PUBLIC TRANSIT IN LA

Los Angeles is considered a car culture, and most people say that you need to invest in a car in order to live here. The LA Study Away Program strongly recommends that students either rent a car in LA or drive their own cross-country. However, while it’s true that having a car will make getting around the city much easier, and is necessary for certain internship responsibilities like on-set work and runs, some students have successfully navigated their semester in LA via the bus, subway, and occasional cab rides.

Shaniece Cole, a Spring 2012 intern/Summer 2013 RA and a master of time management, managed to intern 5 days a week at two different internships, attend dance and acting auditions, and make it on time to all of her classes at Oakwood during Spring 2012. Shaniece put together this handy information for those of you who won’t have access to a car during all or part of your time in LA.

---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Taking public transit in LA is simple as long as you remember one thing: TIME MANAGEMENT.

If your destination says 20 minutes away, expect to add 30 minutes to 1 hour to that.

Taking public transportation will take longer, but there are benefits to it:

1) You SAVE money!

- A bus ride is $1.50 and they offer what is called a TAP Pass that you can add money to. What’s great is that you can purchase this on the bus, but you MUST HAVE CASH!!
- A TAP pass is $6 to start, and once you pay this, you don’t have to pay the TAP Pass fee again.
- A day pass is $5 (can be bought on the bus)
- A weekly pass is $20 (can be bought at the metro stations with cash or credit card)
- A monthly pass is $75, but only use this if you are at your internship 5 days a week.

NOTE: On average, people spend about $40-$60 a week on gas, depending on how far they have to commute, which can total around $200 a month. To top it off, gas isn’t cheap these days! In LA, gas is currently over $4 per gallon.
2) You AVOID Traffic

- LA is known for its outrageous traffic, and in some cases, a drive that takes 30 minutes in no traffic can take up to 2 hours in heavy traffic.
- By taking public transit, you avoid the freeways (101, 405) that usually cause these traffic jams.

3) You MEET people

- Just because you take public transit does not mean that you are poor, it just means that you want to save money.
- You never know who could be on a bus; an executive, an actor, a casting director, a producer, you name it!

Bus 222

From the Oakwood Apartments, the main bus to take is the 222, which will take you in the direction of Hollywood or the Burbank studios. These stops are located outside of the main gate of Oakwood. If your apartment is near the South Clubhouse (close to the main entrance) then it shouldn’t take you more than 5 minutes to walk to the bus stop. If your apartment is near the North Clubhouse (the back end of the apartment complex), you should allow 10 minutes to get from your apartment to the bus stop.

The bus comes every 40 minutes during the weekdays and every hour on the weekends for each direction (towards Hollywood/Highland for the Hollywood area, and towards Forest Lawn Drive for Burbank). Here is the link to the bus schedule for 222: [http://media.metro.net/riding_metro/bus_overview/images/222.pdf](http://media.metro.net/riding_metro/bus_overview/images/222.pdf)

NOTE: The Media Metro site also lists other bus routes in the California area.

Bus 4

This bus goes to West Hollywood. If your internships are in Santa Monica or Culver City, this is the bus that you need to depend on.

To get to this bus, you have to take the 222 in the direction of Hollywood/Highland and get off at Highland. You then walk south to Santa Monica Blvd. (that will take about 10 to 15 minutes). There are two bus stops there; one on each side of the street for each direction, but the common one to take will be located across the street from Walgreens. Bus #4 goes towards majority of the media companies located in Culver City and Santa Monica. This bus comes every 10 to 15 minutes.
Metro Red Line

The Metro can be used to get to some of the major neighborhoods and attractions in Los Angeles (downtown LA, North Hollywood, Hollywood and Highland, Universal City Walk, Wilshire Blvd., etc.) Taking the metro is similar to take the subway in Philadelphia and is actually a lot faster than the bus depending on where you are going.

In order to get to the closest metro from the Oakwood, you have to take the 222 to Universal City or Hollywood Blvd.

If you are going towards Hollywood and Highland by bus, there are two metro stops that you can get off at: the Hollywood and Vine stop or the Hollywood and Highland stop.

If you are going in the direction of Forest Lawn/Burbank, the closest metro is located at Universal City. Some people drive to the metro stations, and leave their cars there so they can take the metro routes to avoid heavy traffic in the mornings and evenings. It is also nice to take the metro to congested areas such as Hollywood and Highland or downtown where parking is limited and/or expensive. To park your car in the metro lot for the day ranges from $10 to $20 depending on which one you go to.

The subway comes every ten minutes.

To transfer from bus to Metro, it is $1.50 as well, but if you are transferring from Metro to Metro, it’s only 35 cents.

You can also use your TAP Pass for the subway and they have refilling stations for the card at the Hollywood and Vine station and the Universal City station.

Metro Purple Line

If your internship is located on Wilshire Blvd. or in Beverly Hills, this is the line that you should be familiar with.

To get on this line, you have to take the 222 from Oakwood to Hollywood Blvd, and then take the Metro Red Line to the Metro Purple Line.

Take the Metro Red Line toward the Purple Line, then once you are on the Purple Line, take it towards Wilshire Blvd.

The subway comes every ten minutes.
Metro Blue Line

If you need to go downtown, this is the route that you take. Take the red line towards downtown, then switch to the blue line in the direction of the Staples Center. The blue line actually goes all the way to Long Beach, mostly above ground, if you are in the mood for an adventure that takes you through the grittier neighborhoods of South LA. (Daytime travel recommended).

The LAX Flyaway Bus

The LAX Flyaway Bus runs between Van Nuys or Union Station (in downtown LA) and LAX for $8.00 one way. When you first get to LA with a bunch of luggage, it makes more sense to take the SuperShuttle for $28, since it will take you directly from LAX to Oakwood without having to change to the metro and bus. However, if you wind up needing to travel to LAX during your time here, or you have friends come to visit you, this is a good option to be aware of. The easiest way to take advantage of it is to have someone drop you off at the nearest metro station, then take the flyaway bus from Union Station to LAX. The buses are comfortable, air-conditioned and modern, and much more relaxing in rush hour than driving.


NOTES AND TIPS

WARNING: To get into the Metro stations, you have to tap your card; however, there are no barricades that you go through after you put tokens in like in the Philadelphia stations. This makes it easy for people to just walk through without paying. DO NOT DO IT! You can get fined up to $250 if you do not pay for your fare. Just know that someone is always watching.

NOTE: LA traffic is heaviest between 7am-10am in the mornings and 4-8pm during the evenings. Knowing this, you should ALWAYS leave a cushion of extra time just in case you run into traffic. This applies to bus routes and driving only; the metro routes are not affected by street traffic.

ALSO, plan your transportation schedule so that you can arrive at least 30 minutes before your internship starts.

PHONE USERS: There is an app called ‘Metro App’ that will allow you to pull up bus routes and schedules on your phone. Another great thing about the app is that it tells you how far away the bus is. This app can be downloaded for free on iPhones and Androids.

Having a car does make life easier, but if you are on a tight budget and can find an internship that doesn’t require runs or long drives to set, taking public transportation is a viable alternative if you are organized and motivated to make it work.