



## Is this webinar for me?

- You have an I-20 or DS-2019 from UC Berkeley
- You are a new F-1/J-1 Degree-seeking Student or new UCEAP Exchange Student
  - A J-1 student has one of the following categories listed in Section 4 of the DS-2019: STUDENT-NON-DEGREE, STUDENT BACHELORS, STUDENT MASTERS OR STUDENT DOCTORATE.
- You are NOT a J-1 Scholar, post-doc, or Visiting Student Researcher
- You have questions about current travel and immigration requirements!
- Other questions: Employment, changing visa categories, academic issues? Please meet with a BIO advisor!

## Enrollment Requirements

- Reminder- F-1/J-1 students are required to enroll <u>full-time</u>.
- Online coursework is very limited! Your enrollment must be primarily inperson coursework. Only 1 course or 3 units of online coursework is allowed due to normal F/J visa regulations.
- You can search for classes using the <u>Berkeley Academic guide</u>, which also allows you to filter for mode of instruction.
- A class is 100% online if the course <u>instructional mode</u> mode is listed as "Online" or "Web-based.
- Courses considered "in-person" are coded with "In Person" instructional mode

# Late Arrival?

- BIO will work with students who face arrival difficulties for Spring 2024
- This may include: late arrivals, readmission and return after deferral/withdrawal, and how to receive updated I-20/DS-2019 documents if needed.
- Arriving after the start of instruction for Spring 2024?

#### Step 1:

- EAP (Exchange) students should contact UCEAP to determine if they will be allowed to enter after the start of the term.
- **Degree seeking students:** First contact your academic department to see what options are possible for you.

#### Step 2:

Contact BIO: internationaloffice@berkeley.edu
 We'll determine the best next steps.

# Cancellation? Admission Deferral?

 Admissions Deferrals- If you have been approved for an official deferral of your admission to a future semester, please <u>notify Berkeley International Office</u>. Upon notification by Admissions or UCEAP of your official deferral, we will work with you to adjust your I-20 or DS-2019 start date to the future term.

#### • How do I request a deferral?

- EAP students should contact UCEAP
- **Degree-seeking undergraduates** will need to contact the <u>Office of Admissions</u> to determine if you have an option to defer to a future semester.
- **Degree-seeking graduate students** must communicate with their academic department regarding any option to defer.
- Withdrawal- <u>Contact Berkeley International Office</u> regarding your cancellation/withdrawal for approval prior to withdrawal or cancellation.
  - Review the <u>Registrar's Cancellation/Withdrawal information</u> regarding cancellation/withdrawal processes, impacts to your UC Berkeley admission, tuition/fees, and deadlines.
  - If you intend to attend UC Berkeley in the future, BIO recommends consulting with your College adviser (undergrads) or your department (graduate) before taking any steps to cancel or withdraw.

# What type of visa do I need?

Non-immigrant visa

Sponsored by your school

Allow you to remain in the U.S. for duration of status

**Employment benefits** 

F-1 or J-1? Which status is right for you?



