

Semester in Los Angeles Welcome Packet



Los Angeles Programs

Welcome to Semester in Los Angeles!

We're excited to have you join us for an exciting semester in the City of Angels. From the mountains to the ocean, Los Angeles is vast and varied. But of course, wherever you go, the entertainment industry is woven into the landscape of the city.

We're looking forward to helping you explore the city and career opportunities. Between classes with well-connected industry experts and an endless parade of guests, to internships that give you hands-on experience in your area of interest, we sprinkle in networking events, TV tapings, studio tours, and so much more.

So fasten your seatbelt and get ready for the ride of a lifetime!

THIS INFORMATION SHEET

We know you have lots of questions, so we wanted to paint the broad picture now and answer some of the basics. In addition, we've enclosed a checklist of items that need to be completed before you leave Chicago...you can start on those today!

We'll dive into the specifics of SiLA (car or no car, what to wear, how to find an internship, etc...) at a **MANDATORY ORIENTATION** in Chicago or via Zoom. The Orientation typically takes place on a Friday morning in Week 7 or Week 8. Check the [SiLA Admitted Students](#) webpage for a list of important dates for your specific semester.

In the meantime, we're here. Feel free to reach out at any time!

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BEFORE YOU GO

Don't pack that suitcase just yet! The following tasks will need to be completed before you leave Chicago:

- **MEDI 334**: You must register and complete the **MEDI 334 – SiLA Pre-Departure Course, a 1-credit, asynchronous online course**. This course prepares students for their upcoming Semester in Los Angeles, focusing on successfully obtaining internships in the entertainment industry. Students will gain insights and strategies to create competitive application materials, conduct industry research, and effectively search for internships during their Semester in Los Angeles.
- **ADVISING**: Visit College Advising to perform an academic self-audit. Are you on track to graduate? If you are returning to Chicago, how will the SiLA credits contribute to your major? If you are graduating after this semester, you need to perform a “graduation audit” with Advising. If you were conditionally admitted, we will need a note from your Academic Advisor clearing you for SiLA registration.
- **Columbia Central**: For students who have taken out loans during their time at CCC, you are required to have “exit counseling” with ColumbiaCentral before you can receive your diploma. Please make an in-person appointment with them before you leave Chicago.
- **Health Insurance**: There is no Student Health in Los Angeles. Students must be covered by appropriate health insurance or purchase such insurance through Columbia College Chicago.
- **Graduation**: If SiLA will be your last semester, apply for undergraduate graduation on the Graduation Application link on the student Oasis page at:
<https://students.colum.edu/commencement/graduation-application.php>

REGISTRATION

SiLA follows the same academic calendar as Chicago: 15 weeks in fall/spring and 10 weeks in the summer. Our start/end dates are the same. **The only exception is that we don't have a Spring Break in Los Angeles.** This allows students to check-out of housing and return to Chicago a week early to be part of commencement activities.

You must be a full-time student while at SiLA, which means being enrolled in 12 credits during the academic year and 6 credits in the summer. You have been pre-authorized to register for SiLA courses and may do so during your normally scheduled time. **You must enroll yourself.** We authorize, but you enroll. You have already been authorized to enroll in MEDI-334.

Courses will be first-come, first-served, so register early for best selection.

SiLA courses change every semester but all students are required to enroll in these 6 credits:

Los Angeles Internship (COLL 232)

L.A. CAREER DEVELOPMENT (MEDI 335)

*COLL 232 and MEDI 335 must be taken concurrently

During the Fall and Spring semesters, students must also enroll in:

LA Speakers Series (CINE 262)

Fall and Spring students should choose 1-2 electives, additional courses, from the SiLA schedule to reach the 12-credit minimum; current schedules can be viewed at colum.edu/SiLA.

HOUSING

Columbia College offers housing at Park La Brea, a 160-acre gated community in the Miracle Mile district of Los Angeles. It's centrally located, approximately two miles from the SiLA classrooms and offices at Sunset Las Palmas Studios, and offers easy access to museums, shopping, entertainment, and public transportation.

While you are not required to live at Park La Brea, we strongly encourage it, as it enhances the immersive experience with various social and networking opportunities. We have found students living on their own often feel Los Angeles to be expensive and isolating.

Typically, students move into Park La Brea the Thursday before classes begin and depart the weekend after internships/courses end.

There is a complete Housing Information document on the SiLA Student Dashboard. The accompanying housing applications are due approximately three weeks after acceptance into SiLA.

COSTS

SiLA students are subject to the same tuition and fees Columbia charges all full-time students at its main campus. **In addition**, there is a SiLA program fee for the semester-long programs.

This fee is set by Columbia's Board of Directors annually, so please check the SiLA website for your semester: <https://www.colum.edu/academics/semester-in-la/costs>.

If you are a non-degree-seeking student, you will be charged a non-degree fee of \$50 for domestic students and \$100 for international students.

The Ventra U-Pass is not available in Los Angeles and will be credited back to your account after the semester starts.

Current Columbia tuition costs can be found at: www.colum.edu/student-financial-services/where-to-start/tuition-fees.

All SiLA-specific scholarships were announced upon SiLA acceptance. However, the Columbia Internship Award and Levin Family Internship Fund are administered by the Career Center and ALL current Columbia students should apply. To qualify you do not need an internship, but the *intent* to do an internship. For more information, visit their website at: <https://www.colum.edu/columbia-central/scholarships/columbia-internship-award>

For complete details on billing, costs, financial awards, or how to finance your college education, please contact [Columbia Central](#).

While you are living in Los Angeles, you will need money for food, transportation, and entertainment. We estimate that students spend approximately \$800 a month for personal living, though that amount can vary depending on your individual lifestyle.

INTERNSHIPS

We see an internship as a natural bridge between the classroom and the professional world. In this town where networking is king, an internship gives you a leg up on other college graduates, putting you in front of decision-makers and allowing you to put your best foot forward.

The onus of finding an internship rests with YOU. Both the Career Center and SiLA are here to assist you, but you must do the leg work. MEDI 334 will be an essential tool to prepare yourself for finding an internship.

*Almost all SiLA students commit to an internship before arriving in Los Angeles. Most of the high-profile internships are very competitive and select their interns' **months in advance**. They typically do Zoom or Skype interviews for finalists. So, **apply early**. Start your search now!*

Check the Important Dates website for the mandatory Welcome Presentation date. After attending, you will be informed how MEDI 334 will support you with your internship search.

We're looking forward to seeing you at the Chicago Orientation for SiLA-bound students. Make sure you check your Columbia email frequently as that will be our primary mode of contact.

Once again, we're excited to have you join us in the City of Angels!