

Immigration Essentials

Berkeley International Office

Introduction

Berkeley
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA



Important Recent Updates

SEVP Guidance for Fall 2020:

- New guidance released on July 6, 2020 and then rescinded on July 14, 2020.
- Clarifying guidance released July 24, 2020
- Review up-to-date information on our [COVID-19 FAQ](#) page
- Applies to F-1 students. J-1 student Fall guidance can be found on the [Department of State website](#).

Impact on Incoming F-1 Students

- If you will be pursuing **remote instruction from your home country**, new students may enroll in fully online classes for the fall semester from abroad, and do not need a valid F-1 visa or I-20 to begin studies online.
- If you were **already in the US in March 2020 and have remained in the US continuously** in F-1 status (you are transferring or changing level) and plan to pursue full-time study, you may enroll in classes that are online or in person.
- If you are planning to **enter the US and study in-person**, you should have at least 1 in-person class. You cannot enroll in a full course of study that is 100% online. If you will be taking all online courses, then you should plan to remain outside of the US.

UC Berkeley Hybrid Model

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and due to prevailing conditions imposed by state and local health authorities, UC Berkeley will have no in-person instruction at the beginning of the Fall 2020 semester. We are planning to offer hybrid instruction as soon as local health conditions permit.

If it is not possible for UC Berkeley to transition to a hybrid model as originally planned, it is unclear what impact this will have on your future F-1 nonimmigrant status. In light of this uncertainty, we suggest that you think carefully about your decision to enter the U.S. to enroll for the Fall 2020 semester based on any in-person or hybrid enrollment.

Late Arrival

If you cannot arrive in the US in time to start the Fall semester (either due to travel restrictions or visa delays), please note:

- You are free to begin remote instruction from abroad if you choose to do so.
- We recognize that individual students may face difficulty in making an entry to the U.S. prior to the official start of instruction. In acknowledgment of possible travel delays, UC Berkeley is accommodating students who will arrive up to 30 days after the start of instruction listed on the student's form I-20 or DS-2019.
- If you will not be able to arrive within the first 30 days of the Fall semester, BIO will work with you to make appropriate adjustments to your I-20 or DS-2019 start date.
- It is **CRITICAL** that you complete the mandatory Fall 2020 survey!

Stay up-to-date

Things can change quickly in the immigration world. Please stay up to date on the latest information and how it could affect your immigration status in the following ways:

- BIO Website, especially:
 - [COVID 19 FAQ](#)
 - [Immigration Policy Updates FAQ](#)
- Read ALL emails from BIO
- Speak with an adviser using our [virtual student advising](#)



Your F-1/J-1 Student Status

Top 10 Rules for F-1/J-1 Status

BIO Advisers are the resource for information and guidance on questions related to your student visa.

<https://internationaloffice.berkeley.edu/how-maintain-your-fj-student-status>

Stay in Status

1. Keep addresses & phone number updated
2. Full-time units
3. Approval for course reductions and withdrawal
4. Obey laws, regulations, student code of conduct
5. Attend the school on your I-20/DS-2019
6. Keep documents valid
7. Understand travel documents
8. Grace period
9. Work permission
10. Health insurance

First Steps

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Complete your *Arrival Confirmation*
and keep your address updated!



U.S. Customs and Border Protection
Securing America's Borders

Get I-94 Number **I-94 FAQ**

Admission (I-94) Number Retrieval

Admission (I-94) Record Number: 69000888062

Admit Until Date (MM/DD/YYYY): D/S

Details provided on Admission(I-94) form:

Family Name:	LI
First (Given) Name:	LYDIA
Birth Date (MM/DD/YYYY):	01/01/1990
Passport Number:	P123123213
Passport Country of Issuance:	Mexico
Date of Entry (MM/DD/YYYY):	04/11/2012
Class of Admission:	F1

Individuals can visit www.cbp.gov/I94 to retrieve a copy of their electronic Form I-94.