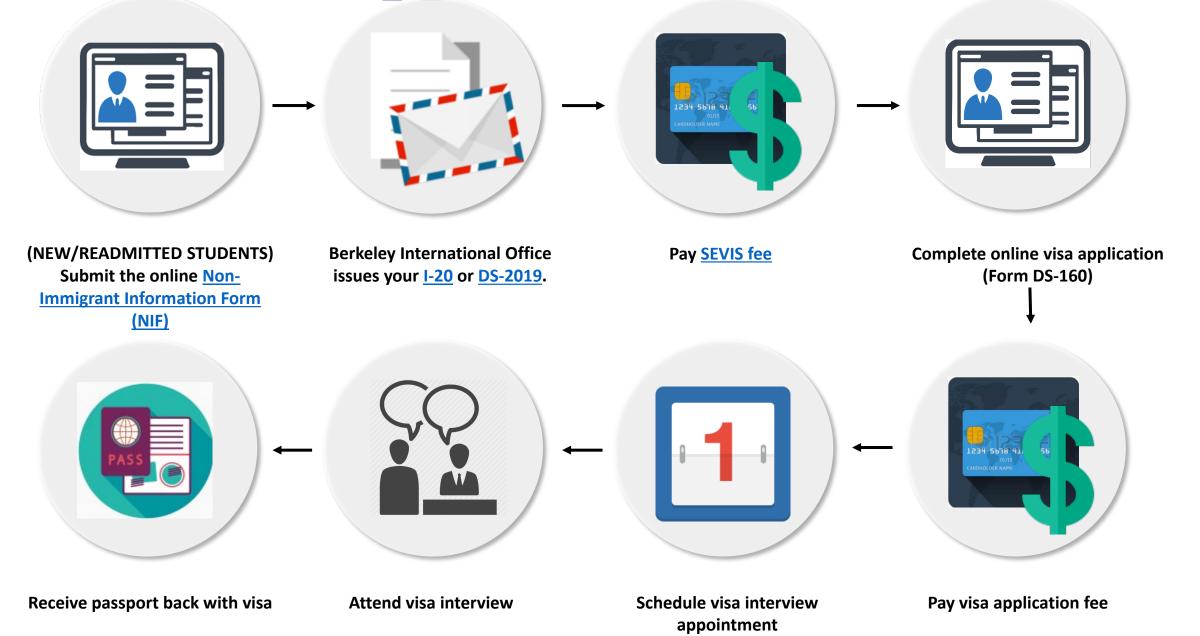
Other visa categories that allow study:

H4, J-2, E-2, TD

 $\otimes$  B1, B2, and F-2 prohibit full-time study



# **The Application Process**



# **Apply Early**

#### **NIF Processing**: 10-15 business days

- F-1 I-20s & J-1 DS-2019s will be emailed
- See the <u>Arrival Process Timeline</u> for an overview

Visa Processing time

- Wait times for visa appointments and processing vary by location; apply as early as possible to avoid delays.
- Find your consulate location and <u>current wait</u> <u>times</u>.

Visa application fees, forms and appointment scheduling are all accessible online



#### Your I-20 or DS-2019

Pay the visa

interview appointment Attend visa interview

Receive visa

- Certificate of Eligibility; Allows you to apply for an F-1 or J-1 student visa.
- Contains details about you, your school, and program of study.

Complete the visa application form

- To request your I-20 or DS-2019, you must complete the <u>Non-immigrant Information Form</u> (<u>NIF</u>).
- BIO will email this document to you.

SEVIS ID number is located in the top right corner.

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## Pay the SEVIS Fee

Pay the visa

**SEVIS**: Student and Exchange Visitor Information System

 Make this payment after receiving SEVIS ID and at least 3 days before applying for a visa.

Attend visa interview

Receive visa

- The fee amount is subject to change, you may pay online at and find the most up-to-date information at: <a href="http://www.fmjfee.com">www.fmjfee.com</a>
- Print your receipt after payment!



Receive the l-0 or DS-201

> After paying the SEVIS fee, Canadian citizens do not need to complete the remaining steps for visa application. Canadian citizens will apply at the border with <u>required arrival documents</u>.

U.S. Imm and Cust Enforcen	
Student and	Exchange Visitor Program: SEVIS I-901 Fee OMB 1653-0034 (Expires 04/30/2015)
lome	Welcome
	Welcome to the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) SEVIS I-901 Fee processing website.
<u>lelp</u> 6EVIS Main Page	This site provides automated capabilities that support the payment of the fee for F-1, F-3, M-1, M-3, and J-1 Non-immigrants required and authorized by Public Law 104-208, Subtitle D, Section 641. Please continue to read below.
Submit Form I-901 Ind Fee Payment	Please visit the <b>Recent News and Updates</b> page for up to date information on changes to the I-901 payment process.
	Notice of OMB 1653-0034 Expiration
<u>Check I-901 Status /</u> Print Payment Confirmation	The OMB number on your receipt shows an expiration date of January 31, 2015. This date does NOT affect your I-901 payment receipt nor does it mean your fee will expire on January 31, 2015. It is for government, internal use only.
Recent News and Jpdates	To complete and submit a new SEVIS Form I-901 and pay the I-901 Fee, click the Submit Form I-901 and Fee Payment button.
<u>Contact Us</u>	Submit Form I-901 and Fee Payment To check the status of your Form I-901 or I-901 Fee payment, click the Check I-901 Status / Print Payment Confirmation button.
Call DHS: (US)1-703-603-3400	Check I-901 Status / Print Payment Confirmation

#### Find the U.S. Embassy or Consulate near you

• Go to <u>www.usembassy.gov</u>.

