

Immigration Essentials

Berkeley International Office

Enrollment Reminder

- Reminder- F-1/J-1 students are required to enroll [full-time](#) for Fall 2023.
- Online coursework is very limited! Your enrollment must be primarily in-person coursework. Only 1 course or 3 units of online coursework is allowed due to normal F/J visa regulations.
- You can search for classes using the [Berkeley Academic guide](#), which also allows you to filter for mode of instruction.
- For Fall 2023, a class is 100% online if the course [instructional mode](#) is listed as "Online" or "Web-based".
- Courses considered "in-person" are coded with "In Person" [instructional mode](#)

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:
 - [Immigration Policy Updates FAQ](#)
- Read ALL emails from BIO
- Speak with an adviser using our virtual or in-person advising. See the [BIO Student Services](#) page.



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.

See: [Top 10 Tips for Maintaining Your F/J Student Status](#)

Additional information specific for J-1s from Dept of State [Exchange Visitor Brochure](#)

Stay in Status

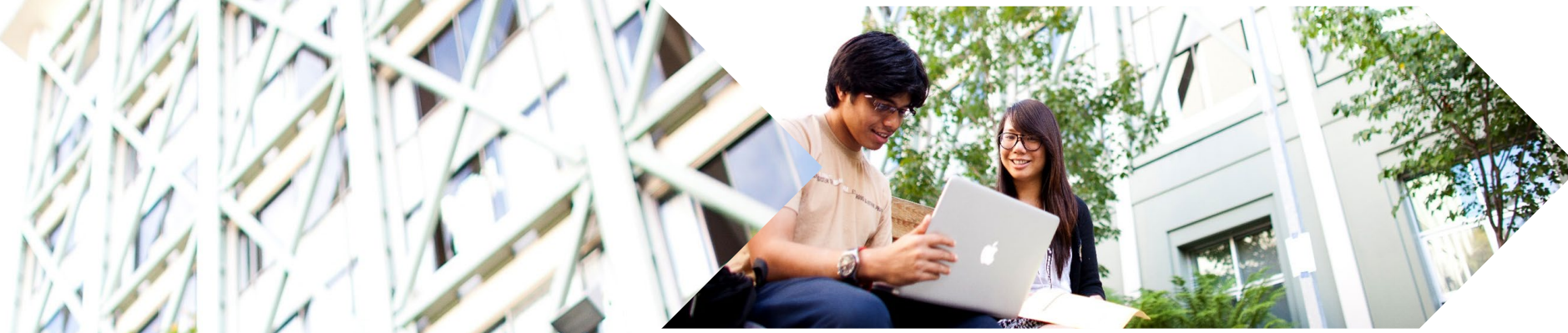
1. Keep addresses & phone number updated
2. Enroll in Full-time units
3. Get Approval for course reductions and withdrawal
4. Work permission
5. Obey laws, regulations, student code of conduct
6. Attend the school on your I-20/DS-2019
7. Keep documents valid
8. Understand travel documents
9. Grace period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

J-1 ONLY: Understand the 2-Year Physical Presence Requirement


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.*

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

Online instruction: only 1 class (or 3 units) of online instruction is allowed, to be counted toward your full-time enrollment requirements

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?

See BIO's [Full-Time Enrollment Requirements](#) page for full details

Study/Work Balance

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Reduced Course Load



Academic
Reasons

Medical
Reasons

Final
Semester*

*degree-seeking
students only NOT EAP

Approval from a BIO Advisor is **required IN ADVANCE.**

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.

See BIO's [Reduced Course Load Authorization](#) page for more information



Employment

Employment

- See the [BIO Employment page](#) for general information for both F and J types of employment.
- DO NOT WORK without the correct work authorization!
- 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.
- More information to come in our Working in the US presentation later today!



Academic Conduct & 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 Academic 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.

Examples of Behavioral Misconduct

- Dishonesty
- Forgery
- Theft
- Drug/Alcohol Violations
- Abuse of electronic resources
- Housing policy violations
- Physical abuse
- Terrorizing conduct
- Violation of privacy
- Harassment
- Stalking
- Hazing
- Obstruction of University Activities
- Disorderly Conduct
- Failure to comply
- Destructive devices, weapons

Visa Rules ≠ CA Laws

Just because it's legal in California...

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

Cannabis use, possession, or even possession of drug paraphernalia can lead to deportation or arrest.

Drug/alcohol violations can also lead to bars from the U.S and future inadmissibility.

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/CBPlist**)
- 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.

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
	Final Deadline	Final Deadline
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!

J-1: Understand the 2-Year Physical Presence Requirement

- Certain J-1 Exchange Visitors are subject to a two-year home country physical presence requirement.
- If you are subject to this rule, you must return to your country of last legal residence for two years or obtain a waiver before you are eligible for the H (temporary employment), L (intracompany transfer), K (fiancée) or Permanent Residence (Green Card) categories.
- J-2s are subject to the rule if the J-1 is subject. J-2s can't fulfil or waive the requirement separately (the J-1 has to waive or complete it.)

J-1: Understand the 2-Year Physical Presence Requirement

- Who is subject to the requirement? (BIO provided you a preliminary opinion with your DS-2019. You may notice a marking on your J-1 visa or your DS-2019 from the consulate.) Below are reasons you may be subject:
 - Home Government or US Government Funding
 - Funding from an International Organization or Bi-National Commission
 - The Exchange Visitor Skills List
- BIO holds [workshops](#) that cover all aspects of the two-year home country physical presence requirement.
- Don't file for a waiver without consulting 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!