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

**The Arrival Process**

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/](https://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 (grads) or Golden Bear Prep (undergrads)

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

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

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

**Approximate Processing Times**

- **1-5 days**
  - Please note: It may take 24-48 hours to gain access to all tasks.

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

- **1-4+ weeks**
  - Mailing time: 3-5 day for express mail, 1-4+ weeks for USPS airmail

- **1-3 months (average)**
  - Make arrival plans (no earlier than 30 days prior to I-20 or DS 2019 start date*)

**Approximate Processing Times**

- **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.

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