MAKING WAVES

For more than 50 years, the University of California San Diego has embraced a philosophy that perpetual optimism and inquisitiveness is a powerful way to make the world a better place. Founded as a forward-thinking research institution for graduate and undergraduate study, we’ve developed a heritage of pursuing the greater good in unconventional fashion. Together, our faculty, researchers, and students work to unlock solutions to society’s most pressing issues and make a difference — to make waves.

Unlikely Couplings

Whether rooted in science or the arts, inspiration and collaboration across disciplines at UC San Diego truly is different.

» Research that transcends disciplinary boundaries and national borders empowers researchers from across the county and around the world to look deeper at problems like mosquito-borne diseases, antibiotic resistance, and food scarcity. The UC San Diego Tata Institute for Genetics and Society’s unconventional approach to developing solutions to these pressing international challenges advances global science and technology to make our world a better place.

» Similar productive but unlikely collaborations can be found elsewhere on campus. For example, how mimicking photosynthesis enables us to produce cleaner, more affordable liquid fuel options. Or how applying wearable “tattoo electronics” helps doctors detect seizures in brain-injured infants. Or how mutating both copies of a gene in a single generation has potential applications for eliminating malaria, discovering new health therapies, and improving agriculture.

» Taking a distinctively unconventional approach to investigating how the world’s atmosphere and oceans continue to change and evolve, sociologists and atmospheric scientists at UC San Diego work together to find culturally fluent ways to discuss climate change and behaviors that can help mitigate it. Meanwhile, marine biologists and pharmacists collaborate to identify the special properties of marine life that can be used to innovate new therapies for some of humanity’s oldest medical challenges.

UC SAN DIEGO GLOBAL AND NATIONAL RANKINGS

#1 for enrolling and graduating women in STEM—science, technology, engineering, and math (BestColleges.com)

#1 for positive impact on social mobility, research productivity, and civic engagement (Washington Monthly)

#2 for quality education at an affordable price (Money Magazine)

4th for providing access to low-income students (New York Times)

#5 in the U.S. for total research and development expenditures (National Science Foundation)

Top 10 best public university in the U.S. for more than a decade (U.S. News & World Report)

15th best university in the world (Academic Ranking of World Universities)
Emerging as the leader in microbiome discovery, UC San Diego’s deep knowledge of cellular and molecular biology, superior data analytics, and leading-edge pharmacological insight will allow our campus-wide experts to study the genes and characteristics of the human body’s three billion microbes and microbial communities in ways as diverse as the tiny organisms themselves. Working together to derive insights from the clinic and the oceans, our researchers will develop solutions for the benefit of human health, ecosystems and the environment, and sustainable agricultural practices.

Campus and Community

UC San Diego is embracing an era of unprecedented opportunity for our students, faculty, and the entire San Diego community. As our campus enters this new phase, capital projects like the North Torrey Pines Living and Learning Neighborhood (see below) represent more than just brick and mortar; they represent a physical, intellectual, and cultural transformation that enriches our community. These projects promise a vibrant interconnected campus that facilitates synergies, inspires breakthroughs, and makes waves, both here and in our world.

Health

Comprised of three hospitals, an NCI-designated comprehensive cancer center, a medical school, and a school of pharmacy, UC San Diego Health has garnered international recognition as a place where discoveries are delivered — including the designation of best hospital in San Diego.

Movers and Shakers

As a billion-dollar research enterprise situated in the heart of one of the most densely concentrated innovation hubs in the nation, UC San Diego is a unique place where fresh ideas are translated into solutions to benefit society — from wireless health technologies to unlocking the mysteries of the human brain and developing sustainable methods of food and energy production.

Economics

The campus has more than 30,000 full and part-time academic and staff employees, making our university the largest employer in San Diego County.

Faculty, staff, students, and alumni have launched or created technology for more than 1,000 companies — including over 200 active in San Diego — contributing an estimated $32.4 billion to the local economy.

Entrepreneurism thrives at UC San Diego with nearly a dozen incubator resource centers on campus.

- National Medal of Science honoree and alumnus J. Craig Venter ’72, PhD ’75, sequenced the first full genome of a free-living organism.
- Anita Raj, a Tata Chancellor Professor of Medicine, has devoted more than 10 years to the investigation of India’s public health system and vector-borne diseases to improve global public health.
- Science students in Professor Stephen Mayfield’s lab partnered with the local surf industry to create the world’s first algae-based sustainable surfboard.
- Alumnus Albert Lin ’04, MS ’05, PhD ’08 searched for the lost tomb of Genghis Khan by using crowdsourced data and ground-penetrating radar.
- Alumna and NASA astronaut Kate Rubins ’99 was the first astronaut to sequence DNA on the International Space Station.