From Admission to Arrival:

Helping International Students Get To UC Berkeley

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BIO Advisors

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Today’s Workshop Outcomes

• Advisors will learn and/or understand:
  – Glossary of terms and forms
  – Non-Immigrant Information Form (NIF) process
  – Obtaining an F-1 or J-1 Student Visa
  – Arrival to the U.S. process

• Q&A
Terms

- “International”
- Visa
- Status
- F-1 vs J-1
Who is “International” Anyways?

• Very broad and often self-defined
• Alphabet soup of visa classifications
• Technically, any student who is not a Permanent Resident or US Citizen
• BIO is concerned with students who are on non-immigrant F & J visas sponsored by UCB
• Campus may define differently
Student Visa Basics

• Purpose – used for entry only

• Stamp in the Passport

• All foreign nationals (except Canadian nationals) must have a valid visa to enter the U.S.

• Visas can only be issued outside the U.S. at a U.S. embassy or consulate
Status

- Legal presence inside the US
- Student must maintain their status throughout their time in US
  - How do you maintain your status?
- BIO monitors and reports to SEVIS
  - SEVIS: Student Exchange Visitor Information System aka the government
F-1 & J-1 Student Visa Comparison

**F Visa**

- Self-funded or sponsored, 1 year minimum
- On campus & post-completion employment options

**PROs**
- Show less funding
- Good work options during & after program
- Spouse can study PT

**CONs**
- F-2 Spouse can’t work

**J Visa**

- 51% minimum non-personal support for the duration of the program
- On campus & post-completion employment options

**PROs**
- Good work options during & after program; easier to obtain & cheaper
- J-2 Spouse can work or study PT or FT

**CONs**
- Lots of funding needed up front
- Higher possibility of restrictions (212e, 12 month bar)
What is an I-20?

- A document created by the admitting school via SEVIS
- Required to apply for an F-1 student visa*
- Required for entering the U.S. along with the visa

* Canadian citizens do not require a visa to enter the U.S. as an F-1 student, but do need the I-20.
What is a DS-2019?

- A document created by the admitting school or exchange program via SEVIS
- Required to apply for a J-1 student visa*
- Required for entering the U.S. along with the visa

*Canadian citizens do not require a visa to enter the U.S. as a J-1 student, but do need the DS-2019.
Fall 2018 International Student Enrollment

*Total ALL International Student Enrollment: 10 Years

![Graph showing total ALL International Student Enrollment from 2003 to 2018](image)

*Includes EAP students

**Total ALL International Student Enrollment: 15 Years**

- 2003: 2406
- 2004: 2688
- 2005: 2678
- 2006: 2688
- 2007: 2785
- 2008: 3069
- 2009: 3419
- 2010: 3774
- 2011: 4548
- 2012: 4926
- 2013: 5645
- 2014: 5913
- 2015: 5846
- 2016: 5951
- 2017: 6345
- 2018: 6568

*Includes EAP students
## Total Enrollment of International Students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>% Change from 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Undergraduate</td>
<td>1,704</td>
<td>1,860</td>
<td>3,564</td>
<td>2.92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate</td>
<td>980</td>
<td>1,626</td>
<td>2,606</td>
<td>4.95%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EAP</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>-2.17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>6,569</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

## Additional International Student Populations*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Female</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>% Change from 2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OPT &amp; AT</td>
<td>945</td>
<td>1,280</td>
<td>2,241</td>
<td>13.76%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Masters Law (LLM)</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>157</td>
<td>-14.67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer Program</td>
<td>1,370</td>
<td>1,148</td>
<td>2,518</td>
<td>-17.36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>4,916</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*This data is not included in the ‘Total Enrollment’ table shown above, but are populations served by Berkeley International Office and the University.

