

Immigration Essentials

Berkeley International Office

New Presidential Administration & Immigration Updates

- The new Trump Administration will bring immigration changes which may affect our international community.
- BIO is consulting widely to stay informed and will provide you with any updates that are pertinent to your status as an international student, including email alerts and continuing updates to our [Immigration Policy Updates FAQ](#)
- DO NOT UNSUBSCRIBE BIO EMAILS OR NEWSLETTER!
 - If you unsubscribe you are removed from ALL future BIO emails and newsletters.
 - You will miss important information impacting your immigration status.

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" have at least one course component coded with "In Person" [instructional mode](#) and you MUST physically attend the in-person classes.

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. Understand your 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-1s 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 [Cal Central](#) and complete these Task items:

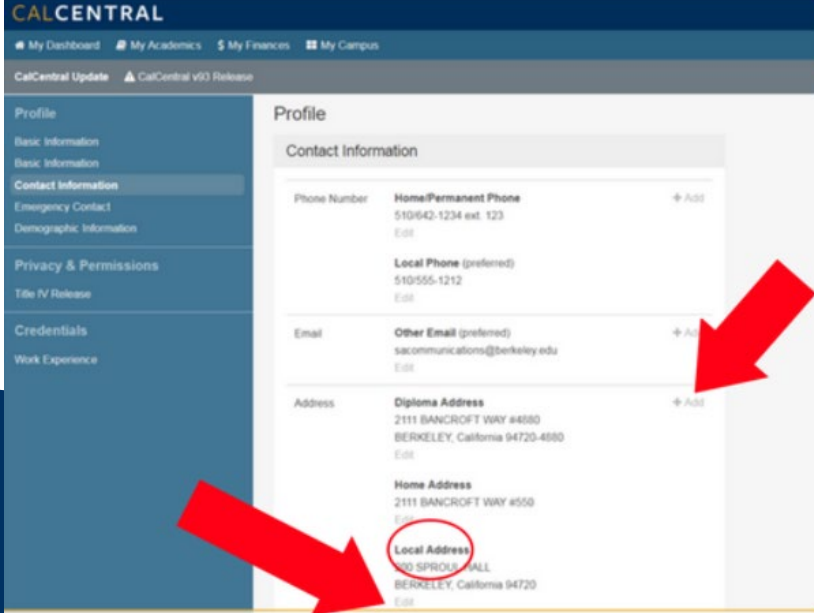
1. Arrival Confirmation Form (includes uploading I-94)
2. U.S. Address & Phone Reporting Form

*Temporary addresses are ok.
Remember to update again when you find permanent housing.*

Phone & address in Cal Central

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

See [Arrival & Address reporting](#) on the BIO webpage!



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 510/942-1234 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 #4000 BERKELEY, California 94720-4000 Edit	+ Add
	Home Address 2111 BANCROFT WAY #500 Edit	
	Local Address 30 SPROUL HALL BERKELEY, California 94720 Edit	

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** either:
 - studying in person full-time or
 - after completion, engaged in full-time F/J post-completion employment.
- Temporary absences or travel are allowed but should not interfere with your studies and/or post-completion 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

Common questions

- I'm enrolled in a class that is coded as in-person. My professor (or academic advisor, etc) told me it's OK for me to not go to class and study remotely, because attendance is optional. Is that OK?
 - NO
- I have a really important thing to do in my home country (internship, family issues, its cheaper to live...) My department said its OK for me to study from there. Is that OK?
 - During Summer vacation, Spring Break, Winter Break? YES, sure!
 - During Fall/Spring when you are enrolled? CHECK WITH BIO BEFORE MAKING ANY PLANS.

Study/Work Balance

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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.**

BIO Approval is REQUIRED 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/Immigration 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 police/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:

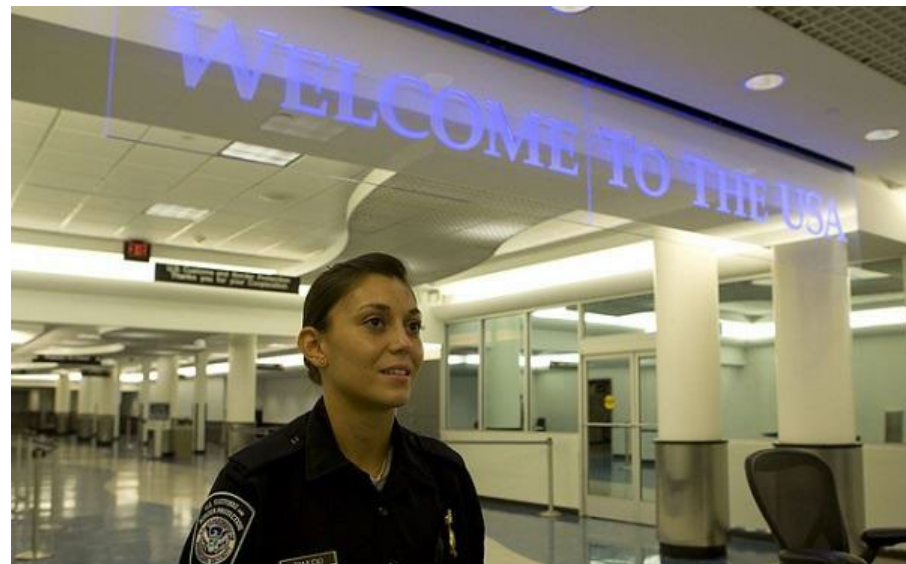
- Passport (valid for at least 6 months into the future)
- Valid F/J nonimmigrant visa (not Canadians!)
- Printed & signed, form [I-20](#) or [DS-2019](#) with valid travel signature within *12 months* of entry date
- Evidence of financial resources (see [Required Funding Documentation](#))
- Proof of 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

Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
ICE Form I-20 A-B (12/2016)

I-20, Certificate of Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status
OMB NO. 1655-0038

SEVIS ID: N0004705512 (F-1) NAME: John Doe Smith

EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION

EMPLOYMENT STATUS	TYPE
EMPLOYMENT START DATE	EMPLOYMENT END DATE
EMPLOYER NAME	EMPLOYER LOCATION

COMMENTS

CHANGE OF STATUS/CAP-GAP EXTENSION

REQUESTED VISA TYPE	REQUEST/EXPIRES STATUS	RECEIPT NUMBER	BENEFIT START DATE/REQUEST DATE
EVENT HISTORY			
EVENT NAME			
EVENT DATE			

OTHER AUTHORIZATIONS

AUTHORIZATION	START DATE	END DATE
TRAVEL ENDORSEMENT		

This page, when properly completed, may be used for purposes of the automatic extension of official temporary visas from the United States. Each certification requires a valid passport.

SCHOOL OFFICIAL	TITLE	SIGNATURE	DATE ISSUED	PLACE ISSUED
Ima N Advisor	DSO	Ima N Advisor	9/20/2016	Berkeley, CA

ICE Form I-20 A-B (12/2016) Page 2 of 3

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

OMB APPROVAL NO. 1605-0119
08/2007
ESTIMATED BURDEN TIME: 45 min
*See Page 2

DATE OF BIRTH: 04-10-1991 RESIDENCE: Beijing, China COUNTRY OF BIRTH: CHINA UNIVERSITY COUNTRY CODE: CN CURRENCY CODE: CHINA
LEGAL PERMITS/RESIDENCE CATEGORY: Legal Permanent Resident Country: CHINA PASTORAL CODE: 214 PERIOD: UNIVERSITY GRADUATE STUDENTS
PRIMARY SITE OF ACTIVITY: UC Berkeley Campus 1206 Cory Hall Dept. of MSE BERKELEY, CA 94720-1718

1. Program Name: University of California at Berkeley Program Number: P-1-00352
PERSONNEL PROGRAM CLASSIFICATION: PROFESSOR; RESEARCH SCHOLAR; SHORT TERM SCHOLAR; SPECIALIST; STUDENT ASSOCIATE; STUDENT SACHSLES; STUDENT DOCTORATE; STUDENT INTERNSHIP; STUDENT WARRIOR; STUDENT NON-OBSSS

Purpose of this form: Extend as on-going program

3. Form Covers Period: From 09-01-2016 To 07-01-2017
4. Exchange Visitor Category: RESEARCH SCHOLAR
Subject of this Certificate: Research in Environmental Chemistry

5. During the period covered by this form, the total estimated financial support (in U.S. \$) to be provided to the exchange visitor by:
Host: 100000
Sponsor: 100000
Exchange Visitor: 100000
Total: 300000

4. U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE (DS/DSO) OR CERTIFICATION BY RESPONSIBLE OFFICER OR ALTERNATE RESPONSIBLE OFFICER THAT A NOTIFICATION COPY OF THIS FORM HAS BEEN PROVIDED TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE (DS/DSO OFFICE)