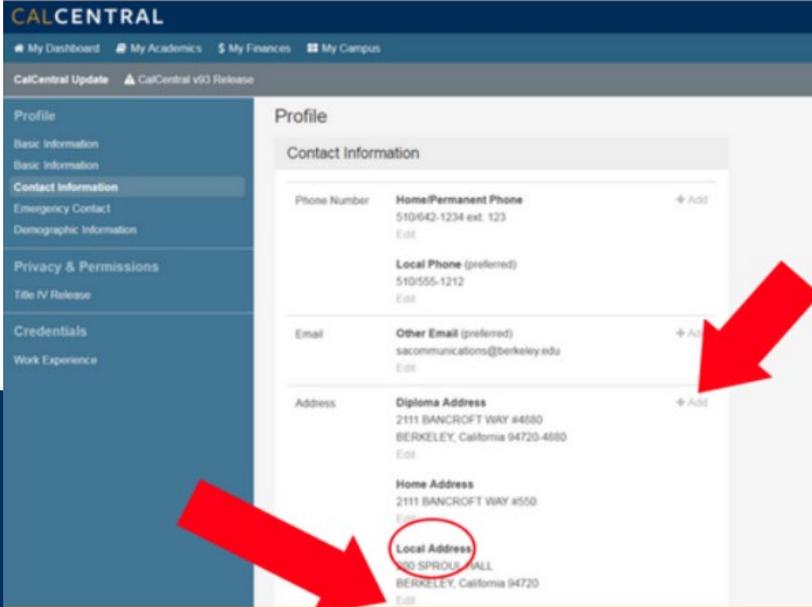
Go to calcentral.berkeley.edu and complete these Task items:

1. Arrival Confirmation Form (includes uploading I-94)
2. U.S. Address & Phone Reporting Form

*Temporary addresses are ok.
Remember to update again when you find permanent housing.*

THEN: Update your LOCAL U.S. Phone & address in Cal Central

If you move or change your email, update Cal Central within 10 days.



CALCENTRAL

My Dashboard My Academics My Finances My Campus

Profile

Basic Information
Basic Information
Contact Information
Emergency Contact
Demographic Information

Privacy & Permissions
Title IV Release
Credentials
Work Experience

Profile

Contact Information

Phone Number	Home/Permanent Phone + Add 510/642-1234 ext. 123 Edit
	Local Phone (preferred) 510/555-1212 Edit
Email	Other Email (preferred) + Add sacommunications@berkeley.edu Edit
Address	Diploma Address + Add 2111 BANCROFT WAY #4000 BERKELEY, California 94720-4000 Edit
	Home Address 2111 BANCROFT WAY #500 Edit
	Local Address (circled) 30 SPROUL HALL BERKELEY, California 94720 Edit



Enroll Full Time

COVID-19 special rules: New Students arriving for Fall 2020 must have some instruction which is coded as *in-person, hybrid or flexible!*

Full time enrollment is determined by your academic department.

College of Letters & Science requires

13 units

Most academic departments require

12

units each semester.



Summer?

Normal F-1/J-1 rules: only *1 class* of online instruction is allowed

Study/Work Balance

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Reduced Course Load

Academic
Reasons

Medical
Reasons

Final
Semester*

*degree-seeking
students only

Approval from a BIO Advisor is required.

Notify BIO if you plan to drop below full time enrollment,
withdraw, or cancel.



Employment

F- 1 Visa

J- 1 Visa

On campus
employment

Fall and Spring < 20 > Summer/
Vacation

No special permission
required

Fall and Spring < 20 > Summer/
Vacation

Permission from BIO
required before beginning
employment.

Off campus
employment

Curricular Practical
Training ([CPT](#))

Optional Practical Training
([OPT](#))

Permission from BIO or USCIS
required before beginning
employment.

Must be in ACTIVE F-1 status for
at least 1 academic year

Academic Training ([AT](#))

Must be in Active J-1 status
for 1 semester.

Permission from BIO
required before beginning
employment.

What does it mean to be in Active F-1 or J-1 status?

- We created a new SEVIS record for you. You were given an I-20 or DS-2019, and are in Initial status.
- Your I-20 or DS-2019 has a start date.
- When you enter the US, and report your Arrival Confirmation, BIO makes your F-1 or J-1 record Active in SEVIS.
- *If you don't arrive for Fall 2020*, we will need to change your I-20 to a future start date. You can only enter within 30 days of your new start date.
- If you will enter the US for a future semester (like Spring 2020) your F-1 or J-1 record will only be Active starting your entry for the future semester (example: January 2020)

How can I qualify for CPT or OPT?

To be eligible for F-1 CPT or OPT authorization, students must have been enrolled continuously for 1 academic year in **Active F-1 status**. If you will not enter the U.S. to begin your program for Fall 2020, BIO will change your I-20 start date to January 2021, the start of Spring 2021.

