

USC Caregiving Students Info Session

What resources are available on campus for you?



Presented by:
Graduate Student
Government &
Gender Equity
Programs



Existing USC Resources

Parental Leave



- 1 semester during pregnancy or semester when child is born/adopted
- Receive base grad assistant stipend, healthcare
- still qualify for State and Federal food and daycare subsidies

More Info

PhD students who meet the following criteria are eligible for a one-semester parental leave:

- If they are pregnant or are the primary caregiver of their newborn child or adopted child under six years of age
- The student has completed at least one semester in their PhD program and is making good progress
- The student was admitted with an offer letter for a 4 or 5-year "package" consisting of support through any combination of teaching assistantship, research assistantship, and fellowship

How to Apply for Parental Leave

A leave request should be submitted the semester before the leave will take place.

The student should submit to the Graduate School the following:

1. The Request for Parental Leave for PhD Students,
2. A copy of their offer letter,
3. Primary caregiver statement, and
4. One of the following:
 - a verification of pregnancy signed by a US doctor (available at USC Student Health Center) or
 - a birth certificate for the infant child or
 - a statement of adoption from an adoption agency

The Graduate School will process the leave request and inform the student and the staff graduate advisor in the student's home department when a decision has been made. To begin the process, students should talk with the staff graduate advisor in their department or program.



Need more time to recover or unable to return full-time due to medical or other complications?

If a medical professional has advised you that you need more time to recover, you may be eligible for an extended absence through a health leave.

For more information, see the Campus Support and Intervention office information page <https://campussupport.usc.edu/students/health-and-wellness/health-leave-of-absence/> or reach out to a Health Leave Coordinator.

If a medical professional advises you that you can return to school/work but should do so “part-time” you may apply for reduced workload accommodations through the Office of Student Accessibility Services (OSAS).

<https://osas.usc.edu/new-students/main-facilities/>

★ *it's* **OK** *to* ★
ASK *for* **HELP**



Childcare



**Childcare is
available at both
UPC and HSC
through Bright
Horizons**



UPC Campus Childcare



Contact Info

uscupc@brighthorizons.com

(213) 821-9571

Open 7am-6pm, Monday-Friday except for university holidays

Center Director: Aileen Valino-Camcam

HSC Campus Childcare



Contact Info

Cecile.AllainKeatley@brighthorizons.com

Alcazar Child Development Center – tax ID #042949680

2215 E. Alcazar Street

Los Angeles, CA, 90033

(323) 405-6400

Director: Cecile Allain-Keatley

Additional USC Affiliated programs

- USchool for Early Childhood Education (SECE) – University Relations (usc.edu)
- USC-LAC Los Angeles County Children’s Center – CDCCLA

Subsidies



GSG Caretaker Subsidy Grant

- Up to \$1800/semester
- Examples of expenses that are eligible for the GSG Caretaker Subsidy Grant may include, but are not limited to:
 - Childcare or adult daycare services (e.g., babysitting and daycare)
 - Educational or technological needs for the dependent child
- The portal typically opens in mid-August and mid-January, with 3 review cycles per semester
- [Details on how to apply can be found here](#)



GSG Emergency Fund

- Up to \$1000 per academic year
- Designed to help students with unforeseen expenses arising from a crisis and to quickly address financial setbacks
- Allowable expenses include
 - unexpected medical bills, vet bills, auto repair bills, home repair bills
 - Visa renewal assistance, legal fees, gender affirming care
- NOT covered:
 - routine costs (medical, rent, food, tech, utility, conference attendance, dependent care)
- [Info on how to apply can be found here](#)



Student Basic Needs Fund

- Up to \$1000 per academic year
- Designed to help students with unforeseen expenses arising from a crisis and to quickly address financial setbacks
- Allowable expenses include
 - Housing/rent expenses; Food expenses; Unforeseen medical/dental expenses; Childcare expenses
- NOT covered:
 - Transportation expenses; Vehicle repairs/expenses; Books, supplies, or technology expenses; Tuition & fees
- [Info on how to apply can be found here](#)



