Immigration Essentials

Berkeley International Office
Introduction
Unlawful Presence

- Violations of F/J status can result in 3-10 year bars from the U.S., depending on the number of days you accrue.
- Days begin counting from the day you violate status or overstay.
  - 3 year bar - 180+ ULP days but less than 1 year
  - 10 year bar - 1 year or more of ULP
Top 10 Rules

BIO Advisors 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 semester
Complete your Arrival Confirmation & Keep your address updated!
Temporary addresses are ok. Remember to update again when you find permanent housing.

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

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
Most academic departments require 12 units each semester.

Full time enrollment is determined by your academic department.

College of Letters & Science requires 13 units.
Continuing Students
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.
Employment
On campus employment

- **F-1 Visa:** No special permission required
  - Fall and Spring: < 20
  - Summer/Vacation

- **J-1 Visa:** Permission from BIO required before beginning employment.
  - Fall and Spring: < 20
  - Summer/Vacation

Off campus employment

- **F-1 Visa:** Permission from BIO or USCIS required before beginning employment.
  - Curricular Practical Training (CPT)
  - Optional Practical Training (OPT)

- **J-1 Visa:** Permission from BIO required before beginning employment.
  - Academic Training
Academics & 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
What are examples 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.
Visa Rules ≠ CA Laws

Just because it’s legal in California…..
Does not mean it’s OK while you’re on a 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.
Travel & Immigration
Document Maintenance
See BIO’s Travel webpage for all required documents:

https://internationaloffice.berkeley.edu/entry-us-travel-and-re-entry
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
Attend the school noted on your I-20 (F-1s) or DS-2019 (J-1s)
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
Keep your I-20 or DS-2019 valid at all times and understand your completion date.
Request a program extension before your I-20 or DS-2019 expires if you need additional time to complete your program.
Grace Period
Graduation/Completion

F: 60 days
J: 30 days
After end of degree, or post-completion employment

Depart the U.S

F: 60 days
J: BEFORE program completion

Transfer to a different institution or change level of study

Final semester: talk to your BIO advisor

Apply for OPT/AT or explore employment options
F-1 final deadline: 60 days after graduation
J-1 BEFORE program completion

Depart the U.S
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!
Health Insurance

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.
Communication from BIO
Resources

http://internationaloffice.berkeley.edu/

Email: internationaloffice@berkeley.edu

Open Hours: Mon., Tues., Wed., Thur. & Fri.
9am - 12pm and 1pm - 4pm

Phone: 510.642.2818