

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

The Arrival Process

Approximate Processing Times

1

Accept Offer of Admission and pay deposit*

Create bConnected accounts

Review all Tasks & Notifications in Cal Central

Access and complete the NIF Task

Access & complete the above steps at <https://calcentral.berkeley.edu/>
*Except EAP & readmitted students.

Please note: It may take 24-48 hours to gain access to all tasks.

1-5 days

2

BIO reviews your NIF

Incomplete NIFs: BIO will email you. This may delay processing

Congratulations! Your NIF is complete

Complete [iStart 101 Course](#) (grads) or [Golden Bear Prep](#) (undergrads)

Processing time: 10-15 business days from when BIO receives your complete NIF. If you have questions, email NIF@berkeley.edu.

10-15 business days

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](#)

Mailing time: 3-5 day for [express mail](#), 1-4+ weeks for USPS airmail
*Pay SEVIS fee at least 3 days prior to visa appointment

1-4+ weeks

4

Make Visa [appointment](#)*

Receive I-20 or DS 2019

Apply for & obtain [Visa](#)*

Make arrival plans (no earlier than 30 days prior to I-20 or DS 2019 start date*)

Consult your US Embassy/Consulate for visa processing times as they vary
*This may not apply to Canadian citizens or [SEVIS transfer students](#)

1-3 months (average)

5

Enter the U.S. with [proper documents](#)

Complete [arrival confirmation & address reporting](#) tasks

Be sure you are [registered](#) (enrolled & tuition/fees paid)

Welcome to Cal! Attend [orientation](#)

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