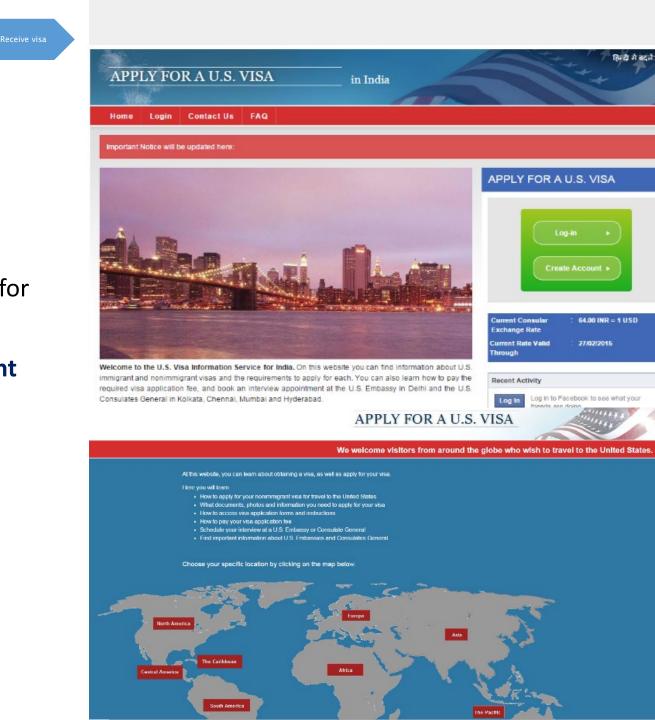
Receive the I-20 or DS-2019

• Check your local embassy or consulate's website for specific visa application instructions.

Pay the visa pplication fee

interview appointment

 Look for instructions to apply for a Non-Immigrant Visa



#### Form DS-160

Pay the SEVIS

Receive the I-20 or DS-2019

Online visa application form for all non-immigrant visas.

Pay the visa application fee

Receive visa

- NOTE: Visas cannot be issued from inside the United States. You must be **physically present** in the country in which you are applying for the visa.
- Select your embassy location first.
- When completed, print the confirmation page with a barcode when complete.



### **DS-160** Tips

#### U.S. Point of Contact:

Pay the SEVIS

Receive the I-20 or DS-2019

- <u>Berkeley International Office</u>- you can use our address/phone and the name of the DSO on your I-20/DS-2019
- U.S.-based Family member or friend

Address where you will stay in the U.S.

 It's okay if you don't know where you will live longterm

Pay the visa application fee

interview appointment Attend visa interview

Receive visa

• Provide an address where you may stay when you first arrive (hotel, friend's house, etc)

#### Photo

- Upload your photo while completing the online Form DS-160.
- Check the photo guidelines on the official website

LIC D	EPARTMENT of STATE	Select Tooltip Language D	EUTSCH (GERMAN)
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- COMPLETE	PHOTO	REVIEW	SIGN
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Getting Started			ESTIMATED BURDEN: 75 MI
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Personal 2			
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Previous U.S. Travel			listed in your passport, enter that Surname.
U.S. Contact	Given Names		
Family	(e.g., JUAN MIGUEL)		Help: Given Names
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entered data.			professional name, or any other names which
			you are known by or have been known by in
			the past.

## Pay the visa application fee

Receive visa

#### Non-refundable fee

Pay the SEVIS

- Sometimes called the "MRV" fee or "NIV" application fee.
- Payment instructions are specific to your local U.S. embassy.
- See the Dept. of State website for <u>current fees</u>
- Print your receipt!