5. Nicole Schwab
Name of Official Processing Form: Berkeley International Office
2229 Piedmont Ave.
Berkeley, CA 94704
Telephone Number: 510-643-3413
Date: 09-17-2016

6. Statement of Responsible Officer for Submitting Form (FOR TRANSFER OF PROGRAMS)
OFFICE: 09-17-2016
7. Statement of Responsible Officer or Alternate Responsible Officer
OFFICE: 09-17-2016

PRELIMINARY ENDORSEMENT OF CONSULAR OR IMMIGRATION OFFICERS REGARDING SECTION 1(b)(3) OF THE IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT AND PL-9448 AS AMENDED (see Note (3) of page 2)

1. The Exchange Visitor is the alien applicant:
 A. who is subject to the nonimmigrant admission requirement
 B. who is subject to the nonimmigrant admission requirement based on:
A. Government financing only
B. The Exchange Visitor Skills List under
C. PL-9448 as amended

2. ALL EXCHANGE PARTICIPANTS (S-OWB) AND ALL ALIEN PARTICIPANTS ENDORSED BY A DS-2019 ARE SUBJECT TO THE PRE-TRIP HOME AGENCY REQUIREMENT

TRAVEL VALIDATION BY RESPONSIBLE OFFICERS (Return within 90 days of departure)
3. Exchange Visitor is in good standing in the present trip
4. Exchange Visitor is in good standing in the present trip

9/19/2016
Nicole Schwab
Signature of Responsible Officer or Alternate Responsible Officer

Signature of Consular or Immigration Officer Date: 09-17-2016
Signature of Responsible Officer or Alternate Responsible Officer

EXCHANGE VISITOR CERTIFICATION: I have read and agree with the statement in Item 7 on page 2 of this document.

Signature of Applicant Place Date (see note 2)

DS-2019 07/2011 Page 1 of 2

Travel signature

See full details on the [Understanding Your I-20](#) or [Understanding Your DS-2019](#) pages

**** If you receive an electronically signed I-20/DS-2019 by email, you must print out the I-20/DS-2019, sign it, and carry a physical copy when using it for travel or other official purposes.**

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	Ima N Advisor	9/29/2021	Berkeley, CA

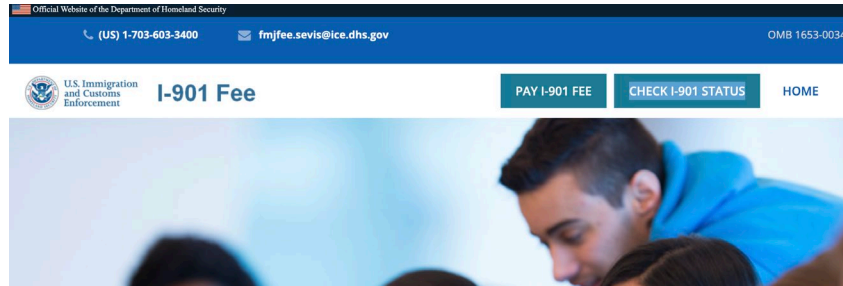
TRAVEL VALIDATION BY RESPONSIBLE OFFICER <i>(Maximum validation period is 1 year*)</i>	
*EXCEPT: Maximum validation period is up to 6 months for Short-term Scholars and 4 months for Camp Counselors and Summer Work/Travel.	
(1) Exchange Visitor is in good standing at the present time	
12/07/2020	
Date (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. HIGHLY RECOMMENDED to skip waiting in line: Submit a [Replacement Document request \(#13\)](#) to receive an updated I-20 or DS-2019 with a new travel endorsement via email. (Note: BIO has a 5 business day processing time!)
2. Sign in for [Drop-In Virtual Advising](#) to receive an express electronic travel signature during your Virtual Advising session.
3. Visit our [In-Person Drop-in Advising hours](#) *with your printed I-20 or DS-2019* for a same-day travel signature.

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

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



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.)

Health Insurance

- All registered students at the University of California are required to meet the university's [health insurance mandate](#). Registered UC Berkeley undergraduate and graduate students are automatically enrolled in the Berkeley [Student Health Insurance Plan](#) (SHIP)
- J-1 students — and their J-2 dependents — must maintain [health insurance coverage](#) that meets J-1 federal guidelines *for the entire length of their program*, including post-completion Academic Training. SHIP meets these requirements.
- More info in the Health & Safety presentation!

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!