Engineering 3+2 Program

The Samueli School of Engineering & Division of Continuing Education
University of California, Irvine

Overview

Founded in 1965, the University of California Irvine is located in sunny Orange County, California, about 50 Miles of Los Angeles. The school is known for its excellent geographical location, learning and living environment, and the support from a large number of high-tech enterprises in Orange County, making UCI the fastest growing school in the UC system. The faculty includes internationally renowned scholars and researchers who are dynamic, dedicated teachers. Five UCI researchers have also won Nobel Prizes.

UCI has been ranked top 10 among the nation's public universities – and 33th overall – on U.S. News & World Report's 2025 list of "Best Colleges". The Samueli School of Engineering is ranked 31st in U.S. News & World Report's current listing of best public engineering schools. The School of Engineering includes the following six departments: Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, Civil and Environmental Engineering, Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, Materials Science Engineering, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Biomedical Engineering. Among the 160 professors, there are 17 faculty members who are members of the National Academy of Engineering. Faculty members are scholars and leaders in their disciplines and have achieved worldwide honors and recognition for their pioneering research and dedicated teaching.

The Engineering 3+2, organized jointly by the University of California, Irvine (UCI) and our partner universities, is a program designed for students to obtain two degrees in five years – a Bachelor's Degree from home institutes and a Master's Degree from UCI. Students will complete three full academic years of courses at the home institute, and study abroad at UCI for the remaining two years. During the first year at Irvine, each student will be required to take selective UCI engineering courses to fulfill graduation requirements from home institute. The student also has the opportunity to work on a specific research project under the supervision of a faculty mentor from UCI and take 2-3 graduate elective courses counting toward the graduate degree, while he/she is in preparation to apply to corresponding graduate programs. Upon graduate admission, students who successfully complete the second year at UCI and satisfy the M.S. degree requirements in their field of study will be awarded the Master's Degree by UCI. Students also have the option to directly apply for the Ph.D. degree during the first year at UCI.

Program Highlights

- Two degrees in five years
- Differentiating yourself with international experiences in the U.S.
- Opportunity to conduct cutting-edge research
- Experiencing global education
- Exploring innovation
- Customized English writing course for engineering and GRE Preparation course

Program Criteria

- Engineering Major (identified by partner universities)
- Completion of at least three full academic years of study
- Minimum GPA requirement: 3.3 on a 4.0 scale
- English Proficiency: 85 iBT/550 PBT TOEFL, or 7.0 IELTS.

Program Cost

- Year 1: About $33,000
- Year 2: About $36,000

Living expenses are about $20,000 per academic year, depending on lifestyle.

Please note: housing is not guaranteed, students will need to secure their own housing.

Application Procedure

- Partner universities will identify eligible engineering students based on class rank or GPA, by mid-January 2026*, and submit the following student documents:
    - Information Template
    - Transcript
    - TOEFL or IELTS record
    - Resume/CV
- UCI will conduct online interview among the selected students, in February 2026
- Admission results will be published, by end of February 2026
- Student will confirm acceptance of offer, by March 15, 2026
- Students will be invited to complete the program application by May 1, 2026

* If more time is needed for collecting applicants, please contact us.

Year 1

- Program start date: mid-September 2026
- Summer course: Online Scientific Writing course in August 2026
- Study plan must be approved by faculty from home institute
- Minimum 12 units each quarter (including research or senior design project)
- Up to three (3) UCI graduate-level courses
- Submit graduate program applications by department deadlines, including GRE if needed (some departments have waived GRE requirement)

Year 2

- Receive B.S. degree from home institute upon completion of Year 1 at UCI
- Minimum 12 units each quarter
- Maintaining a GPA of 3.0 and above
- Receive UCI M.S. degree upon fulfilling all degree requirement

Program Website

http://sites.uci.edu/engr32/