



Workshop Overview

- F-1/J-1 Document Review
- Automatic Revalidation (Travel to Mexico/Canada)
- Entry or Re-entry to the U.S.
- Travel Q&A
- Visa Process Overview
- Visa Process Q & A

Is this webinar for me?

- You have an I-20 or DS-2019 from UC Berkeley
- You are a continuing F-1/J-1 Degree-seeking Student or UCEAP Exchange Student
 - A J-1 student has one of the following categories listed in Section 4 of the DS-2019: STUDENT-NON-DEGREE, STUDENT BACHELORS, STUDENT MASTERS OR STUDENT DOCTORATE.
- You are NOT a J-1 Scholar, post-doc, or Visiting Student Researcher
- You have questions about current travel and immigration requirements!
- Other questions: Employment, changing visa categories, academic issues? Please meet with a BIO advisor!

F-1/J-1 Entry Requirements

Required Entry Documents-Enrolled Students

Be prepared to present the following documents to the CBP Officer when you arrive in the US:

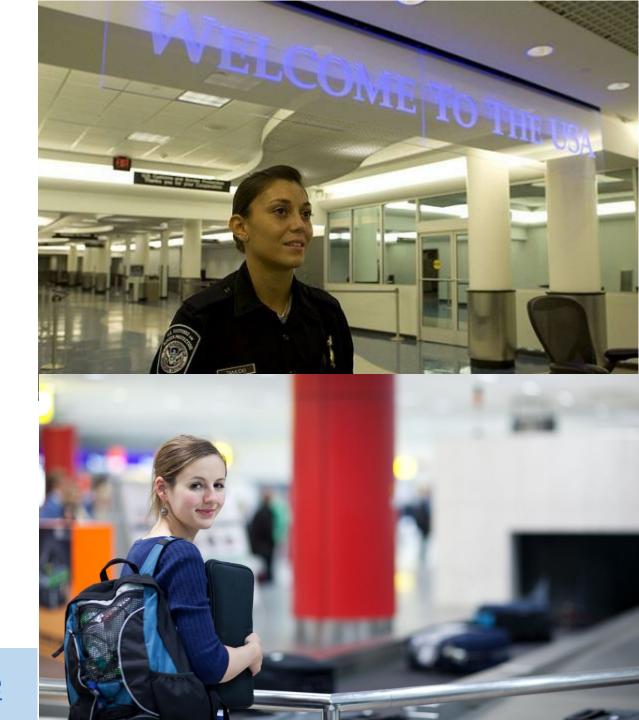
- Passport (valid for at least 6 months into the future)
 with a valid nonimmigrant visa (if applicable)
- Printed & signed, original form <u>I-20</u> or <u>DS-2019</u> with valid travel signature within *12 months* of entry date
- Evidence of financial resources (see <u>Required</u> <u>Funding Documentation</u>)
- Proof of UC Berkeley enrollment (current students)
- Proof of <u>SEVIS fee payment</u>

Officers may ask you questions about your reason for entering the U.S., where you are traveling, or about your academic program.

If you encounter problems at entry, please contact BIO as soon as possible:

http://internationaloffice.berkeley.edu/contact-us

See full details on the Travel & Re-Entry page



Entry to the U.S. on F-1 OPT/STEM OPT

F-1 Students with pending OPT/STEM OPT applications

- Valid Passport
- Valid F-1 Visa Stamp
- I-20 with BIO travel endorsement within the last 6 months
- I-797 Notice of Action Receipt
- Proof of funding
- Job offer letter recommended

F-1 Students with approved OPT/STEM OPT

- Valid Passport
- Valid F-1 Visa Stamp
- I-20 with travel endorsement within the last 6 months
- EAD card
- Proof of employment (job offer or employment verification letter)
- Proof of funding (salary)