Wise Childcare Subsidy

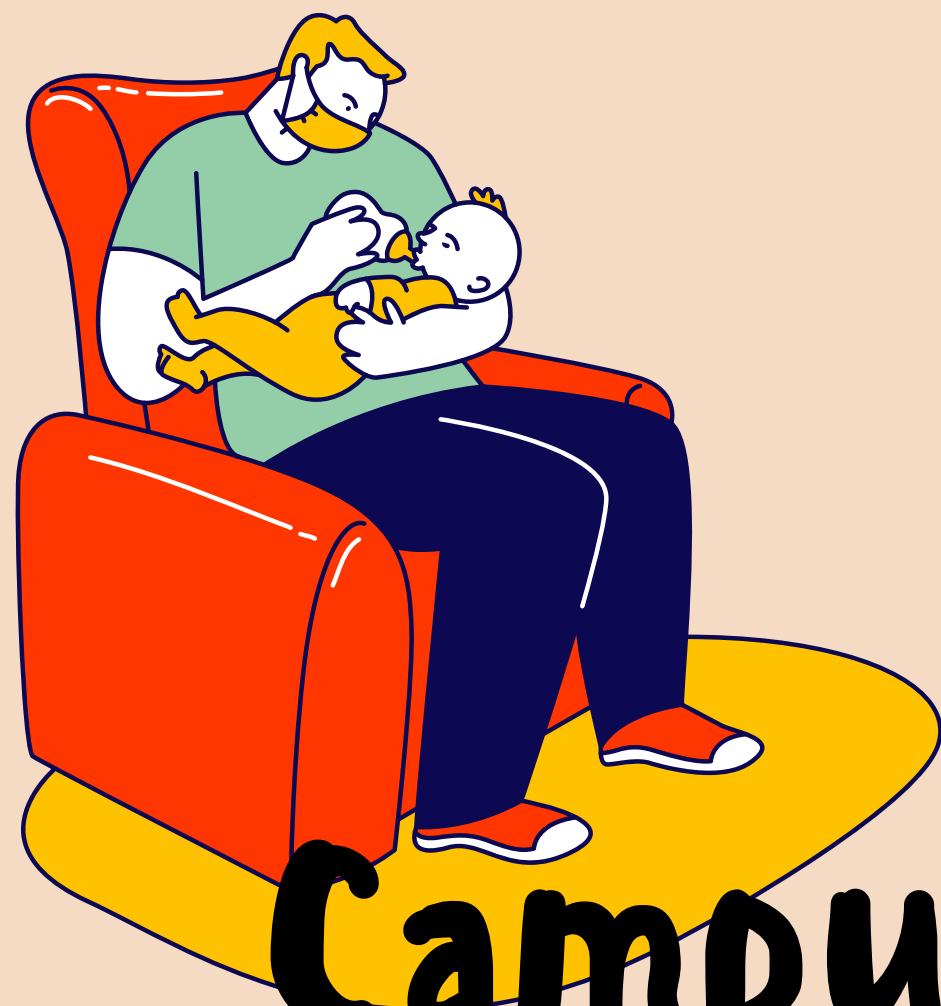
- Only for Students in organization's dedicated STEM departments
- \$2,500.00 per semester (spring, summer, and fall/winter)
- For children infant-preschool age only
- For assistance to enroll the child in a state certified daycare program.
- [Application information here](#)



Wise Pregnancy Fellowship

- Only for Students in these departments
- Up to a 50% time fellowship at minimum grad student rate.
- For students who cannot be funded from grants or departmental Teaching Assistant Support, and who have been denied leave from the USC Graduate School's Parental Leave Program .
- The fellowship is to be used during the time of pregnancy and/or in the first year after childbirth or adoption.
- [Program Info here](#)





Campus Resources & Support



Family Housing



Where can I live?

Graduate student housing is in smaller off-campus apartment buildings. You can get a list of these facilities on ResEd's building search page.

How much USC Housing is available to graduate and family applicants?

USC Housing has just under 1,500 graduate and family bed spaces in ResEd's inventory. However there are over 20,000 graduate students enrolled at USC – more than they can house. The result is that over 90% of USC graduate students live in non-university housing.

When are my contract start and end dates?

Housing contract dates for graduate students are different than those of undergraduates.



