost savings you have by choosing a community college first and an opportunity to enter prestigious universities throughout the U.S. For some students, this 2+2 Bachelor's degree pathway saves them over \$120,000!



“

I study at College of the Desert because there are helpful professors and staff. It is a nice campus. COD provides the right tools to succeed.”

Vinicius
from Brazil

Our international students have transferred to such universities as:

- UC Berkeley
- UCLA
- UC Irvine
- CSU Fullerton
- CSU Long Beach
- San Diego State University
- USC
- University Nevada Las Vegas
- and more!

Our International Student Counselor works closely with our international students to help them choose the right courses for their degrees, to help them research universities, and to walk them through the university application process. Our counselor has specialized knowledge about university transfer requirements for international students and works with students both individually and in group sessions to ensure that they understand what you need to do to reach your university transfer goals!

WhyStudyHere?





STUDENT SERVICES

COD's student services are very comprehensive and are focused on the needs of our diverse student population. From registration to graduation, international students receive a tremendous amount of guidance and support.

Student services include:

Academic Advising
Athletics
Career Planning
Technology Labs
Wi-Fi Access
Counseling
Dining Options
Foreign Language Lab

Off-campus Activities
Library Access
Math Lab
Social Activities
Student Government
Transfer Advising
Tutoring

COD FACULTY

We are proud of our award-winning faculty! They are experts in their fields and come from a variety of backgrounds. All faculty members have a Master's degree or Ph.D. Small class sizes ensures that students will have an opportunity to learn from the expertise of our faculty.



WhyStudyHere?



“

I chose to study at COD because they have great International Programs and it is located in a beautiful place.”

Jaafar
from Iraq



COLLEGE OF THE DESERT IS ONE OF THE
BEST VALUE COLLEGES IN CALIFORNIA!

Comparison of estimated non-resident annual expenses

CAL STATE UNIVERSITY
\$33,000

PRIVATE UNIVERSITY
\$60,500

(UC) UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
\$69,000

Approx. average total expenses

CHOOSE THE BEST VALUE...

COLLEGE OF
THE DESERT

\$19,630

BEGIN YOUR AMERICAN HIGHER EDUCATION AT
COLLEGE OF THE DESERT!

HOUSING

Average Rental Rates for a One Bedroom Apartment:

- Palm Springs: \$1,000 - \$1,300
- Los Angeles: \$1,300 - \$2,000
- San Francisco: \$1,600 - \$2,500

Low cost of living

Palm Springs has a lower cost of living than other large cities in California giving you even greater cost savings when you study at College of the Desert.



Housing cost differences.*



*Source: www.bestplaces.net



INTENSIVE ENGLISH ACADEMY (IEA)

Graduate from the IEA and enter COD without the TOEFL!

Complete level 3 of the Intensive English Academy and enter College of the Desert.

Complete the first two years of university study at College of the Desert

Complete the last two years of university study and get your Bachelors degree.

The IEA offers:

- 8 and 16 week courses
- 3 levels
- 30 hours/week of instruction including lab use
- Small class size – maximum 15 students/class
- Instructors with TESOL degrees
- Located at the flagship College of the Desert campus
- Full campus access
- Fun activities for students throughout the month
- Full service program to help you while you study

Learn English in sunny California!

The Intensive English Academy (IEA) is located on the College of the Desert campus, recently ranked the sixth most scenic community college in the U.S! The IEA offers English language training for students who plan on entering college/university in the U.S. and students who just want to improve their English skills. We welcome students from beginning to advanced levels. Classes include reading, writing, grammar, oral communication and conversation.

Class are taught by experienced, friendly instructors who use active learning techniques and multi-media resources to teach their lessons.

Program dates and fees:

Compare our prices – other ESL programs charge extra fees for services and activities. At the IEA, we do not charge service fees and many of our activities are free for students!

The IEA offers 5 different entry dates throughout the year. Please visit www.collegeofthedesert.edu/international for specific information.



WhyStudyHere?



“

I went to College of the Desert in the United State because I thought it would be a great experience and I really liked the idea of spending a year with international students.”

Nicole
from Holland

HOUSING

Housing is an important part of the overseas experience. Our international students are offered great options and support for becoming a part of our community:

- Host Family Program
- Off-Campus Apartment Referrals

The Host Family Program provides an opportunity for you to enhance your knowledge of American culture and improve your English skills by living with an American family. Room with meals and room only options are available.

Students looking for more independence can choose from a number of affordable apartment options, many of which have swimming pools and other exciting features!

Please visit our website: www.collegeofthedesert.edu/international for more information about our housing services.





ACTIVITIES

We want you to have fun and learn about American culture while you study! Throughout the semester, we offer activities that include trips to Disneyland, Magic Mountain, beach parties, barbecues and more.

Holiday parties and cultural events International Education Week will give you the opportunity to learn about the U.S. and teach our campus community about your country.

Students in the Intensive English Academy enjoy additional activities throughout the year that will help you get to know our local area and make new friends.



WhyStudyHere?



“I love Palm Desert. I like the lifestyle here and the people who live here. I love the weather and the tuition is economical.”

Baicun
from China

HOW DO I APPLY TO COD AND THE IEA?

Application to College of the Desert and the Intensive English Academy is easy. Just follow these steps:

1. Download the International Student Application at www.collegeofthedesert.edu/international. You can use the same application for both College of the Desert and the Intensive English Academy.
2. Submit all required documents simply by uploading copies into the applicaiton form.

College of the Desert admits students on a rolling basis, so we do not have set application deadlines.

Our International admission staff provides continuous support to our applicants, and we're happy to talk with you by Messenger or Skype to assist you with the process.

College of the Desert is authorized to issue I-20 forms for full-time study. Upon acceptance, students will receive an acceptance letter and the I-20 which can be used to apply for the F-1 visa at the US Embassy in your home country.