# Schedule visa interview appointment

Pay the visa

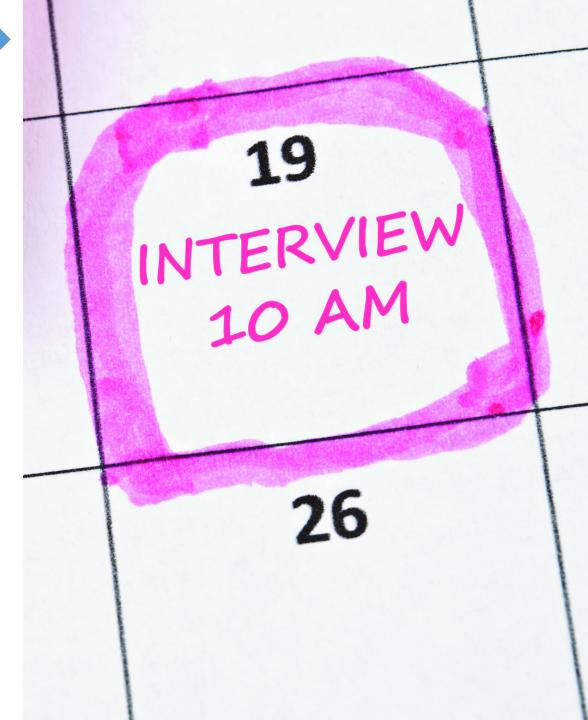
Receive the l

Attend visa interview

Receive visa

Follow instructions given by the U.S. embassy or consulate where you intend to apply.

Do not wait to schedule! Wait times for appointments can be long during summer months. Schedule as soon as possible!



# **Preparing for the interview**

Pay the visa

Attend visa interview

Receive visa

Check the U.S. embassy website for a complete list of documents required for the interview. Prepare to bring:

Passport

Receive the l-

- I-20 or DS-2019
- Acceptance letter(New Students) or / Proof of enrollment (readmitted students)
- Proof of funding (financial statements, award letters)
- SEVIS Fee receipt
- DS-160 Confirmation page



#### The interview

Complete the visa applicatio form

What to expect

Receive the l-0 or DS-201

• Security at the U.S. Embassy - find out what items will not be allowed inside the building before you go.

Pay the visa

interview appointmen Receive visa

- Wait for your number to be called.
- A brief interview; only a few minutes!

The interviewer is interested in:

- Your studies
- Non-immigrant intent
- Financial ability
- Language ability



#### **Interview Tips**

Pay the SEVIS

• Answer questions concisely and honestly.

Pay the visa

Receive visa

- Be aware that the consulate may also conduct a social media review. Be smart about what information you post online.
- If you don't understand something, don't be afraid to ask.
- Be respectful and courteous.



**Receive visa** 

Receive the l-0 or DS-2019

Check U.S. embassy website for instructions for passport pick-up or delivery.

Pay the visa

Schedule visa

interview

Attend visa interview

Check the visa for accuracy

- Spelling of your name
- Visa type: F-1or J-1

The maximum length of the visa and number of entries is determined by the visa category and country of citizenship, and is subject to the visa officer's discretion. See the <u>Reciprocity</u> <u>Table</u> for your country of citizenship and the visa category for more information.



### **Security Checks**

- May cause a delay in visa processing, called "Administrative Processing". Contact BIO if you have concerns about a delayed arrival.
- Some cases may resolve in a few weeks.
   Average processing is 60-90 days, but in some cases can take as long as 6 months.
- <u>U.S. Dept. of State Administrative Processing</u> Information
- <u>Berkeley International Office security check</u> <u>information</u>

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF CONSULAR ELECTRONIC APPLICATION	Administrative Processing
7isa Status Check elcome! On this website, you can check your U.S. vi	Application ID or Case Number: Case Creation Date: 20-Dec-2012 Status Updated Date: 21-Dec-2012
Visa Application Type NONIMMIGRANT VISA (NIV)	Your visa case is currently undergoing necessary administrative processing. This processing can take several weeks. Please follow any instructions provided by the Consular Officer at the time of your interview. If further information is needed, you will be contacted. If your visa application is approved, it will be processed and mailed/available within two business days.
Please select a location and enter your Application ID or Cas	For more information, please visit <u>TRAVEL.STATE.GOV.</u>
Select a location MALAYSIA, KUALA LUMPUR	Close
Application 1D or Case Number (e.g., AA0020AKAX or 2012118 345 0001)	
-	Submit +
This site is managed by the Bureau of Co	nsular Affairs, U.S. Department of State. External links to other Internet rsement of the views contained therein.

