Once you receive admission, follow these steps to NIF and obtain your visa.

1. Submit Statement of Intent to Register*
   - Access & complete the above steps at [calcentral.berkeley.edu](http://calcentral.berkeley.edu)
   - *Except EAP & readmitted students

2. BIO reviews your NIF
   - **Incomplete NIFs:** BIO will email you. This may delay processing
   - **Congratulations!** Your NIF is complete
   - Complete the [iStart 101 Course](http://istart101course)

3. BIO mails your I-20 or DS 2019
   - Log into NIF to obtain SEVIS ID number
   - Pay SEVIS fee using SEVIS ID number*
   - Check out BIO’s [pre-arrival resources](http://pre-arrivalresources)

4. Make Visa appointment*
   - Receive I-20 or DS 2019
   - Apply for & obtain [Visa](http://visa)
   - Make arrival plans (no earlier than 30 days prior to I-20 or DS 2019 start date)

5. Enter US with proper documents
   - Complete [online arrival confirmation](http://onlinearrivalconfirmation)
   - Be sure you are [registered](http://registered) (enrolled & tuition/fees paid)
   - Welcome to Cal! Attend [orientation](http://orientation)

**Approximate Processing Times**

- **1-5 days**
  - 1-5 days
  - 10 business days
  - 1-4+ weeks
  - 1-3 months (average)

**Approximate Mailing Times**

- **Express mail:** 3-5 days
- **USPS airmail:** 1-4+ weeks

**Consult your US Embassy/Consulate for visa processing times as they vary**

*This may not apply to Canadian citizens or [SEVIS transfer students](http://sevistransferstudents)*

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**International Office**

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