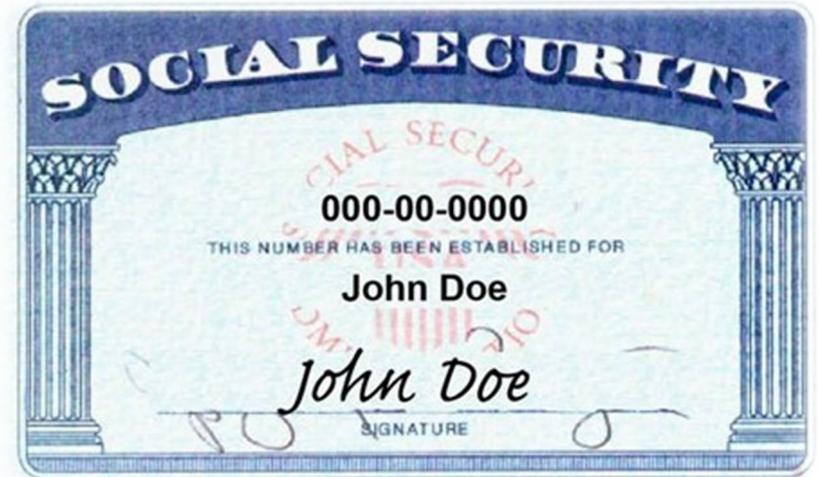
- *OPT Example:* 1 year program from August 26, 2020–May 14, 2021 (1 academic year = 2 semesters: Fall 2020 + Spring 2021) After your entry to the U.S. in January 2021, your F-1 record will be Active for only 1 semester and you will NOT qualify for OPT after Spring 2021. You would need to complete your degree in Summer 2021 or later
- *CPT Example:* 2 year program from August 26, 2020-May 13, 2022 (1 academic year = 2 semesters: Fall 2020 + Spring 2021). After your entry to the US in January 2021, your F-1 record will be Active for only 1 semester and you will not qualify for CPT in Summer 2020. You would qualify for CPT starting only after the end of Fall 2021.
- CPT exception- graduate programs who have internship as a degree requirement for all students in the program.

Social Security Numbers

A Social Security Number is...

- a tax identification number.
- required for all paid work in the U.S.
- not a work authorization.
- You can only apply in the U.S.

For how and when to apply, see:
internationaloffice.berkeley.edu/living/ssn



Who needs a Social Security Number?

J-1:

- Receiving a fellowship or stipend from the university (with or without employment)
- Working on campus
- Working off campus

Note: prior authorization is required for all of the above. Learn more at bit.ly/BIOworkauth.

F-1:

- Working on campus
- Working off campus jobs (don't forget work authorization!)

An F-1 student who is not working but receiving a non-service fellowship, scholarship, or grant in excess of tuition and fees must apply for an Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN). Learn more at bit.ly/BIO-ITIN.



Extra Curricular Activities



UC Berkeley takes academic integrity very seriously. Academic misconduct can lead to suspension or dismissal from the university.

*Any impact on your enrollment impacts your F-1/J-1 visa status

Examples of Misconduct



- Cheating
- Plagiarism, self-plagiarism
- Unauthorized group work or collaboration
- Falsification



Extra Curricular Activities are a great way to meet others and have fun.



Activities that you engage in on & off campus
can impact your visa status.

Be safe, be smart, be peaceful, and respect consent.

Freedom of Expression

- One of the norms of a university environment is the freedom to express oneself in open dialogue and discussion.
- Students should be able to express themselves without fear of any intimidation from others and that any views that they share in classroom discussions or public forums will not be used in an adverse or negative way that could lead to their harm.

Intellectual Property

- Students should be aware that there are certain rights that go along with discoveries or inventions by faculty or other students. You should exercise caution in how you use the discoveries of others.
- For additional information about Intellectual Property you are encouraged to review this presentation:
<https://ipira.berkeley.edu/ip-protection>

Visa Rules ≠ CA Laws

Just because it's legal in California...

Does not mean it's OK while you're on a student visa!

You must obey all State AND Federal Laws!





The legal drinking age in the U.S. is...

21



Contact BIO as soon as possible if you have an encounter with law enforcement.

We are here to **help** and **support** you.



Travel & Immigration Document Maintenance

Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

1-20. Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status
OMB NO. 1653-0018

CLASS
F-1
ACADEMIC AND LANGUAGE

SEVIS ID: N0004705512

PERSONAL INFORMATION
GIVEN NAME: John
SURNAME: Doe
COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP: UNITED STATES
DATE OF BIRTH: 22 JAN 1953
SEX: M
EDUCATIONAL LEVEL: BACHELOR'S DEGREE

SCHOOL INFORMATION
SCHOOL ABBREVIATION: BUENAVISTA UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL ADDRESS: 1000 University Lane, St. Louis, MO 63104
SCHOOL PHONE: 314.444.1000
SCHOOL FAX: 314.444.1000
SCHOOL OFFICE: 63 JEFFERSON

PROGRAM OF STUDY
PROGRAM NAME: BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
PROGRAM LENGTH: 36 MONTHS
PROGRAM START DATE: 09 SEP 2013
PROGRAM END DATE: 09 SEP 2015

FINANCIAL INFORMATION
FINANCIAL AVERAGE COSTS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR: \$ 23,000
Tuition and Fees: \$ 4,000
Living Expenses: \$ 7,000
Department of Department (1): \$ 0
Other: \$ 22,000
TOTAL: \$ 33,000

REMARKS
Orientation Session 8/27/2013. Please report to 1000 upon arrival.

