June 17, 2021

To Whom It May Concern
U.S. Department of State Consular Services
United States Customs and Border Protection

Dear Sir/Madam:

Re: University of California, Berkeley Instructional Model Fall 2021 Semester

All F-1 and J-1 students will be required to enroll and pursue a full program of study according to guidance provided by SEVP. In addition, the University of California, Berkeley, expects all new international students who entered the U.S. after March 9, 2020 or will enter to begin studies for Fall 2021 to engage in course work that is primarily in person. At a minimum, they will be required to comply with the requirement that they engage in a combination of in-person and remote instruction for the Fall 2021 semester, subject to restrictions imposed by state and local health authorities in response to the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic.

The Berkeley International Office requests that consulates prioritize this student’s F-1 or J-1 student visa application in order to allow the student’s entry into the U.S. in a timely manner. It is expected that they will arrive no later than the start of the instruction date listed on the student’s I-20 or DS-2019 document which may include emergency or expedited processing if necessary.

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 will allow new students in initial status to arrive up to 30 days after the start of instruction listed on the student’s form I-20 or DS-2019, with permission from the academic department. Similar to initial students, continuing students facing entry delays are also permitted to enter up to 30 days after the start of instruction, with permission from the academic department.

Sincerely,

Ivor Emmanuel
Director
Berkeley International Office
University of California, Berkeley