[Learn more about family housing on campus!](#)

Graduate Academic Year contracts (9 months) begin in early August and end in mid-May when the academic year closes.

Graduate Full Year contracts (12 months) begin in early August and end in late July.

All Family housing buildings are on Graduate Full Year contract (12 months), beginning in early August and ending in late July.

Contracts for Residents of the Law program in Terrace begin in early August and end in mid-May, a few days later than the Academic Year contract term ends.

Is there a waitlist for housing?

No. Grads are assigned on a space available basis in the order their housing applications were received.

If USC Housing is not able to offer me an assignment, are there other resources for housing?

Yes. Currie Hall, which is located on the Health Science Campus, provides apartments for students attending classes there. Additionally USC Housing has partnered with Off-Campus Housing 101 to provide students with listings of available rentals from private landlords in the North University Park area and near the Health Sciences Campus. All listings are within the USC Department of Public Safety Patrol Zone and they offer customer support services to assist you with obtaining private rental housing.

Lactation Policies



Providing an appropriate location:

Managers must ensure that the employee is provided with a space that is:

- private, safe, sanitary, not a bathroom, and free of hazardous materials.
- close proximity to work area

Flexible Break times

- must provide reasonable breaks for breast feeding or pumping, as much flexibility to meet your needs

Locations:

<https://employees.usc.edu/benefits-perks/family-resources/breastfeeding/>



Number of UPC Buildings with Private Lactation Rooms - 14

Total Number of UPC Private Lactation Rooms - 19

List of UPC Lactation Rooms

- ADM - 115A
- CAL - 138F; 143; 144
- CUB - 126
- DEN - 4104A
- DML - B30
- ESH - 402
- JKP - 302
- KOH - 101Z
- LAW - 129B
- MCB - 203; 219; 405
- SCB - 300B
- SCI - 280
- TCC - 315
- VPD - 102; 405Z



Campus programming & Engagement (GEP, GSG)

- Join the **Graduate Student Caregivers Email List**: email gsgcamp@usc.edu
- [Sign up for the Gender Equity Programs Newsletter](#)
- [Sign up for the GSG Email Lists](#)
- Temp Check: Would you be interested in a caregiver slack channel or another form of community space?

Student Basic Needs

- Trojan Food Pantry
 - Located at TCC 425A Tuesdays & Wednesdays 1:30–4pm
 - Eligibility Requirements:
 - Students who are currently enrolled in Spring 2024 courses at USC, do not possess a dining hall meal plan*, and are experiencing food insecurity will be provided with a limited number of groceries each week.
 - *If you possess a meal plan and have 20 or less meals remaining, you may be considered for the Trojan Food Pantry.
 - Must fill out intake form once per semester.
 - basicneeds@usc.edu

Academic Accommodations

- Office of Student Accessibility Services (OSAS)
 - If you have a pregnancy with complications or it has in some way caused you a disability you should register and work with OSAS for accommodations.
 - Registration form [here](#)
 - questions: reach out to osasfrontdesk@usc.edu. You can also ask directly for Madison Shaw at mfrische@usc.edu
- CAVEAT: we have started a conversation with OSAS about ways in which accommodations could be expanded through their office or through partnerships with other offices. We also think there needs to be a better policy in place regarding academic accommodations for students with dependents in general. We see this as a large gap.

Academic Accommodations

- EEO-TIX
 - If you have a pregnancy without accommodations or if you need accommodations due to caregiving responsibilities the current policy is to reach out to the EEO-TIX office for assistance and guidance.
 - most often, they will have you work independently with each professor to create accommodations for your specific situation
- NOTE: this does not seem to be a successful or sustainable policy. We are again, reaching out to EEO-TIX to see what their exact policy is for students in this situation.
- If you have worked with EEO-TIX (Successfully or unsuccessfully) with regards to your dependents, pregnancy, or caregiving needs, we would like to hear from you about your experience. This is an area that needs improvement.

Additional Resources

- Trojan Food Pantry: Tuesdays and Wednesdays 1:30–4 PM
- USC Fit Families
- Family Caregivers Support Center
- USC Community Resource Center for Aging
- Student Basic Needs: Housing Resource Guide
- Campus Support and Intervention Emergency Loan

Healthcare

- Mental Health
- Prenatal Care
- BIPOC, LGBTQ+ Mental Health
- Group Therapy
- Mindful Parenting | Mindful USC



Graduate Student Worker Union Resources (Starting August 2024)

- **Childcare Fund**

- Total Fund: \$400,000
- Subsidy: \$1,800 per semester, per child under 6 years old.