## Top 20 Countries of Origin

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Fall 2017</th>
<th>Fall 2018</th>
<th>%Total</th>
<th>% Change from 2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>China</td>
<td>2,279</td>
<td>2,448</td>
<td>37.27%</td>
<td>7.42%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>572</td>
<td>631</td>
<td>9.61%</td>
<td>10.31%</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Korea, South</td>
<td>628</td>
<td>592</td>
<td>9.01%</td>
<td>-5.73%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>2.66%</td>
<td>8.70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Taiwan</td>
<td>355</td>
<td>378</td>
<td>5.75%</td>
<td>6.48%</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>161</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>2.66%</td>
<td>8.70%</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>148</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>2.16%</td>
<td>-4.05%</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>France</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>2.15%</td>
<td>-11.88%</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>2.02%</td>
<td>-13.07%</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Hong Kong</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>1.55%</td>
<td>-6.42%</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>1.45%</td>
<td>2.15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>1.35%</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>1.34%</td>
<td>1.15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>1.34%</td>
<td>-3.30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>1.19%</td>
<td>18.18%</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>1.10%</td>
<td>7.46%</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>1.10%</td>
<td>7.46%</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>.094%</td>
<td>26.53%</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>0.94%</td>
<td>10.71%</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Malaysia</td>
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<td>60</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Computer Science</td>
<td>245</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Electrical Engineering and Computer Science</td>
<td>182</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Applied Mathematics</td>
<td>157</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Statistics</td>
<td>157</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Environmental Economics and Policy</td>
<td>114</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Business Administration</td>
<td>95</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Architecture</td>
<td>94</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Mechanical Engineering</td>
<td>88</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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</table>
# Top 10 Graduate Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Top 10 Master's Programs</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>Top 10 Ph.D. Programs</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1</strong> Business Administration</td>
<td>227</td>
<td><strong>1</strong> Mechanical Engineering</td>
<td>123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Business Administration</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>2 Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences</td>
<td>121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Civil and Environmental Engineering</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>3 Computer Science</td>
<td>113</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Industrial Engineering and Operations Research</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>4 Chemistry</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Mechanical Engineering</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>5 Economics</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Electrical Engineering and Computer Science</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>6 Physics</td>
<td>71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Architecture</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>7 Civil and Environmental Engineering</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Business Administration: Financial Engineering</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>8 Materials Science &amp; Engineering</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Information Management and Systems</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>9 Mathematics</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Statistics</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>10 Business Administration</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Once you receive admission, follow these steps to NIF and obtain your visa.

1. Accept Offer of Admission and pay deposit*
   - Access & complete the above steps at calccentral.berkeley.edu
   - *Except EAP & readmitted students.

2. BIO reviews your NIF
   - BIO will email you. This may delay processing.
   - Processing time: 10-15 business days from when BIO receives your complete NIF.
   - If you have questions email NIF@berkeley.edu

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: 2-5 day for express mail, 1-4+ weeks for USPS airmail
   - *Pay SEVIS fee at least 3 days prior to visa appointment.

4. Make Visa appointments
   - 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 US with proper documents
   - Complete online arrival confirmation
   - Be sure you are registered (enrolled & tuition/fees paid)
   - Welcome to Call! Attend orientation

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**Approximate Processing Times**

1-5 days

10-15 business days

1-4+ weeks

1-3 months (average)
Non-Immigrant Information Form (NIF)

What is the NIF?

• Online application for admitted students to determine what type of U.S. immigration status will be used while at UCB
• For F/J students, NIF is used to request their I-20/DS-2019 visa docs
• It interfaces with Campus Solutions data & US immigration systems to receive and send data
Who must complete the NIF?

- **ALL** admitted or readmitted international students are asked to complete the NIF regardless of visa status.
- Those who will be in F-1 or J-1 status get a Certificate of Eligibility (I-20 or DS-2019)
- US Citizens, Permanent Residents and all other visa classifications (H-1B, E-2, J-2, L-2, H-4, etc) will be able to indicate this in the NIF and will not receive anything, from BIO.
Accessing the NIF

**CalCentral**

*NIF will appear as a Task*

**Our BIO Website**

http://internationaloffice.berkeley.edu/students/new/nif

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**Non-Immigrant Info Form (NIF)**

BERKELEY INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

Complete the NIF as soon as possible! All international students are required to complete the Non-Immigrant Information Form (NIF). All F-1 and most J-1 students will receive an I-20 or DS-2019 upon successful completion of the NIF. Log back into the NIF to track your progress.