SCHOOL ATTESTATION
I certify under penalty of perjury that all information provided above was reviewed and I signed this form and to the best of my knowledge and belief, I am a bona fide student and intend to pursue a full program of study in the United States. I am a member of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) and I am a member of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) and I am a member of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP).

STUDENT ATTESTATION
I have read and agree to comply with the terms and conditions of this admission and those of any extension of stay. I certify that all information provided on this form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I certify that I will be over 18 years of age at the time of my arrival in the United States and that I will be a member of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) and I am a member of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP).

SIGNATURE OF JOHN DOE: [Signature]
SIGNATURE OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN: [Signature]

Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

1-20. Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status
OMB NO. 1653-0018

VIS ID: N0004705512 (F-1) NAME: John Doe Smith

EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION
EMPLOYMENT STATUS: TYPE
EMPLOYMENT START DATE: EMPLOYMENT END DATE
EMPLOYER NAME: EMPLOYER LOCATION

EXTENSION OF STATUS (E-AD/AGAP EXTENSION)
EXTENSION TYPE: REQUEST STATUS: RECEIPT NUMBER: BENEFIT START DATE/REQUEST DATE

HISTORY
DATE: EVENT DATE

AUTHORIZATIONS
STATUS: START DATE: END DATE

ENDORSEMENT
This form is used to record the entry of the student to the United States. Each entry is valid for one year.

OFFICIAL: [Signature] TITLE: [Title] PLACE ISSUED: [Location]



U.S. Department of State
CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY FOR EXCHANGE VISITOR STATES (J-NONIMMIGRANT)

1. Personal Name: Given Name: John Doe Smith Surname: Doe
Date of Birth: 22 JAN 1953 Country of Birth: UNITED STATES
Country of Residence: UNITED STATES
Legal Permanent Resident Country Code: Legal Permanent Resident Country: UNITED STATES
Primary Line of Activity: BUSINESS, EDUCATION, TOURISM, SPORTS, CULTURE, ARTS, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, RELIGION, OTHER: UNIVERSITY ENDOURSEMENT STUDENTS

2. Program Sponsor: Council 1 International Educational Exchange Program Number: P-3-05133
Up to 12 Months

3. Travel Dates: From: 09-06-2016 To: 09-30-2016
Exchange Visitor Category: INTERM
Exchange Visitor Status: A-1
Exchange Visitor Category: A-1

4. Signature of Responsible Officer: [Signature] Title: [Title]
350 Park Street, Portland, ME 04101
Signature of Responsible Officer or Alternate Responsible Officer: [Signature]
Title: [Title]

5. Signature of Responsible Officer: [Signature] Title: [Title]
Signature of Responsible Officer or Alternate Responsible Officer: [Signature]
Title: [Title]

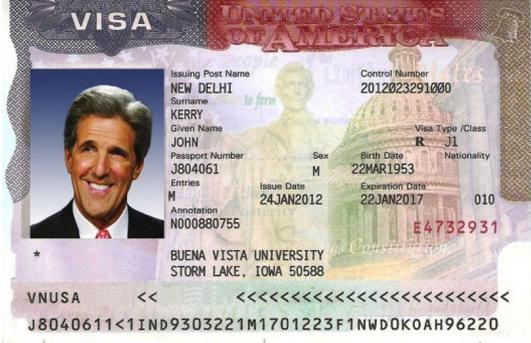
6. Signature of Responsible Officer: [Signature] Title: [Title]
Signature of Responsible Officer or Alternate Responsible Officer: [Signature]
Title: [Title]

DRAFT

School Official

See BIO's Travel webpage for all required documents:

<https://internationaloffice.berkeley.edu/entry-us-travel-and-re-entry>



Additional Required Documents:



- Proof of current or next semester's enrollment
- Evidence of current Financial Support
- Proof of [SEVIS Fee](#) payment
- Proof of post-completion employment and authorization*

* After graduation/program completion only

Travel & Entry Tips

- Don't bring restricted items to the U.S. (bit.ly/CBPIlist)
- Be calm and answer any questions succinctly about your academic program and your activities in the U.S.
- Jokes about terrorism, breaking laws, drugs, etc. are never a wise choice.
- Be prepared in case of Secondary Inspection (bit.ly/CBP-SI)
- See the ACLU's Know Your Rights resources for Rights at Airports & Other Ports (aclu.org/know-your-rights)

Electronic Devices

- Customs & Border Protection may request to inspect your electronic devices. See bit.ly/ACLUdevices for tips on how to prepare your device before you travel.
- Are you presenting your best self in social media and messaging apps?
- How would you feel if U.S. immigration looked at all of your photos and messages?
- Is there any possibility it might appear that you are engaged in activities that violate U.S. laws or your visa status or that show academic dishonesty?



