TO: Vendor Representative or Prospective Landlord

RE: Renting an apartment to a University of California, Santa Cruz International Student without a Social Security Number

University of California Santa Cruz (UCSC) International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS), provides this letter to all international students applying for off-campus housing as a supplemental support and letter of explanation.

Understandably many landlords have concerns about a prospective tenant’s financial solvency and therefore request a Social Security Number to run a credit check. However, due to strict changes in Social Security Administration regulations governing the issuance of Social Security Numbers to nonimmigrants, students in F-1 or J-1 visa status are only allowed to receive Social Security Numbers if they have proof of on-campus employment or off-campus work authorization from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

Many University of California Santa Cruz international students have only been in the United States for a very short period of time and do not have such employment. Therefore, they are not eligible for Social Security Numbers.

However, an international student admitted UCSC has proven his/her financial support to UCSC and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Department of State (DOS) as part of the visa issuance process. For the 2021/2022 academic year, UCSC has estimated living expenses at approximately $23,000.

An International student providing all the following materials in lieu of a Social Security Number to a prospective landlord demonstrates his/her financial resource:

1. This letter from the University of California Santa Cruz’s International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) office.
2. A bank statement of personal or sponsor’s funds demonstrating monies to cover one year of program tuition and living expenses. The appropriate dollar amounts are as follows:
   - Undergraduate programs: $72,726
   - Graduate programs: $64,485
3. Letter of acceptance from University of California Santa Cruz

International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) asks for you to accept this as verification of financial support and to give positive consideration to an international student’s rental application.

Sincerely,

International Student and Scholar Services
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1156 High St., Classroom Unit Building
Santa Cruz, CA 95064
Tel: (831) 459-2858
Website: http://isss.ucsc.edu/index.html