

Immigration Essentials

Berkeley International Office

Enrollment Reminder

- Reminder- F-1/J-1 students are required to enroll full-time. 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.
- 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](#) & [J-1 Exchange Visitor Welcome Brochure](#)

Stay in Status

1. Maintain U.S. Physical Presence & Keep your local U.S. address/Phone up-to-date
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

+ Information for F-1/F-2 Dependents

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


First Steps

Berkeley
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA





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.

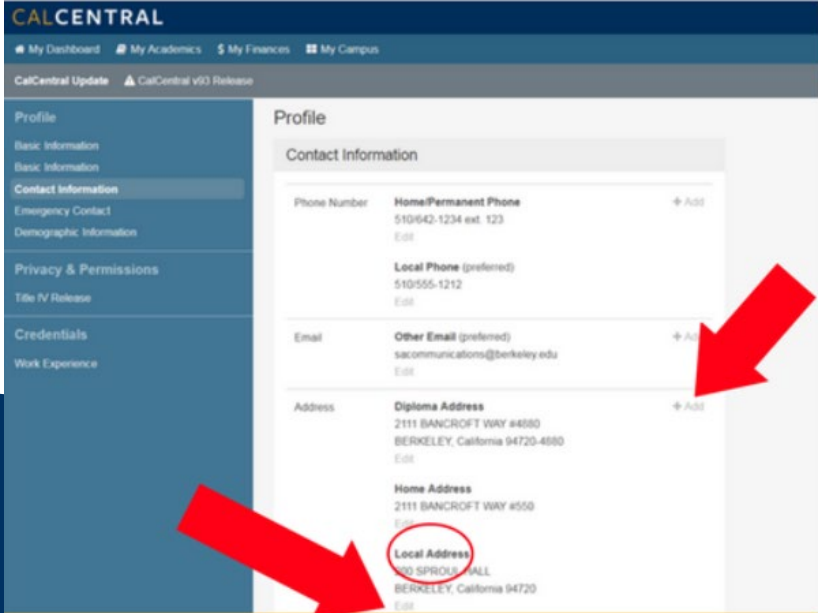
Go to calcentral.berkeley.edu and complete these Task items:

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.*

THEN: Update your LOCAL U.S. Phone & address in Cal Central

If you move or change your email, update Cal Central **within 10 days.**



CALCENTRAL

My Dashboard | My Academics | My Finances | My Campus

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 + Add 510/642-1234 ext. 123 <small>Edit</small>
	Local Phone (preferred) 510/555-1212 <small>Edit</small>
Email	Other Email (preferred) + Add sacommunications@berkeley.edu <small>Edit</small>
Address	Diploma Address + Add 2111 BANCROFT WAY #4000 BERKELEY, California 94720-4000 <small>Edit</small>
	Home Address 2111 BANCROFT WAY #500 <small>Edit</small>
	Local Address Local Address 30 SPROUL HALL BERKELEY, California 94720 <small>Edit</small>

Maintain U.S. Physical Presence

F/J students cannot be outside of the US for 5 or more consecutive months, or the F/J status will end.

You are expected to be in the US, studying in person full-time or after completion, engaged in F/J post-completion employment. Temporary absences or travel are allowed but should not interfere with your studies and work in the U.S



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?

Summer enrollment is NOT required unless Summer is your very FIRST or VERY LAST semester of study.

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

Study/Work Balance

Berkeley
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA



Reduced Course Load

Academic
Reasons

Medical
Reasons

Final
Semester*

*Degree-Seeking students ONLY!

NOT AVAILABLE FOR 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
- Inappropriate AI use



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.

Respect consent in your interpersonal relationships.

