

# Immigration Essentials

Berkeley International Office

# Introduction



# Important Recent Updates

- BIO has recently received some updated guidance from DHS!
- For F-1/J-1 purposes, you are considered a “new” student if you entered or will enter the U.S. with F-1 or J-1 Initial status **with an I-20/DS-2019 start date for Fall 2021 or later**. Basically- you are a *New* student in your first semester of entry!
- A “continuing” student for visa purposes is a student who entered the U.S. with F-1/J-1 status **with I-20/DS-2019 start date for a prior semester (Summer 2021, Spring 2021, Fall 2020, etc.)**. You are a *Continuing* student after you finish your first semester in the US.

# New Student Guidance

- The default instructional mode for Fall 2021 will be primarily in-person and in general, all students are expected to be physically present on campus for Fall 2021.
- **New or Initial F-1/J-1 students** entering the US to begin studies in Fall 2021 must be enrolled in at least one course with in-person instructional mode. Berkeley's instructional model is primarily in-person, but it includes hybrid instruction as well.
- **Continuing F-1/J-1 students** who entered the US in a previous semester and were enrolled continuously are technically allowed fully remote instruction if needed, but most instruction will be in-person.

# Late Arrival

## Late Arrivals

- **First** contact your academic department to see what options are possible for you.
- BIO will work with students who face arrival difficulties for Fall 2021 to determine the best option for their specific circumstances, including advising on late arrivals, readmission and return after deferral/withdrawal, and how to receive updated I-20/DS-2019 documents.
- Please complete BIO's mandatory [Fall 2021 Arrival Survey](#) so that we can confirm your arrival date and any necessary I-20/DS-2019 adjustment
- If you urgently need an updated I-20 for a visa interview appointment prior to that time, please [contact us](#) and include a copy of your visa appointment confirmation.

## Admissions Deferrals

- Newly admitted undergraduates will need to contact the [Office of Admissions](#) to determine if you have an option to defer to a future semester.
- Graduate students should also communicate with their academic department regarding any option to defer.

# Arrival Support

- Our [COVID-19 website](#) has arrival letters for students entering in Fall 2021
- The letter states you can arrive up to 30 days *after* the start of your I-20/DS-2019 (if necessary)
- If you'll be arriving more than 30 days after the start of Your I-20/DS-2019, you need an updated I-20/DS-2019 and BIO will work with you on that.
- You **MUST** have the approval of your academic department for Late arrival
- No special notes or annotations are needed on the I-20 or DS-2019 regarding instructional models!

# 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 or in-person advising:  
<https://internationaloffice.berkeley.edu/students/student-services>



# 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>

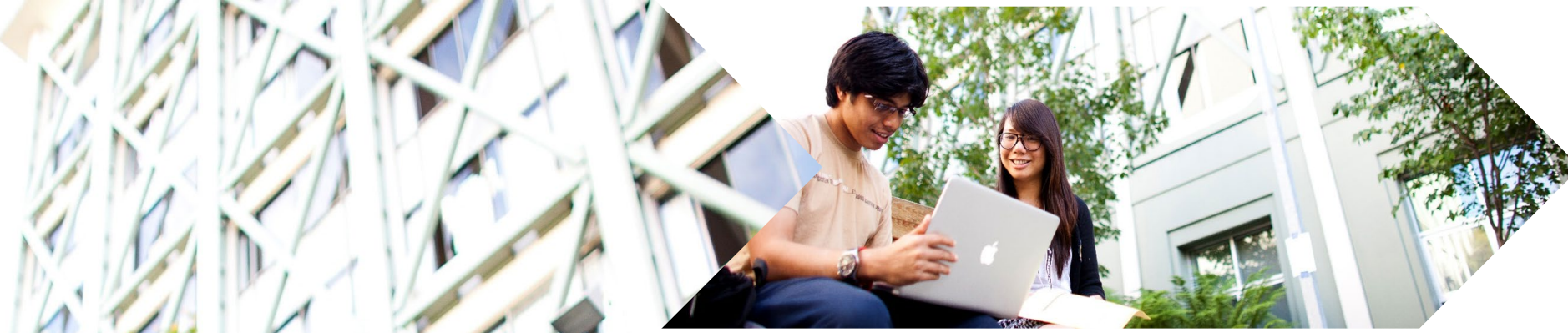
# Stay in Status

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](http://www.cbp.gov/I94) to retrieve a copy of their electronic Form I-94.

Go to [calcentral.berkeley.edu](http://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.*

**CALCENTRAL**

My Dashboard My Academics My Finances My Campus

CalCentral Update CalCentral v9.0 Release

**Profile**

Basic Information  
Basic Information  
**Contact Information**  
Emergency Contact  
Demographic Information

**Privacy & Permissions**  
Title IV Release

**Credentials**  
Work Experience

**Profile**

**Contact Information**

Phone Number	<b>Home/Permanent Phone</b> 510/642-1234 ext. 123 Edit	→ Add
	<b>Local Phone (preferred)</b> 510/555-1212 Edit	
Email	<b>Other Email (preferred)</b> sacommunications@berkeley.edu Edit	→ Add
Address	<b>Diploma Address</b> 2111 BANCROFT WAY #4080 BERKELEY, California 94720-4080 Edit	→ Add
	<b>Home Address</b> 2111 BANCROFT WAY #550 Edit	
	<b>Local Address</b> 500 SPROUL HALL BERKELEY, California 94720 Edit	

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

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



# Enroll Full Time



**COVID-19 special rules:** New Students arriving for Fall 2021 must have some instruction which is coded as *in-person*

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.

Reduced enrollment for Academic reasons is limited to  
issues during the first semester of arrival in the US.



# Employment

# Employment

- DO NOT WORK without the correct work authorization!  
Learn more in our upcoming “Working in the US” session
- Working without authorization is a serious violation of your F-1/J-1 student visa. If you are uncertain if you need work authorization for certain activities, come check with us first.



# 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 $\neq$ 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





# 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](https://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](https://bit.ly/CBP-SI))
- See the ACLU's Know Your Rights resources for Rights at Airports & Other Ports ([aclu.org/know-your-rights](https://aclu.org/know-your-rights))



# Electronic Devices

- Customs & Border Protection may request to inspect your electronic devices. See [bit.ly/ACLUdevices](https://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.



I-20DS-2019



# 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
<b>Depart the U.S.</b>	<b>60 days</b> after your I-20 program end date	<b>30 days</b> after your DS-2019 program end date
<b>Transfer to a new school (or remain at Cal but change educational level)</b>	<b>60 days</b> after your I-20 program end date	<b>before</b> your DS-2019 program end date
<b>Apply for work authorization or explore employment options</b>	<b>60 days</b> after your I-20 program end date * Start applying 90 days before completion!	<b>before</b> 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.



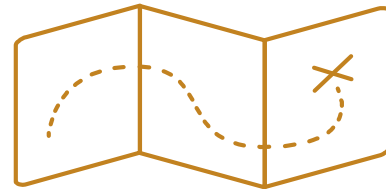
Contact a BIO adviser if you suspect you are a victim of a scam or fraud.

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!