



ENTERING THE U.S.

WHAT TO EXPECT AT THE PORT OF ENTRY

NAVIGATING CUSTOMS & BORDER PATROL (CBP)

With recent increased screenings at the U.S. border, it's important that you're fully prepared. Here is an overview of what to expect:

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clickable!

ARRIVAL PROCESS

Be prepared with the following documents:

- **Passport**
- **Valid nonimmigrant visa** (Canadians exempt)
- **Original form I-20 or DS-2019** with valid travel signature
- **Evidence of financial resources**
- **UC Berkeley admission** (new) or **enrollment** (continuing) or department appointment letter (J Scholars)
- **Proof of SEVIS Fee Payment** - [click here](#) to print
- **OPT/STEM OPT students**, [click here](#)
- **J-1 Academic Training Students**, [click here](#)
- **Customs Declaration Form 6059 B** - info about what you're bringing to the U.S.

Don't bring restricted items: see [CBP's website](#) for rules regarding travel with medications, foods, or pets.

For more travel information, see internationaloffice.berkeley.edu/travel-re-entry

QUESTIONING & TIPS

- You may be fingerprinted and/or photographed.
- Officers may ask you questions about your reason for entering the U.S., your activities in the U.S., or your academic program. **If you are questioned, remain calm and answer honestly and succinctly.**
- **What NOT to say:** Jokes about terrorism, explosives, breaking U.S. laws, drugs, alcohol, etc. are never a good idea.
- **Preparing Your Electronic Devices:** CBP may also ask questions about your electronic devices or inspect them. This may include your social media accounts. For tips on how to prepare your devices, visit [this article](#).
- **Social Media & App Review:** Are you presenting your best self in social media and messaging apps? Take time to review your accounts for any content that may appear to show you engaged in activities that violate U.S. laws, your visa status, or academic integrity.

ADDITIONAL SCREENINGS

An officer may determine you (and/or your luggage) require additional screening. **This is not uncommon.** You may be asked to go to an interview area called **Secondary Inspection** where they will verify information and ask you additional questions.

You can expect:

- Long wait times (multiple hours)
- Additional, more substantial and specific questioning
- **Tip: Make notes of your experience, including the officer's name and badge number.**
- **Know Your Rights:** See [the ACLU's resources](#) for information on your rights at airports and in encounters with law enforcement.

MAKE SURE YOU HAVE BERKELEY INTERNATIONAL OFFICE'S CONTACT INFO. CONTACT US AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IF YOU ENCOUNTER ANY PROBLEMS.

internationaloffice@berkeley.edu | 510-642-2818