See full details on the OPT travel page

Entry to the U.S. on J-1 Academic Training

- Valid Passport
- Valid Visa Stamp
- DS-2019 w/Academic Training details and recent travel endorsement (within 12 months) from BIO
- BIO AT Verification letter
- Employment Verification letter from employer
- Proof of financial support for J-1 and any J-2 dependents (May be included in employer letter, if indicating sufficient salary)

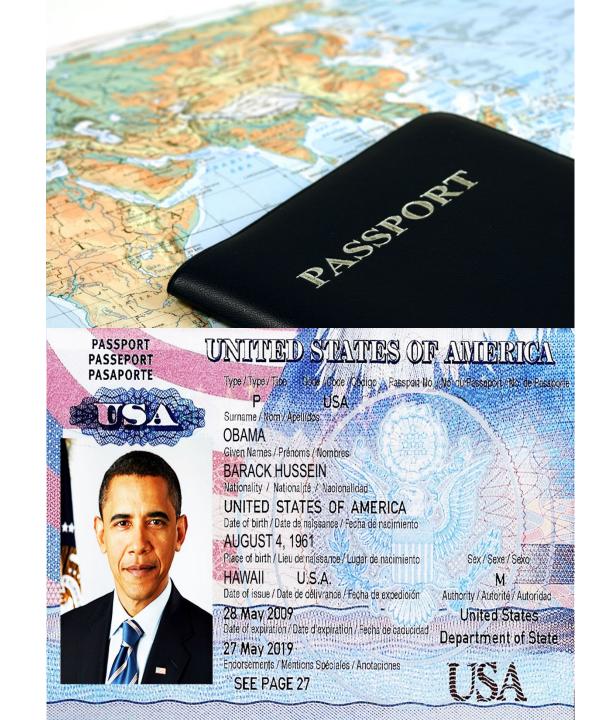


F-1/J-1 Document Review

Passport

Must be valid at least 6 months into the future, 12 months recommended.

Can be renewed inside the United States.





Check that

Visa

"R" means "regular" passport. "Class" is

- Entry document into the United States.
- Should be unexpired on the date of your return to the U.S.
- It does not need to remain valid during your stay inside the U.S.
- Canadian citizens do not need a U.S. entry visa. Canadian "Landed immigrants" (Permanent Residents, without Canadian citizenship/passport) are required to obtain U.S. entry visas

See full details on the **Understanding Your Visa page**

I-20

Travel

signature

I-20, Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student S U.S. Immigration and Customs Enfor OMB NO. 1653-0038 NAME: John Doe Smith SCHOO CHANGE OF STATUS/CAP-GAP EXTENSION EVENT HISTORY OTHER AUTHORIZATIONS START DATE Ima N Advisor Berkeley, CA ICE For ICE Form I-20 A-B (12/2016 Page 2 of 3

DS-2019

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See full details on the <u>Understanding Your I-20</u> or <u>Understanding Your DS-2019</u> pages

** If you receive an electronically signed I-20/DS-2019 by email, you must print out the I-20/DS-2019, sign it, and carry a physical copy when using it for travel or other official purposes.

I-20/DS-2019 Travel Endorsement

- If you are a student returning to the US after travel, your <u>I-20</u> or <u>DS-2019</u> needs a valid travel endorsement for re-entry
- The travel endorsement is valid for 12 months**
- *OPT or STEM OPT students- travel endorsement is only valid for 6 months!

J-1s: Check your DS-2019 on page 1 in the "Travel Validation" box.

F-1s: Check your I-20 on page 2 in the "Travel Endorsement" section.

TRAVEL ENDORSEMENT This page, when properly endorsed, may be used for re-entry of the student to attend the same school after a temporary absence from the United States. Each endorsement is valid for one year. Designated School Official TITLE SIGNATURE DATE ISSUED PLACE ISSUED Ima N Advisor DSO Iwa N Advisor 9/29/2021 Berkeley, CA



How do I get a new travel signature?