Attend the school noted on your
I-20 (F-1s) or DS-2019 (J-1s)

Transferring SEVIS Record

Transfer IN = Must UC Berkeley I-20/DS-2019 & full-time study at UC Berkeley

Transfer OUT = Request I-20/DS-2019 transfer *to another school* for full-time study

Taking classes at another school while still at UCB:

Concurrent enrollment classes at other schools will not count towards your full-time enrollment at UC Berkeley for visa purposes.

Completing your Program

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Keep your I-20 or DS-2019 valid
at all times and understand your
completion date.



Grace Period

What is my Grace Period?

Your main goal on an F-1 or J-1 visa is to study. When you are finished with that, you will have some time to decide what to do next.

This length of time is called a grace period.

F-1s have a 60 day grace period. J-1s have a 30 day grace period. but must take some actions before their DS-2019 program end date as outlined below.

Action	F-1	J-1
	Timeline	Timeline
Depart the U.S.	60 days after your I-20 program end date	30 days after your DS-2019 program end date
Transfer to a new school (or remain at Cal but change educational level)	60 days after your I-20 program end date	before your DS-2019 program end date
Apply for work authorization or explore employment options	60 days after your I-20 program end date * Start applying 90 days before completion!	before your DS-2019 program end date * Start applying anytime in your last semester!



Health Insurance

Insurance Requirements

Maintaining health insurance is a university requirement until graduation.

Federal immigration regulations require J-1/J-2 students to maintain proper health insurance meeting specific requirements throughout their J program, including period of post-completion employment.



Scammers are using increasingly sophisticated methods to target and steal money from victims. They often try to take advantage of international students, who may be less familiar with how government agencies or legitimate businesses operate in the U.S.

Be skeptical if something seems either too good or too bad to be true.

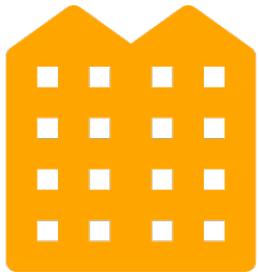
How can you tell it's a scam?

- **They say you can't tell anyone about your situation.**
 - There is NO REASON any legitimate situation would not allow you to talk to your International Student Adviser, the police, your attorney, or anyone else.
- **They claim it's urgent** and you must send a large amount of money in a short time to avoid some extremely terrible consequence.
 - This is to make you feel stressed out and act without thinking.
- **They won't put anything in writing.**
 - Any legitimate problem with the US government, the police, a real company would be happy to provide you with clear documentation in writing.
- **They demand immediate payment in gift cards.**
 - NO ONE in the US does business by payment in gift cards. NO GOVERNMENT AGENCY collects payment in gift cards. This is simply a way for you to provide a scammer with untraceable cash. DON'T DO IT.

Avoiding Scams



If you receive a phone call, email, or text from an individual claiming to work for a U.S. government agency (immigration, police, I.R.S) who threatens you or demands payment to avoid deportation or arrest, do not follow their instructions or give them any of your personal information or money. Contact BIO right away.



Visit an apartment or house **before** signing a lease or paying a deposit fee.

Read through leases and other legally binding documents **before** signing.



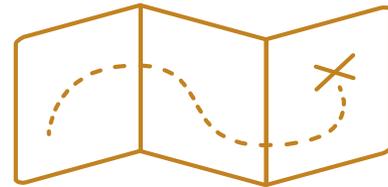
Contact a BIO adviser if you suspect you are a victim of a scam or fraud.

Learn how to identify common scams and how to protect yourself:

More info about Scams and Safety in Berkeley:
<https://internationaloffice.berkeley.edu/living/scams-safety>



Communication from BIO





BIO wants to help you have an enjoyable career during and after your time at Cal.

Remember that any violation of your visa status can have serious consequences.

Update us! Stay enrolled full-time! Work only with authorization!
Don't exceed your grace period for exit! Don't fall for scams!

Be safe! BIO's here to help!