#### Don't panic if your visa is denied!

Ask for the reason of denial in writing.

Make detailed notes about the interview (officer's name, questions asked, and your answers).

Email <u>internationaloffice@berkeley.edu</u> and recount details including the location of the consulate and the date and time of your interview.

After consulting with a BIO advisor, you may consider to re-apply with <u>additional</u> information that addresses the denial reason.



# Visas for family

Visas for Dependents

- F-2
- J-2

Who's eligible for F-2/J-2?

- Children under 21
- Legally married spouse

How do they apply for F-2/J-2 visa?

- Same DS-160 process!
- May apply with the F-1 or J-1 or independently
- Will need their own documents *and* copies of the F-1/J-1 documents
- For more information see <u>BIO Inviting Family</u> webpage



#### Arriving in the U.S.

NEW STUDENTS: You can enter the U.S. up to **30 days** before the Program Start Date on the I-20 or DS-2019.

Department of Homeland Security U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforce		I-20, Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status OMB NO. 1653-0038		
SEVIS ID: N0004720633				
SURNAME/PRIMARY NAME Sample	GIVEN NAME Student	Class of Admission		
PREFERRED NAME Student Sample, II	PASSPORT NAME	$\mathbf{\Gamma}$ 1		
COUNTRY OF BIRTH LAOS	COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP LAOS	<b>F-1</b>		
DATE OF BIRTH	ADMISSION NUMBER			
FORM ISSUE REASON CONTINUED ATTENDANCE	LEGACY NAME	ACADEMIC AND LANGUAGE		
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#### SCHOOL ATTESTATION

I certify under penalty of perjury that all information provided above was entered before I signed this form and is true and correct. I executed this form in the United States after review and evaluation in the United States after review and evaluation in the United States after school fast of the student's application, transcripts, or other records of courses taken and proof of financial responsibility, which were received at the school prior to the execution of this form. The school has determined that the above named school prior to the execution of this form. The school has determined that the above named school and the student will be required to pursue a full program of study as defined by 8 CFR 214.2(f)(6). I am a designated school official of the above named school and an authorized to issue this form.

 X
 DATE ISSUED
 PLACE ISSUED

 SIGNATURE OF: Helene Robertson, PDSO
 04 May 2016
 Ft. Washington,W

#### STUDENT ATTESTATION

I have read and agreed to comply with the terms and conditions of my admission and those of any extension of stay. I certify that all information provided on this form refers specifically to me and is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I certify that I seek to enter or remain in the United States temporarily, and solely for the purpose of pursuing a full program of study at the school named above. I also authorize the named school to release any information from my records needed by DHS pursuant to 8 CFR 214.3(g) to determine my nonimmigrant status. **Parent or guardian, and student, must sign if student is under 18**.

SIGNATURE OF: Student Sample		DATE	
	x		
NAME OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN	SIGNATURE	ADDRESS (city/state or province/country)	DATE
			-

#### Check your I-20 or DS-2019

Students who *transfer* their I-20/DS-2019 are not subject to the 30-day limit.

