

Visiting Student Researcher vs. Special Student

- Will the student enroll in classes at Caltech? Yes No
- Will the student require an official Caltech transcript Caltech? Yes No
- Will the student receive a stipend? Yes No

If you answered “Yes” to any of the questions above, the student will be a “Special Student.”

The chart below outlines the differences between Visiting Student classifications of “Visiting Student Researcher” and “Special Student.”

	SPECIAL STUDENT	VISITING STUDENT RESEARCHER
Relationship with home institution	Must be on sabbatical or leave from home institution where pursuing advanced degree	Must be registered in, and pay tuition to, another institution and be on sabbatical or leave
Caltech Faculty Sponsor	Yes	Yes
Available to all students	Only available to Graduate Students	Available to Graduate and Undergraduate Students
Limits on coming to Caltech	No restrictions on the dates of the invitation	Graduate students: No restrictions on the dates of the invitation. Undergraduate students generally restricted to summer invitations.
Application Process	Applications coordinated by the Dean of Graduate Studies.	Undergraduate applications coordinated by the Deans Office Graduate applications coordinated by the Dean of Graduate Studies
Assessed Tuition at Caltech?	Yes, tuition is charged each academic term If student is not funded by Caltech, student must pay the minimum tuition fee individually If student is funded by Caltech, regular tuition withholdings apply	No, student is not assessed any tuition
Enrolled at Caltech	Student may enroll in classes at Caltech Classes taken cannot be applied towards a Caltech degree	Student may not enroll in classes at Caltech
Proof of Enrollment at Caltech Provided	Yes, proof of enrollment can be provided to student by the Caltech Registrar	No, student may not receive proof of time spent at Caltech from Caltech Registrar (Some students only need a letter from their faculty host, so this is not always a problem)
Eligible for Caltech Health Insurance	Yes, student covered by Caltech’s student health insurance policy	No health insurance provided by Caltech.
Access to Health Center	Yes, student is provided access to Caltech Health Center	No access provided to student
Access to Housing	Eligible for Caltech Housing, only if space available (priority placement reserved for degree seeking students)	Eligible for Caltech Housing, only if space available (priority placement reserved for degree seeking students)
Access to other Caltech Facilities	Student has access to Caltech facilities such as the library and athletic facilities	Student has access to Caltech facilities such as the library and athletic facilities
Caltech Student ID	Yes	Yes
Payments from Caltech	Students can receive a stipend from Caltech. Stipends paid to student are subject to regular overhead withholdings	Students may not receive a stipend from Caltech, but may receive reimbursement of expenses