*If you are transferring your F/J from another US institution, you should complete the NIF now and speak to your school about your F/J release date. You will receive your I-20 or DS-2019 after your release date.*

Students in other immigration statuses should also complete the NIF, but will not receive any documents from Berkeley International Office.

Contact: internationaloffice@berkeley.edu

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**Arrival Confirmation**

BERKELEY INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

Access the NIF

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**What is the NIF?**

The Non-immigrant Information Form (NIF) is an online application form that gathers information from international students about their status in the U.S. The NIF is also used to request a Certificate of Eligibility (I-20 or DS-2019) for those who will have F-1 or J-1 student status while at UC Berkeley.

The NIF is for admitted students in degree or exchange programs. If you are attending UC Berkeley for Summer Sessions only, see our Summer Sessions information.

**Who Must Complete The NIF?**

All non-immigrant students must complete the NIF as part of their admissions acceptance. This includes students who intend to hold F-1 or J-1 status, as well as other classifications such as F-2, J-2, L-1 and H-4 (see Other Visa Classifications).

**Accessing The NIF**

- **New admits:** Use the NIF Task item in Cal Central to access the NIF after submitting your Statement of Intent to Register (SIR).
- **Readmits:** Use the NIF Task item in Cal Central to access the NIF. This should appear after the Office of the Registrar has processed your readmission.
- **Transfer students:** Complete this Summer Session information and Setup an Appointment to complete the NIF.
What is needed to complete the NIF?

**ANSWER QUESTIONS**
- Selection of immigration status they plan to hold while at UC Berkeley.
- Biographical info
- Current visa situation
- Summer enrollment
- Each student’s NIF questions are customized to their academic program and visa situation

**UPLOADS**
- Valid passport (and for dependents, if applicable)
- Sufficient Proof of Funding for the program. Funding amounts will be displayed in NIF
- Proof of summer enrollment, if applicable
- Other documents based on their situation

**DELIVERY METHOD**
- Express Mail (highly recommended, 3-5 days)
- Regular USPS Airmail (1-4 weeks)
- Pick Up
Funding Requirement (F vs J)

**Undergraduate**
- T/F: $46,170
- Living: $18,900
- Total: $65,070

**Graduate**
- T/F: $33,979*
- Living: $18,900
- Total: $52,879

*Some programs have professional fees which will be calculated in addition to this amount

- Spouse + $7,650
- Per Child + $6,750

J-1?

x by length of program

2. How will you fund your first year at UC Berkeley?

1. Check all funding types you will use to demonstrate funding for your first year.
2. List the US Dollar amount available for each type of funding.
3. Your Total Resources must match your Total Budget. Make adjustments as necessary until you reach the exact amount.
4. You will be required to upload proof of each type of funding as part of your NIF.

- My own personal funds (including loans) $
- My family's (or other individual's) funds $
- UC Berkeley Awards (scholarships, GSI/GSR, grants etc) $
- Employer/institutional support/award $
- Other type of funding. $
Documenting Funding

- All students are required to meet or exceed specific minimum budget to qualify for visa document
- Acceptable Funding > less than 6 months old!
  [URL: http://internationaloffice.berkeley.edu/funding_documentation]
  - Bank statements
  - Private sponsor support letter required if not personally funded
  - **Berkeley Award Letter or Department Support Statement** – specific funding totals per year are appreciated
  - Official sponsor support letters (government, corporation, scholarship)
Tracking Progress

Log back into NIF
• Processing Stage
• Summary of answers
• SEVIS ID

Processing Stage Descriptions
Listed below are descriptions of what your processing stage really means and what you need to complete the process.

Started
You still have work to do! You have started the process, but have not completed and submitted it yet. In this stage, you are able to access the application and edit your information. Please complete all required sections and make sure to click Submit when finished.