- 1.Sign in for <u>Drop-In Virtual Advising</u> and receive a same-day electronic travel signature during your Virtual Advising session. See the <u>Frequently Asked Questions</u> on this page for how to prepare.
- 2. Visit our <u>In-Person Drop-in Advising hours</u> for a same-day travel signature.
- 3. Submit a Replacement Document request (#13) to receive a new I-20 or DS-2019 with a new travel endorsement. (Note: BIO has a 5 business day processing time!).
- 4.Drop off your I-20 or DS-2019 at <u>Berkeley International Office</u>. Your I-20/DS-2019 with an updated travel signature will be ready for you to pick up 5 business days later.
- 5.Attend an upcoming <u>Travel Signature day event</u> and receive a sameday travel signature! <u>December 5 In-person at BIO from 10am 12pm</u>, <u>December 6 Virtual at 1pm 4pm</u>

SEVIS Fee Payment

SEVIS: Student and Exchange Visitor Information System



You made this payment after receiving your SEVIS ID for the FIRST TIME. You'll need proof of the payment for future visa interview or entry to the US.

You only pay this fee once for the SEVIS record. If you have already paid the fee, you'll just need your receipt!

- Go to <u>www.fmjfee.com</u>
- 2. Click "Check I-901 Status"
- 3. Follow instructions to look up your fee payment and print receipt.

F-1 Post-completion OPT/STEM Students

EAD Card



I-797 receipt (if EAD not yet approved)

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I-94 Admission Information



Passport
Admission
Stamp &
Electronic I-94





Paper I-94 Form

See full details on the Understanding Your I-94 page

Travel to Canada/Mexico: Automatic Visa Revalidation

- Allows re-entry to the U.S. with an expired U.S. visa stamp in a valid passport
- Travel to Canada, Mexico & adjacent islands only*
- Travel outside of the US must be 30 days or less
- Keep the Paper Form I-94 when departing the U.S. (if applicable)
- Do you need a visa to enter Canada or Mexico?



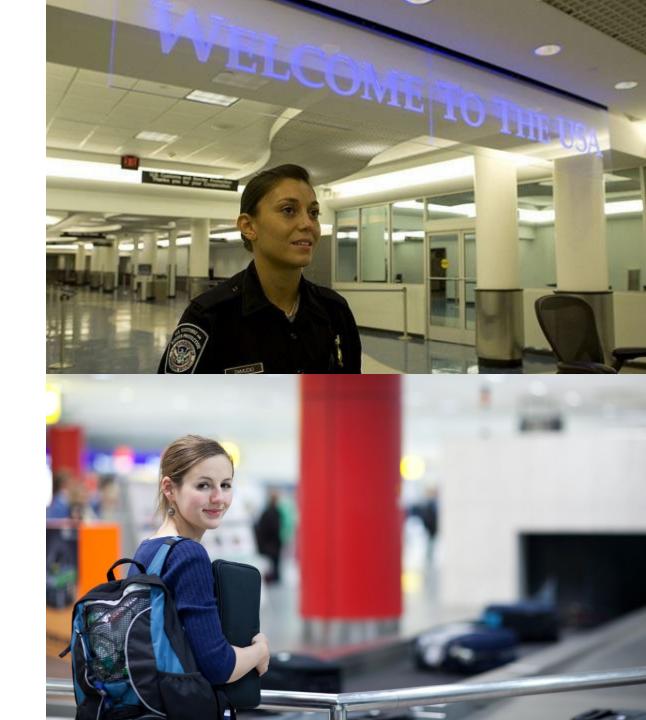
* For comprehensive list of adjacent islands, visit https://internationaloffice.berkeley.edu/travel-canada-and-mexico

Automatic Revalidation

- Automatic Revalidation does <u>not</u> apply to students or scholars:
 - Who apply for a visa in Canada, Mexico or adjacent islands.
 - Who are from Iran, Sudan, North Korea or Syria.
 - Who are returning to the U.S. after program has ended.
 - Who entered the U.S. under the Visa Waiver Program.
- Attempting to enter the U.S. with automatic revalidation when ineligible is fraud!

