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

**The Arrival Process**

1. **Accept Offer of Admission and pay deposit**
   - 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 iStart 101 Course (G) or Golden Bear Prep (UG)

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

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)*

5. **Enter US with proper documents**
   - Complete arrival confirmation & address reporting tasks
   - Be sure you are registered (enrolled & tuition/fees paid)
   - Welcome to Cal! Attend orientation

**Approximate Processing Times**

- 1-5 days
- 10-15 business days
- 1-4+ weeks
- 1-3 months (average)

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

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

**Approximate Processing Times**

- 1-5 day for express mail, 1-4+ weeks for USPS airmail
- *Pay SEVIS fee at least 3 days prior to visa appointment

**Contact Information**

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