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

**Contact BIO about
any Student
Conduct issue
IMMEDIATELY!**

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

Required Entry Documents- Enrolled Students

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

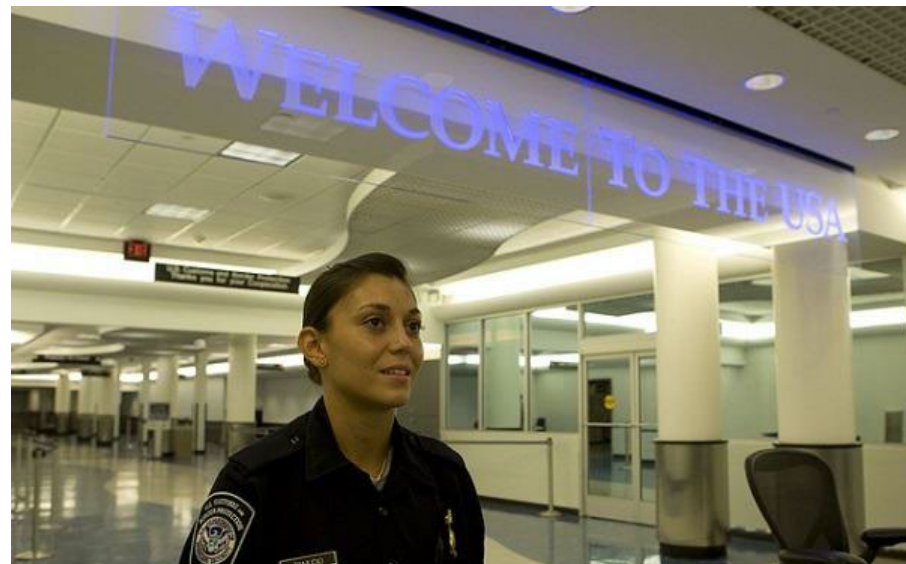
- Passport (valid for at least 6 months into the future) with a valid nonimmigrant visa (if applicable)
- Printed & signed, original form [I-20](#) or [DS-2019](#) with valid travel signature within *12 months* of entry date
- Evidence of financial resources (see [Required Funding Documentation](#))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

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](#)



Passport

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

Can be renewed inside the United States.

If yours will expire soon, contact your [home country's embassy](#) in the United States



I-20/DS-2019 Travel Endorsement

- If you are a student returning to the US after travel, your [I-20](#) or [DS-2019](#) 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!

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

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

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	<i>Ima N Advisor</i>	9/29/2021	Berkeley, CA

TRAVEL VALIDATION BY RESPONSIBLE OFFICER

(Maximum validation period is 1 year)*

*EXCEPT: Maximum validation period is up to 6 months for Short-term Scholars and 4 months for Camp Counselors and Summer Work/Travel.

(1) Exchange Visitor is in good standing at the present time

12/07/2020

Date (mm-dd-yyyy)

Ima N Advisor

Signature of Responsible Officer or Alternate Responsible Officer

(2) Exchange Visitor is in good standing at the present time

Date (mm-dd-yyyy)

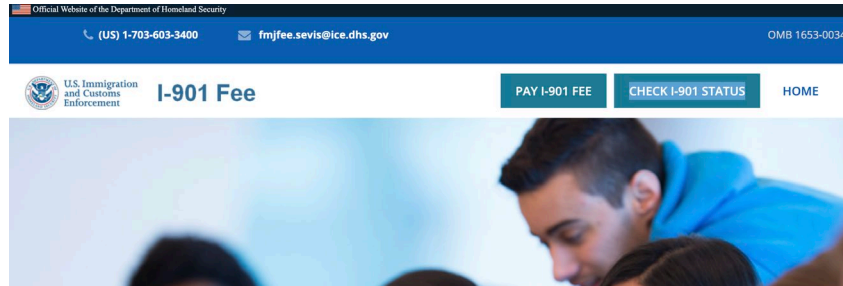
Signature of Responsible Officer or Alternate Responsible Officer

How do I get a new travel signature?

1. Sign in for [Drop-In Virtual Advising](#) and receive a same-day electronic travel signature during your Virtual Advising session. See the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) on this page for how to prepare.
2. Visit our [In-Person Drop-in Advising hours](#) 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 [Berkeley International Office](#). Your I-20/DS-2019 with an updated travel signature will be ready for you to pick up 5 business days later.

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.

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 [restricted items](#). 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 [prepare your devices for travel](#)





Attend the school noted on your
I-20 (F-1s) or DS-2019 (J-1s)

Transferring SEVIS Record

- Transfer IN = Must have 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

Berkeley
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA





Keep your I-20 or DS-2019 valid
at all times and understand your
completion date.

Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
SEVIS ID: N0004705512

I-20, Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status
OMB NO. 1653-0038

PROGRAM OF STUDY	MAJOR 1	MAJOR 2
EDUCATION LEVEL DOCTORATE	Economics, General 45.0601	None 00.0000
NORMAL PROGRAM LENGTH 72 Months	PROGRAM ENGLISH PROFICIENCY Required	ENGLISH PROFICIENCY NOTES Student is proficient
PROGRAM START DATE 01 SEPTEMBER 2015	PROGRAM END DATE 31 MAY 2021	

SCHOOL OFFICIAL TO CONTACT UPON ARRIVAL
Name: Administration
PHONE: 03 APRIL 2015

PROGRAM OF STUDY	MAJOR 1	MAJOR 2
EDUCATION LEVEL DOCTORATE	Economics, General 45.0601	None 00.0000
NORMAL PROGRAM LENGTH 72 Months	PROGRAM ENGLISH PROFICIENCY Required	ENGLISH PROFICIENCY NOTES Student is proficient
PROGRAM START DATE 01 SEPTEMBER 2015	PROGRAM END DATE 31 MAY 2021	

ESTIMATED AVERAGE COSTS FOR 9 MONTHS		STUDENT'S FUNDING FOR 9 MONTHS	
Tuition and Fees	\$ 23,000	Personal Funds	\$ 3,000
Living Expenses	\$ 6,000	Scholarship and Teaching Assistantship	\$ 29,000
Expenses of Dependents (1)	\$ 3,000	Funds From Another Source	\$
Other	\$	On-Campus Employment	\$
TOTAL	\$ 32,000	TOTAL	\$ 32,000

REMARKS
Orientation begins 8/25/2015. Please report to ISS upon arrival.

SCHOOL ATTESTATION
I certify under penalty of perjury that all information provided above was entered before I signed this form and is true and correct. I executed this form in the United States after review and evaluation in the United States by me or other officials of the school of the student's application, transcripts, or other records of courses taken and proof of financial responsibility, which were received at the school prior to the execution of this form. The school has determined that the above named student's qualifications meet all standards for admission to the school and the student will be required to pursue a full program of study as defined by 9 CFR 214.2(a)(6). I am a designated school official of the above named school and am authorized to issue this form.

STUDENT ATTESTATION
I have read and agreed to comply with the terms and conditions of my admission and those of any extension of stay. I certify that all information provided on this form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I certify that I will seek to enter or remain in the United States temporarily, and solely for the purpose of pursuing a full program of study at the school named above. I also authorize the named school to release any information from my records needed by DHS pursuant to 9 CFR 214.2(g) to determine my nonimmigrant status. Parent or guardian, and student, must sign of student in under 1K.

ICE Form I-20 A-B (12/28/16) Page 1 of 3

I-20

U.S. Department of State
CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY FOR EXCHANGE VISITOR STATUS (J-NONIMMIGRANT)

3. Form Covers Period:
From (mm-dd-yyyy):
To (mm-dd-yyyy):

4. Exchange Visitor Category:
Subject/Field Code: Subject/Field Code Remarks:

5. During the period covered by this form, the total estimated financial support (in U.S. \$) is to be provided to the exchange visitor by:

DRAFT

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE: ONE USE OR OTHER'S FIRST RESPONSIBLE OFFICER OR ALTERNATE RESPONSIBLE OFFICER
100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE
WASHINGTON, DC 20520

Signature of Responsible Officer or Alternate Responsible Officer
Date

Signature of Applicant
Date

Page 1 of 2

DS-2019

Request a program extension before your I-20 or DS-2019 expires if you need additional time to complete your program.



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!

F-2/J-2 Dependents

Visas for Dependents

- F-2
- J-2

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

- Children under 21
- Legally married spouse

What activities are allowed for Dependents?

- J-2 dependent spouses can [apply for work permission](#)
- J-2 dependents are eligible to **study** part-time or full-time in the U.S.
- F-2 dependents (spouse, child) are **NOT eligible for any work** or employment.
- F-2 children may attend full-time elementary or secondary school (kindergarten-12th grade).
- F-2 spouses and children may enroll in other academic programs for *less than a full course of study* [at an SEVP-approved school](#)
- F-2 spouses and children may participate in studies that are "avocational or recreational in nature" (i.e., non-academic hobbies and recreational studies) up to and including *full-time*.

What about travel?

- F-2/J-2- need the same travel documents: passport, F-2/J-2 I-20/DS-2019 with travel signature, F-2/J-2 visa
- They also need copies of all of the F-1/J-1 documents





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!