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.

College of Letters & Science requires 13 units.

Full time enrollment is determined by your academic department.
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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>F-1 Visa</th>
<th>J-1 Visa</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>On campus employment</strong></td>
<td><strong>No special permission required</strong></td>
<td><strong>Permission from BIO required before beginning employment.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fall and Spring &lt; 20&gt; Summer/Vacation</td>
<td>Fall and Spring &lt; 20&gt; Summer/Vacation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Off campus employment</strong></td>
<td><strong>Permission from BIO or USCIS required before beginning employment.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Permission from BIO required before beginning employment.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Curricular Practical Training (CPT)</td>
<td>• Academic Training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Optional Practical Training (OPT)</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Social Security Numbers

A Social Security Number is...

* a tax identification number.

required for all paid work in the U.S.

* not a work authorization.

For how and when to apply, see:
internationaloffice.berkeley.edu/living/ssn
Who needs a Social Security Number?

**F-1**
- Working on campus
- Working off campus job (don’t forget work authorization!)

An F-1 student who is not working but receiving a non-service fellowship, scholarship, or grant in excess of tuition and fees must apply for an Individual Tax Identification Number (ITIN). Learn more at [bit.ly/BIO-ITIN](bit.ly/BIO-ITIN).

**J-1**
- Receiving a fellowship or stipend from the university (with or without employment)
- Working on campus
- Working off campus

Note: prior authorization is required for all of the above. Learn more at [bit.ly/BIOWorkauth](bit.ly/BIOWorkauth).
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.
Freedom of Expression

• One of the norms of a university environment is the freedom to express oneself in open dialogue and discussion.

• Students should be able to express themselves without fear of any intimidation from others and that any views that they share in classroom discussions or public forums will not be used in an adverse or negative way that could lead to their harm.

Intellectual Property

• Students should be aware that there are certain rights that go along with discoveries or inventions by faculty or other students. You should exercise caution in how you use the discoveries of others.

• For additional information about Intellectual Property you are encouraged to review this presentation: https://ipira.berkeley.edu/ip-protection
Visa Rules ≠ CA Laws

Just because it’s legal in California…..
Does not mean it’s OK while you’re on a student 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
Travel & Entry Tips

• Don’t bring restricted items to the U.S. ([bit.ly/CBPlsit](bit.ly/CBPlsit))
• 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.
• See the ACLU’s Know Your Rights resources for Rights at Airports & Other Ports ([aclu.org/know-your-rights](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)
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
What’s 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>F-1</th>
<th>J-1</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Depart the U.S.</td>
<td>60 days after your I-20 program end date</td>
<td>30 days after your DS-2019 program end date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer to a new school (or remain at Cal but change educational level)</td>
<td>60 days after your I-20 program end date</td>
<td>before your DS-2019 program end date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Apply for work authorization or explore employment options</td>
<td>60 days after your I-20 program end date</td>
<td>before your DS-2019 program end date</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.
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!
Communication from BIO
Scammers are using increasingly sophisticated methods to target and steal money from victims. They often try to take advantage of international students, who may be less familiar with how government agencies or legitimate businesses operate in the U.S.

**Be skeptical** if something seems either too good or too bad to be true.
If you receive a phone call, email, or text from an individual claiming to work for a U.S. government agency (immigration, police, I.R.S) who threatens you or demands payment to avoid deportation or arrest, do not follow their instructions or give them any of your personal information or money. Contact BIO right away.

Visit an apartment or house before signing a lease or paying a deposit fee. Read through leases and other legally binding documents before signing.
Contact a BIO adviser if you suspect you are a victim of a scam or fraud.

Learn how to identify common scams and how to protect yourself:

More info about Scams and Safety in Berkeley:
https://internationaloffice.berkeley.edu/living/scams-safety