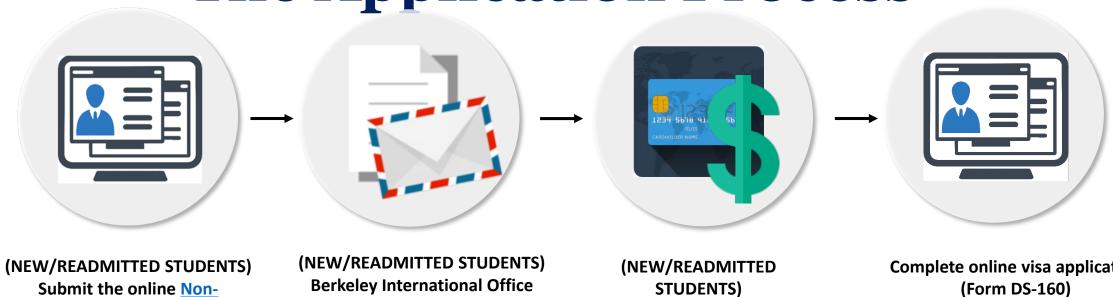
Preparing for Arrival

- Carry all required documents with you, not in your checked bag!
- If possible, arrive during BIO Office hours Monday-Friday from 10-12 or 1-4pm. If you have a problem during arrival, request that CBP call BIO.
- Do not bring any <u>restricted items</u>. Make sure you follow rules regarding travel with medications, food, or pets.
- Medical and recreational marijuana remains illegal under U.S. federal law. Possession or use may result in deportation or incarceration.
- It is **illegal** to bring drug paraphernalia into the United States, unless prescribed for authentic medical conditions such as diabetes.
- Be aware that U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) may inspect your electronic devices.
- See the ACLU's tips regarding precautions you can take to <u>prepare your devices for travel</u>.



Visa Process Overview

The Application Process

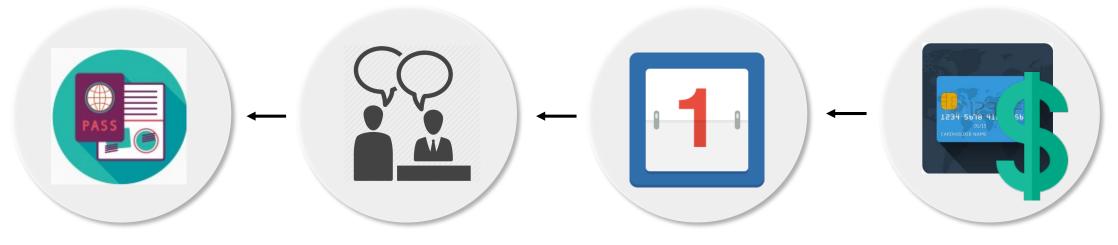


Immigrant Information Form (NIF)

issues your new I-20 or DS-2019.

Pay SEVIS fee

Complete online visa application



Receive passport back with visa

Attend visa interview

Schedule visa interview appointment

Pay visa application fee

Apply Early

Visa Processing time

- Wait times for visa appointments and processing vary by location; apply as early as possible to avoid delays.
- Find your consulate location and <u>current wait</u> times.

Visa application fees, forms and appointment scheduling are all accessible online



Receive the I20 or DS-2019

Pay the SEVIS
fee

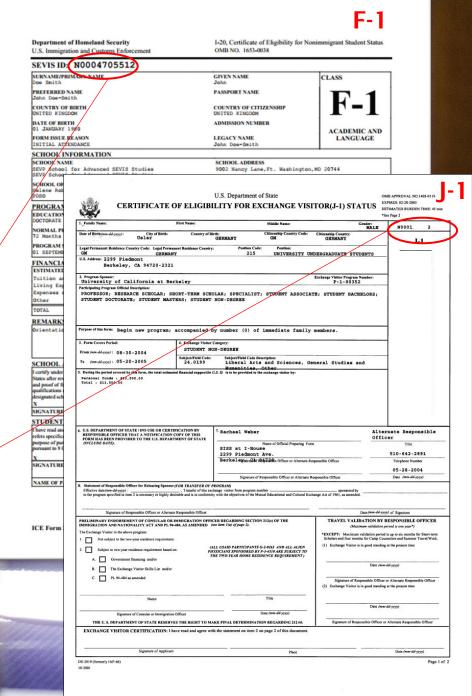
Complete the visa application fee application form

Pay the visa application fee application

Your I-20 or DS-2019

- Certificate of Eligibility; Allows you to apply for an F-1 or J-1 student visa.
- Contains details about you, your school, and program of study.

