

SUA, ALISO VIEJO NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Soka University of America, Aliso Viejo has announced that it will accept its first applications beginning on May 3, 2000, for freshmen students entering in fall 2001. Applications and a new brochure may be obtained online at www.soka.edu; by email at admission@soka.edu; by phone at (949) 389-9500; by fax at (949) 362-3775; or by mail at Soka University, Aliso Viejo, 85 Argonaut, Suite 200, Aliso Viejo, CA 92656.

SUA, AV's beautiful 103-acre site in Southern California was purchased in 1995 and is located about halfway between Los Angeles and San Diego. (That is about 90 miles south of Soka University, Calabasas, SUA's first campus founded in 1987. SUA, Calabasas will continue to offer a master's program in second and foreign language education and an intensive ESL program.)

Soka University, Aliso Viejo will open with only 100 freshmen students, with a majority expected to be from the United States and other Pacific Basin countries. SUA, AV will initially offer students a four-year Liberal Arts degree, with concentrations in Humanities, International Studies or Social and Behavioral Sciences. SUA will have a 5:1 student/faculty ratio the first year (changing to 9:1 as the campus grows), and most classes will be small, with an emphasis on dialogue. Eventually, Soka University, Aliso Viejo expects to grow to 1,200 students.

SUA, AV's Liberal Arts degree offers students the opportunity to explore and study a broad range of subjects while developing critical thinking and writing skills. SUA's graduation requirements will include 14 courses in General Education, which include Writing Seminar, Methods of Inquiry Across Disciplines, Mathematics, Science (2), The American Experience, Introduction to the Pacific Basin, Creative Arts, World Art or World Literature, World Religions, World History, and Health and Physical Fitness (3). SUA, AV students will also take four Core Curriculum classes (one each year), including: Perspectives on an Individual Human Life, The Individual and the Natural Environment, The Individual and Society and Global Issues in Peace, Culture and Education.

Students will also take four Learning Clusters, in which small interdisciplinary teams of students and faculty will work together to develop proposals and solutions addressing local, regional and world issues. This work will foster research, analytical and creative skills, while modeling community service in action. The specific subjects of these Clusters will vary with the interests and skills of the students and faculty involved.

In addition, all students will have a special emphasis in a foreign language, choices including Spanish, Chinese or Japanese initially. Students already proficient in one of these languages may choose a third language or a series of courses in advanced language and culture, including courses in English literature. Every student will then participate in a semester of internship/study abroad in a foreign country in which the chosen language of study is a principal language spoken. (Students from Japan may choose to do their internship/study in the United States to further their English studies.)

Upon opening, the Aliso Viejo campus will feature 18 buildings, including academic buildings, a library, residence halls (all students live on campus), a student center and recreation center with basketball, volleyball, racquetball, dance floor, weight training and exercise facilities. SUA will also have an Olympic-size swimming pool, athletic fields for soccer, baseball and softball, ceramic, painting and photography studios, music practice rooms and a two-story art gallery.