Kiki Araki-Kawaguchi
Preferred Pronouns: He/him/his
Email: harakika@ucsd.edu
Program Coordinator for Transfer Year Experience at UCSD

Hometown: Santa Maria, CA
Transferred From: Allan Hancock College
Transferred To: UC Berkeley & Santa Clara University
Time to Transfer: 9 years between all degrees

Research Interests: Literature, Creative Writing, Poetry, Fiction, Speculative Literature, Fantasy, Comedy

Hobbies: Writing, Netflix, Badminton

Advice for Transfer Students: “Find an on-campus job ASAP, preferably at a place like the Campus Community Centers, Basic Needs Hub, Academic Integrity Office, OASIS, Library (i.e. a team environment). On-campus work means you are pre-committed to working with staff (mentors) and student leaders (peers). Finding community is key. You’ll also be pre-committed to developing your professional, leadership and communication skills. The extra money is nice too.”

Grace Bagunu
Email: gbagunu@ucsd.edu
Assistant Dean of Student Affairs, Revelle College

Hometown: Kansas City, Missouri
Transferred from: University of Kansas
Transferred to: University of Missouri - Kansas City
Time to Transfer: I actually dropped out of college in my second year and took a full year off before transferring to my second university

Research Interests: Leadership, Career Decision-Making, Higher Education, Philippine-descent

Hobbies: Walks to the sunset, Pokémon Go, Gardening, art

Advice for Transfer Students: “Make the most out of the resources and opportunities available to you in college, including the programs and staff who can connect you to more experiences that will help you reach your goals!”
Tina Brilli
Preferred Pronouns: She/her/hers
Email: cbrilli@ucsd.edu
Study Abroad Financial Aid Counselor

Hometown: Seattle, WA
Transferred From: Shoreline Community College
Transferred to: University of Washington
Time to Transfer: 3 years

Research Interests: Economics, Business, Finance and Corporate Governance

Hobbies: I love all forms of art and am a huge Comic-Con fan!

Advice for Transfer Students: “1) Take advantage of all the opportunities on campus you can find. 2) get to know your professors and ask about opportunities that may be available related to your interests. 3) Start taking advantage of any networking opportunities you can as soon as possible. Get on LinkedIn and add your classmates, professors, etc. 4) You bring value to this campus! Remember that your lived experience is valuable and an advantage on your journey! :)

Tori Bussey-Neal
Preferred pronouns: She/her/hers
Email: vbusseyn@ucsd.edu
Student Success Coach

Hometown: San Diego, CA
Transferred from: CSU Long Beach
Transferred to: San Diego State University
Time to Transfer: 2 years

Research interests: students of color and college retention, college students of color and sense of belonging

Hobbies: Listening to R&B music, going to concerts, dancing, collecting vinyl records, trying new foods, attending arts related events
Advice for Transfer Students: “Be intentional with your time here, not just academically and preparing for your career, but also socially and personally. Join clubs, go to events, explore and adventure! The social experience in college is just as valuable as the academics and professional development. You belong at this campus too and the opportunities are endless! Time may be short, but take advantage of all that this experience has to offer you!”

**Roberta Camarena**
Preferred Pronouns: She/her/hers/Ella  
Email: [rcamarena@ucsd.edu](mailto:rcamarena@ucsd.edu)  
Assistant Director, Admissions, Diversity Recruitment

Hometown: San Diego, CA  
Transferred From: San Diego City College  
Transferred to: UC San Diego  
Time to Transfer: 1 year, this was prior to the 60 minimum transferable unit requirement

Research Interests: Biology & Education  
Hobbies: Mentoring

Advice for Transfer Students: “Get involved early at both the community college and university. The splice through your undergraduate education makes it challenging, but not impossible to get involved in research and socially.”

**Risa Farrell**
Preferred pronouns: She/her/hers  
Email: [rmfarrell@ucsd.edu](mailto:rmfarrell@ucsd.edu)  
Program Coordinator, SIO Masters of Advanced Studies

Hometown: Sacramento, CA  
Transferred From: American River College  
Transferred to: UC San Diego  
Time to Transfer: 2.5 years

Research interests: Global health, maternal health, immigration, art  
Hobbies: surfing, camping, farmer’s markets, gardening
Advice for Transfer Students: “Get involved on campus as soon as possible, especially if it’s a work study or paid position in an area you’re interested in. Getting involved helps you to quickly establish community, get your bearings in a new environment, and strategize on how to make the most of your (relatively) short time on campus. Also, get to know your advisors well! They have so many ‘life hack’ tips and often know where the free food is.”

Aia Hawari
Preferred pronouns: She/her/hers
Email: ajhawari@ucsd.edu
Front Desk Coordinator at IFSO

Hometown: Fountain Valley, CA
Transferred from: Golden West College
Transferred to: UC San Diego
Time to Transfer: 2 years

Research interests: student success, marginalized/minority student experiences (i.e. first generation students)

Hobbies: writing, exploring San Diego, connection with folx

Advice for Transfer Students: “When it comes to friendships, it’s not about the quantity, but rather the quality. Seek community; it’ll make things so much easier.”

Natalie Ikker
Preferred pronouns: she/her/hers
Email: nbikker@ucsd.edu
Undergraduate Student Affairs Advisor

Hometown: Oceanside, CA
Transferred from: Palomar College
Transferred to: UC Irvine
Time to Transfer: 2 years

Hobbies: Ceramics, spending time with friends and loved ones, exploring new places, and enjoying beautiful San Diego
Advice for Transfer Students: “Take time to explore your goals, academic strengths, passions, career interests, and the involvement opportunities you would like to take part in during your time at UICSD. Time goes by quickly, so don’t be afraid to ask questions and challenge yourself to make the most out of your time here!”

Jessica Kongthong
Preferred pronouns: she/her/hers
Email: jkongthong@ucsd.edu
Associate Director, Health Professions

Hometown: Cleveland, Ohio
Transferred From: The Ohio State University
Transferred to: University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Hobbies: Fitness, reading, mindfulness, traveling, music, volunteering with Guide Dogs or rescue dogs

Advice for Transfer Students: “Get connected! Know your resources and get involved in some extra-curricular activities. Know that you’re not alone!”