Contributors

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Golden Advice:
« Don't think small. You have a limitless community around yourself, at Stanford that you can find your true passion/interests. Talk to many people, professors, students, form a good network. Expose yourself to many areas at Stanford. It is a golden community, once in a lifetime, make sure you are using the best out of it. »

Social Advice:
« Talk to many people, professors, students, form a good network ».
« Bechtel International Center or extra curricular activities (such as PSA) on Campus can be a good opportunity for mingling and increasing your social activities. »

Financial Advice:
« Stanford Credit Union is great since they provide Stanford students credit cards without need of Social Security Number »

Academic Advice:
« You need to study hard, but don't rely solely on yourself. Get out, seek help from TAs, professors, fellow classmates (this makes life much easier). Be proactive. If you like an area in one of your courses, go to the prof and ask for more reads. Or, get involved in an academic team/lab which focuses on that area (by offering voluntarily support). You can later on use this volunteer experience in your resume.»

General Advice:
« You are going to have so many doors open to you in your future! Be grateful and humble for being chosen for this :) »

Good Deal:
« Check supost.com for some second hand stuff. »
Golden Advice:
«Have a daily routine. Develop habits that serve you and eliminate the ones which don't. The effects of habits are PHENOMENAL!»

Social Advice:
«Believe in yourself. You are the most deserved to receive the best. No matter how good your English is or what some American people might think about Iran and Iranians, believe in the fact that "you're good enough and the most deserved"; start conversing with people around you with this belief and enjoy the prolific relationships you will make with the amazing people living in the bay area.»

Financial Advice:
«I recommend Stanford Credit Union as a good place to open checking and saving accounts in; they are very understanding when it comes to international students. They also have low-APR auto loans!».  
«Once you build your credit score - a year after you receive your first credit card - start applying for other credit cards to improve your credit score even more.»

Academic Advice:
«Attend the TA sessions; they are superhelpful especially when it comes to the first quarters at Stanford and also the courses you don't have any background in.»

General Advice:
«As Keith Ferrazzi beautifully puts it "Disregard the myth of the lone professional “superman” and the rest of our culture’s go-it-alone mentality. The real path to success in your work and in your life is through creating an inner circle of “lifeline relationships” – deep, close relationships with a few key trusted individuals who will offer the encouragement, feedback, and generous mutual support every one of us needs to reach our full potential."»

Good Deal:
«Uber and Lyft have some good discounts/promo codes for the new members - make sure you use them when opening accounts in these apps; you can't use those promo codes after your first ride.»

Koosha Nassiri
Golden Advice:
«Do not let anything or anybody ever impress you, let them inspire you instead. »

Social Advice:
«Step out of your comfort zone. Don't just hang out with Iranians. Truly get to know people, ask them about who they are, where they come from, what inspires them. Listen to what people have to say, especially if it comes from the heart. Tell them about yourself only if asked. »

Financial Advice:
«Start building your credit history early, even if it's with a $500 credit limit card. Always pay the full amount. »

Academic Advice:
«Don't just spend your time on getting A+ grades. Be curious about everything around you, step out of your comfort zone. »

General Advice:
«The best way to know your friends is to travel with them. Travel as often as you can while you are young. Invest in a good ILC (Interchangeable Lens Camera) system (DSLR or Mirrorless). Don't rely on awful cell phone cameras for the amazing memories you will want to cherish for life with your PSA buddies. »
Golden Advice:
«Always stand for your rights and get the things you have rights to have.»

Social Advice:
«Do not wait for others to Start the conversation, form a group study, activate your fb! »

Financial Advice:
«Try to open an account which does not charge you any fee. »

Academic Advice:
«Believe in partial credits, never leave a question blank.»

General Advice:
«Have your self-confidence everywhere with you »

Good Deal:
«Use online shopping, eBay and amazon. Spotify family plan »

Yasaman Shirian
Golden Advice:
«It's super difficult, but do your best to avoid underestimating and overestimating yourself.»

Social Advice:
«Step out of your comfort zone. It's much easier to embarrass yourself when it's your first year here than when you have lived here for 10 years. Ask things you don't know.»

Financial Advice:
«If you are on a fellowship, apply to be a grader. It's good money, and it helps you get your SSN faster too.»

Academic Advice:
«If you are a PhD student, take time to explore different research fields. You want to see other topics too, before committing to a research topic for ~5 years.»

General Advice:
«Don't be scared to jump deep in the pool, but don't be stupid. (I couldn't be more general than that :D)»

Good Deal:
«This is not golden, but it's definitely worth checking out the loan closet: http://ccisstanfordu.org/programs/loancloset.htm»
Golden Advice:
«Focus»

Social Advice:
«Dance clubs»

Academic Advice:
«Don't worry about prerequisites. You should be smart enough to figure out what you set you are passionate about. Just take what you like to take. Stanford life is too short to worry about these things.»

General Advice:
«Don't let Stanford turn you into a know-it-all»

Milad Mortazavi
Golden Advice:
« Embrace every aspect of Stanford! (You'll know what I mean soon) »

Social Advice:
« Don't be afraid of engaging in a conversation! The trick for overcoming your language barrier is only to talk as much as possible! »

Academic Advice:
« Start your HW as soon as possible (Don't wait to finish all the lectures and everything before start doing HW) »

General Advice:
« Take your Driving Licence and SSN as soon as you can! »

Good Deal:
« Be careful about the bike you wanna buy! You might need a road bike, or a very very cheap bike, just consider your situation and buy correspondingly! »
Golden Advice:
«Try to be social :). Start doing sports from week one. Ask people for help if you need some before hitting dar o divar. »

Social Advice:
«Go to all the PSA events! check the events at Bechtel international center, It's a great place to meet new people. Be careful with Tinder! :) »

Financial Advice:
«Check the Stanford loan closet before you go shopping for home appliances. You can usually borrow a good microwave oven, toaster, dishes... for free for the duration of your stay. Check SU-post for bikes. »

Academic Advice:
«Try to experience different topics that you were not exposed to before and talk to many people before picking your research topic. You don’t have to do exactly what you wrote in your SOP. »

General Advice:
«If it's your first time in an English speaking country, invest time in improving your English. It would make a big difference in your experience. »

Amir Hossein Delgoshaei
Golden Advice:
« Stick to your gut feeling and create your own, unique Stanford journey. Everybody has a different story and a different working style. Don't try to follow the trend; create your own. »

Academic Advice:
« Go to office hours and do as many past papers as you possibly can. Also remember, what works for everyone may not necessarily work for you. If it takes you longer to do a pset, that's OKAY! »

Julie Saffarian
Golden Advice:
« I feel that many students are reticent to go and speak/email with professors, workers, engineers in the valley because they don’t dare. People are here to help you, so use this opportunity while you are a student. Dare. »

Social Advice:
« Mix with students! Don't stay only with Iranians. We try to make the Iranian community more integrated, they are many what'sapp groups for international students :). Also, go to saddle rack, come to soccer on Wednesdays, come to PSA events! »

Financial Advice:
« For TAships, if you're in the loop and have good reviews, you may always have an assistantship. The hard part is to get in the loop. Ask your peers if they can recommend you to a professor they know, some may be able to help you get in the loop! »

Academic Advice:
« Don't take too much units in a quarter. If you're doing TA or RA, my advice would be to take maximum 2 hard classes. »

General Advice:
« Don't stay alone, Stanford is really hard if you don't mix with people. Take time for sports, find partners. Visit California, it's so beautiful! »

Good Deal:
« Loan closet in Escondido Village is great! Take something you need and bring it back when you leave Stanford! »