SEVIS ID number is located in the top right corner.



SEVIS Fee Payment

SEVIS: Student and Exchange Visitor Information System



You made this payment after receiving your SEVIS ID for the FIRST TIME. You'll need proof of the payment for future visa interview or entry to the US.

You only pay this fee once for the SEVIS record. If you have already paid the fee, you'll just need your receipt!

- 1. Go to www.fmjfee.com
- 2. Click "Check I-901 Status"
- 3. Follow instructions to look up your fee payment and print receipt.

Receive the I20 or DS-2019

Pay the SEVIS
fee

Pay the visa application fee application fee

Pay the visa application fee application fee

application fee

Schedule visa interview appointment

Attend visa interview appointment

Find the U.S. Embassy or Consulate near you

Go to www.usembassy.gov.

Check your local embassy or consulate's website for specific visa application instructions.

Look for instructions to apply for a Non-Immigrant Visa

The U.S. Embassy website may link you to a 3rd party website for visa application instructions.



Schedule your interview at a U.S. Embassy or Consulate General

Choose your specific location by clicking on the map be

Receive the I20 or DS-2019

Pay the SEVIS
fee

Pay the visa application fee application fee application fee form

Pay the visa application fee application f

Form DS-160

Online visa application form for all non-immigrant visas.

- NOTE: Visas cannot be issued from inside the United States. You must be physically present in the country in which you are applying for the visa.
- Select your embassy location first.
- When completed, print the confirmation page with a barcode when complete.



Receive the I20 or DS-2019

Pay the SEVIS
fee

Pay the visa application fee application fee application fee

Pay the visa application fee ap

DS-160 Tips

U.S. Point of Contact:

- Berkeley International Office- you can use our address/phone and the name of the DSO on your I-20/DS-2019
- U.S.-based Family member or friend

Address where you will stay in the U.S.

- It's okay if you don't know where you will live longterm
- Provide an address where you may stay when you first arrive (hotel, friend's house, etc)

Photo

- Upload your photo while completing the online Form DS-160.
- Check the photo guidelines on the official website



Pay the visa application fee

Non-refundable fee

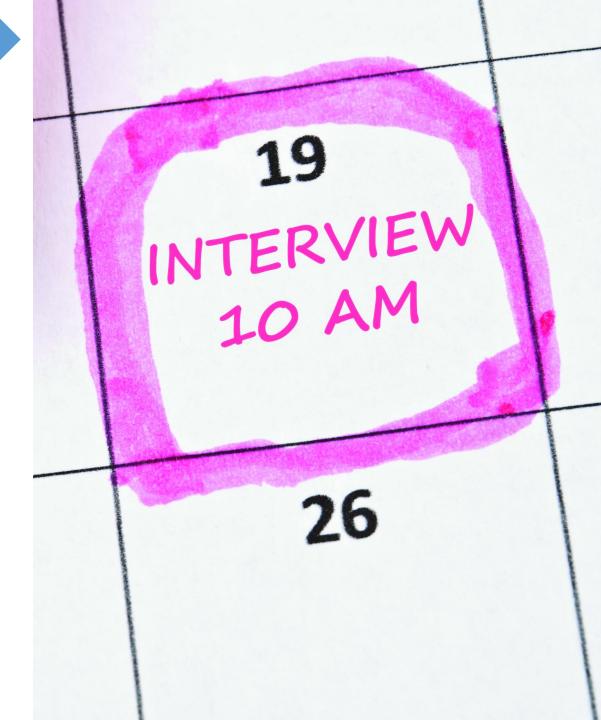
- Sometimes called the "MRV" fee or "NIV" application fee.
- Payment instructions are specific to your local U.S. embassy.
- See the Dept. of State website for current fees
- Print your receipt!