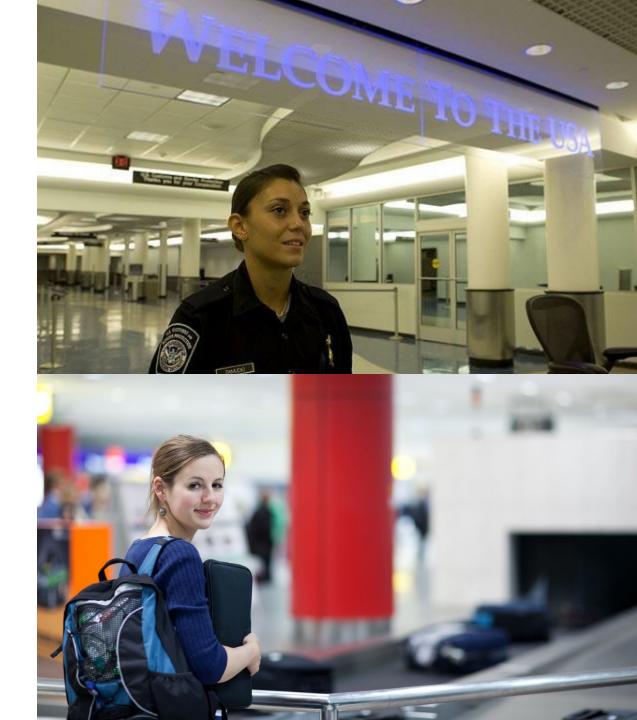
BIO recommends entering at least 1 week before your classes begin

Make sure you arrive before any required Orientation events!

Family Name:		First Name:	Middle Name:	Gender MJ	LR N0001 2
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# **Preparing for Arrival**

- Carry all required documents with you, not in your checked bag!
- If possible, arrive during BIO Office hours Monday-Friday from 10-12 or 1-4pm. If you have a problem during arrival, request that CBP call BIO.
- Do not bring any <u>restricted items</u>. Make sure you follow rules regarding travel with medications, food, or pets.
- Medical and recreational marijuana remains **illegal** under U.S. federal law. Possession or use may result in deportation or incarceration.
- It is **illegal** to bring drug paraphernalia into the United States, unless prescribed for authentic medical conditions such as diabetes.
- Be aware that U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) may inspect your electronic devices.
- See the ACLU's tips regarding precautions you can take to prepare your devices for travel.



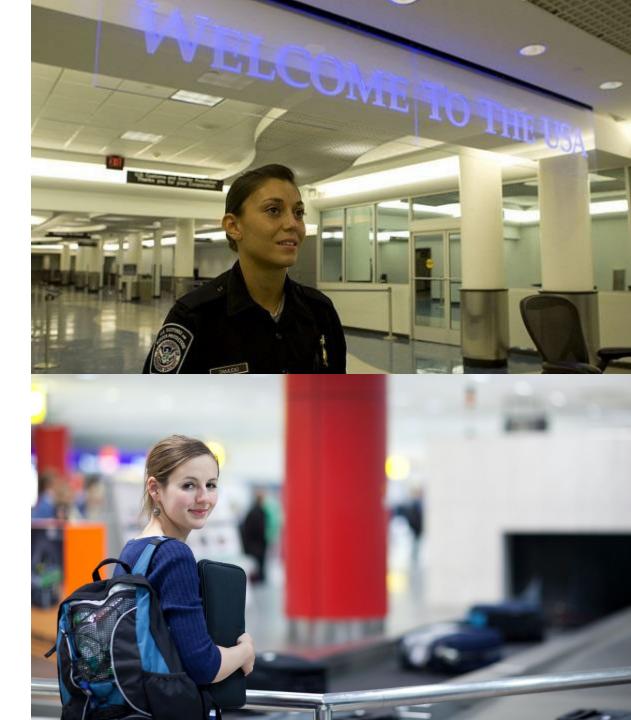
#### **Required Arrival Documents**

Be prepared to present the following documents to the CBP Officer:

- Passport (valid for at least 6 months into the future) with a valid nonimmigrant visa (if applicable)
- Original form <u>I-20</u> or <u>DS-2019</u>
- Evidence of financial resources (see <u>Required</u> <u>Funding Documentation</u>)
- Proof of UC Berkeley admission (new students) or enrollment (current students)
- Proof of SEVIS fee payment

Officers may ask you questions about your reason for entering the U.S., where you are traveling, or about your academic program.

If you encounter problems at entry, please contact Berkeley International Office as soon as possible: <u>http://internationaloffice.berkeley.edu/contact-us</u>





internationaloffice.berkeley.edu

General questions: internationaloffice@berkeley.edu

NIF questions: nif@berkeley.edu

510-642-2818

**Student Advising Hours**:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday (No advising on Wednesday!):

10am-12pm and 1pm-4pm (PT)

https://internationaloffice.berkeley.edu/students/student-services