- **Dependent Healthcare Fund**

- Total Fund: \$250,000
- Subsidy: \$2,500 per semester.
- Includes, but not limited to, medical, dental, and vision costs
- Unused funding will roll over to the following year.

- How to access these funds is still TBD

External Resources

Assistance and Rights

Resource Sites

- [Findhelp.org](#) and [1degree.org](#) ways to find legitimate government and non-profit assistance programs for food, childcare, housing, and more
- [The Pregnant Scholar](#) parent and caregiver student rights
- [California Childcare resource and referral network](#)
- [Student Basic Needs Resource Guide](#)
- [Connections for Children childcare subsidy](#)
- [Childcare Financial Assistance Program](#)

Food Assistance

- WIC: Assistance for when you are pregnant through school-aged children. Details [Here](#)
- Cal-Fresh: Department letters stating hours of approximately 15–20 hours a week allow for student qualification. Savings ok but need to explain why you have the savings (medical bills, need a new car, etc...). Details [here](#)
- Free produce with EBT card
 - [Mother's Nutritional Center](#)
 - [participating farmers markets](#)
- Local free food <https://www.lacommunityfridges.com/>
- See resource list for additional food assistance

Parent Support and Social Groups

- MAEVE
 - West Adams
 - Los Feliz/East Side
- Family Caregiver Support Center groups
- Peanut - Find Friends and Support (peanut-app.io)
- Mothers Support Group - Joy In Birthing Foundation: Free support group and Mommy & Me Class

Tax Credits

- CalEITC: Earned Income Tax Credits
 - There are two EITCs: the California Earned Income Tax Credit (CalEITC) and the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).
 - The amount of CalEITC you get depends on your income and family size.
- Young Child Income Tax Credit
 - The Young Child Tax Credit (YCTC) provides a credit up to \$1,117 per tax return for Californians who qualify for CalEITC and have a child under 6 years old.

Want More?

- See the Existing Resources for Grad Student Caregivers guide for more on these topics
 - Parent/caregiver support and social groups
 - Daycare and preschool resources
 - Dependent health insurance
 - Fertility and prenatal care
 - Free prenatal, birthing, lactation, and childcare classes and support groups
 - Free parenting support, education, and coaching
 - Free First Aid/CPR classes
 - Free or Low-Cost Enrichment and Sports Programs

Upcoming Info

- Possible updates to Title IX Coming later this semester (tbd)
 - If new protections come in, we will update this info--come to the March Info session!
- We are Researching
 - Classroom accommodations
 - More daycare resources and play groups
 - Summer program resources

What Resources do you know?

Thank you!

- All of the resources spoken about can be found HERE
- Many are also linked on the New GSG GSC webpage at <https://gsg.usc.edu/grad-student-parents-resources/>
- This is a living document: compiled by Ellen, and accepting new suggestions and content regularly.
- email **gsgcamp@usc.edu** so we can add your knowledge!
- Special thanks to **Elizabeth Isralowitz**





Bring your kids and families out for GSG's

FAMILY DAY

at kidspace!



February 24th at 1 PM
kidspace Children's Museum

480 N. Arroyo Blvd, Pasadena, CA 91103

Join us for an afternoon of
fun, creativity, discovery,
exploration, and PLAY!

Sign up for a chance to
attend by February 15th at
bit.ly/gsgkidspace

Questions, Contact gsgcamp@usc.edu



GSG AT THE MOVIES!

March 30th 2024 12:45 Arrival, 1 PM Movie

Sign up for a chance
to attend by
March 15th, 2024
questions? gsgcamp@usc.edu

Disney · PIXAR
LUCA

POPCORN

Free
popcorn &
beverage for
everyone!



Family Friendly Event!



<https://bit.ly/gsgluca>

EL CAPITAN THEATRE
6838 HOLLYWOOD BLVD, HOLLYWOOD,
CA 90028