Schedule visa interview appointment

Follow instructions given by the U.S. embassy or consulate where you intend to apply.

Do not wait to schedule! Wait times for appointments can be long during summer months, or there may be delays over holiday periods. Schedule as soon as possible.



Preparing for the interview

Check the U.S. embassy website for a complete list of documents required for the interview.

Prepare to bring:

- Passport
- I-20 or DS-2019
- Acceptance letter(New Students) or / Proof of enrollment (continuing students)
- Proof of funding (financial statements, award letters, employer letter)
- SEVIS Fee receipt
- DS-160 Confirmation page
- Additional documentation needed for F-1 OPT/STEM or J-1 Academic training



The interview

What to expect

- Security at the U.S. Embassy find out what items will not be allowed inside the building before you go.
- Wait for your number to be called.
- A brief interview; only a few minutes!

The interviewer is interested in:

- Your studies
- Non-immigrant intent
- Financial ability
- Language ability



Interview Tips

- Answer questions concisely and honestly.
- Be aware that the consulate may also conduct a social media review. Be smart about what information you post online.
- If you don't understand something, don't be afraid to ask.
- Be respectful and courteous.



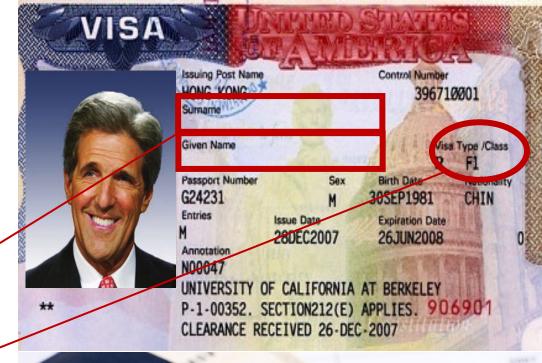
Receive visa

Check U.S. embassy website for instructions for passport pick-up or delivery.

Check the visa for accuracy

- Spelling of your name
- Visa type: F-1or J-1

The maximum length of the visa and number of entries is determined by the visa category and country of citizenship, and is subject to the visa officer's discretion. See the <u>Reciprocity</u> <u>Table</u> for your country of citizenship and the visa category for more information.





Security Checks

- May cause a delay in visa processing, called "Administrative Processing". Contact BIO if you have concerns about a delayed arrival.
- Some cases may resolve in a few weeks.
 Average processing is 60-90 days, but in some cases can take as long as 6 months.
- <u>U.S. Dept. of State Administrative Processing</u>
 Information
- Berkeley International Office security check information



Don't panic if your visa is denied

Ask for the reason of denial in writing.

Make detailed notes about the interview (officer's name, questions asked, and your answers).

Email <u>internationaloffice@berkeley.edu</u> and recount details including the location of the consulate and the date and time of your interview.

After consulting with a BIO advisor, re-apply with <u>additional</u> information that addresses the denial reason.



Visas for family

Visas for Dependents

- F-2
- J-2

Who's eligible for F-2/J-2?

- Children under 21
- Legally married spouse

How do they apply for F-2/J-2 visa?

- Same DS-160 process!
- May apply with the F-1 or J-1 or independently
- Will need their own documents and copies of the F-1/J-1 documents
- For more information see <u>BIO Inviting Family</u> webpage





internationaloffice.berkeley.edu

General questions: internationaloffice@berkeley.edu

NIF (new students) questions: nif@berkeley.edu

510-642-2818

Student Advising Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday (No advising on Wednesday!):

10am-12pm and 1pm-4pm (PT)

https://internationaloffice.berkeley.edu/students/student-services