Submitted
Your NIF/NSIS application, including all required uploaded documents, has been received by our office. The Review team will soon check to make sure that all your uploaded documents are legible, accurate, and complete. If your application is not complete, you will be contacted by email and your processing status will be changed to Incomplete or Awaiting Documentation (see below). If your application is complete, your processing status will be changed to Processing (see below).

Incomplete/Awaiting Documentation
You still have work to do! You have received an email from our office describing exactly what information and/or documents are missing. We cannot proceed further until we receive this information, therefore please read the instructions in the email carefully and respond as soon as possible. This may delay the processing of your I-20 or DS-2019.

Document Not Needed
It looks like you are not requesting an I-20 or DS-2019 from UC Berkeley at this time. No further action is needed.

Your Immigration Status at UC Berkeley
What immigration status do you plan to hold while at UC Berkeley?

F-1 Student

Welcome to the NIF
fake page Processing From ISSM and Campus
Select the Attributes this person is coming to the NIF with.

Your Immigration Status at UC Berkeley
What immigration status do you plan to hold while at UC Berkeley?

F-1 Student

Flowchart
Biographical Information

Standard Processing Time: 10-15 days from a complete submission
NIFs by Month

2018

Today!
NIF Questions?
Applying for a Visa

- **Appointment Availability**
  - Consulates & Embassies closed for US and local holidays
  - Summer is a busy time

- **Processing Time**
  - Students can apply for their visa as soon as they receive their I-20/DS-2019. However, F-1 visas cannot be issued more than 120 days before program start date. J-1 are not subjected to this 120-day limit.
  - Varies depending on country

- **Administrative Processing**
  - 2 – 3+ months
  - Common amongst Iranians, Indian, Chinese, and students in hard sciences

- **In Case of Visa Denial**
  - Contact Berkeley International Office
  - Obtain reason in writing
Arriving to the U.S. - Port of Entry

New students can enter the U.S. no more than **30 days** before program start date listed on the I-20 / DS-2019

- Program start date = first day of semester
- Fall 2019 = August 21, 2019

Inspection by Customs & Border Protection (CBP) at the airport

- Determine eligibility to enter U.S.
- Stamp Passport with F-1/J-1 and Duration of Status (D/S)
- All within 30-45 seconds! (Hopefully!)

Once here, complete arrival confirmation process with BIO
In order to activate a student’s immigration record...

1. Complete online arrival confirmation with BIO
2. Update local address & phone number in Cal Central
BIO Resources

internationaloffice.berkeley.edu

• iStart: 101 Course and Golden Bear Prep

• Webinars, emails & videos
  – Housing, involvement, visa, academic success, financial

• iStart: Cal Edition mobile app

• In person orientation
  – Tues, Aug 13 UGs
  – Wed, Aug 14 Grads

Visas Housing Money Enrollment Transport Health

Requirements:
- Submit your online NIF
- Apply for your visa
- Complete the iStart 101 Course
- Complete Online Arrival Confirmation
- Join Orientation Events

Pre-Arrival Online Webinars

These online webinars are presented by Advisors at Berkeley International Office and are designed to give you basic tips for making a smooth transition to Berkeley. Click the links below to view on YouTube, or visit our Student page.

- Applying for a Student Visa
- Housing in the Bay Area
- First Year Experience
- Undergrad Academic Success and Culture
- Grad Academic Success and Culture
- International Transfer Students
- EAP: Preparing for Your Study Abroad
- Money Matters

WHAT TO PACK

for UC Berkeley New International Students

iStart: The Cal Edition App

Not just any mobile app—it's your gateway to living, studying, and thriving at UC Berkeley.
iStart: Cal Edition was developed by an international student and Berkeley Internatio
Arrival Questions?
Response Questions
THANK YOU!
Amy Veramay - akgriggs@berkeley.edu
Amy Chin-Pokhrel- achinp@berkeley.edu

internationaloffice.berkeley.edu
internationaloffice@berkeley.edu
510-642-2818