Preparing for Your Semester Abroad at UC Berkeley

Fall 2021
Welcome!

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Webinar Agenda

- University of California, Berkeley
- Berkeley International Office (BIO)
- Finding housing
- Campus resources for international students
- Travel information
- Questions
University of California, Berkeley

- Founded in 1868
- Top 10 university nationwide
- 350 degree programs
- 31 Nobel Laureates
- Home of Oski the Bear
International Student Statistics

Fall 2020 Enrollment Data
• Approximately 6000 total international students
  – 58% undergraduate students
  – 42% graduate students
  – 0% UCEAP students

Fall 2021
• 282 Incoming EAP students
• 6 continuing UCEAP students from Spring 2021
Berkeley International Office (BIO)

- International student orientation
- Personal and cultural adjustment
- Navigating the campus
- Non-academic assistance
- Visa-related advising
- Workshops
- Social programs

Drop-In advising: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday (no advising on Wednesdays)
10am-12pm, 1:00pm-4pm
BIO Website
https://internationaloffice.berkeley.edu/

- Information and tutorials
- International student stories
- Student request forms
- Contact information
- Events calendar
- Campus and community resources

Bookmark BIO website for easy reference!
BIO Social Media

• Stay informed about upcoming events and workshops!
• Keep in touch with your fellow Cal students from around the world!
Finding Housing

https://internationaloffice.berkeley.edu/living/housing
Options

• On- Campus Residence Halls
  – **Limited space available**. The more open you are with your preferences (ex: room type, location) the better your odds.
  – Visit [http://housing.berkeley.edu/](http://housing.berkeley.edu/) for more information

• Semi On- Campus
  – **Co- Op**: Large residence, membership based where members share resources and everyone collaborates; very social; can be cheaper [https://www.bsc.coop/](https://www.bsc.coop/)
  – **International House**: Dormitory style with meal plan; open to US and International students. [http://ihouse.berkeley.edu/](http://ihouse.berkeley.edu/)

• Off- Campus Housing
  – Lots of options! Lots of resources!
  – [https://internationaloffice.berkeley.edu/living/housing](https://internationaloffice.berkeley.edu/living/housing)
Campus Neighborhoods

Campus
Northside
Southside
Westside/
Downtown Berkeley

Campus

Northside

Southside
Where to live?
Points to Consider

- Would you like to live on or off campus?
- Would you like a meal plan?
- Will you live alone?
- Where will you live?
- How long do you want your commute to be?
- What is your budget?
- Do you know which area around campus fits you best?
- Where are the majority of campus buildings you will use?
Precautions

• Housing scams
  – These primarily appear as online advertisements on sites such as craigslist.org. The contact person will insist that you send them money for housing accommodations even though you have not yet visited the property in person. When students show up to the address, the place is unavailable.

• Do not ever send money or give out personal information or immigration details to anyone over the phone or online

• If the caller seems to have a lot of your personal information, do NOT give out any more information

• Ask for a name and telephone number. If the caller refuses, take this as a warning that something is not right

• Contact a BIO advisor immediately if you suspect you have been a victim
Campus Resources
Campus Services

**Cal Student Central**
120 Sproul Hall
Pay tuition
Registration issues
Transcripts

**Graduate Division**
Dissertation/thesis procedures
Graduate Professional Services (GPS)
Writing Center

**Cal1Card Services**
180 César Chávez Center
Getting and managing your Cal 1 Card

**Disabled Student Program**
260 César Chávez Center, #4250
Services for students with disabilities

**Career Center**
2440 Bancroft Way
Learn about internships
Find a job
Resume and cover letter help

**Housing and Dining Services**
2610 Channing Way
Housing & meal questions

**Gender Equity Resource Center**
202 Cesar Chavez Center
Resources and services related to gender and sexuality

**Confidential Care Advocate**
Sproul Hall
Confidential support for those who have experienced gendered violence
Research and identify resources

Academic Success = Academic support + Community + Health & Wellness

- **Student Learning Center**
- **UC Berkeley Library**
- **Academic Integrity**
- **College Writing Programs**

- **Public Service Center**
- **Student Government & Organizations**
- **Mentoring opportunities**
- **BIO Events & Leadership Programs**

- **University Health Services**
- **Counseling and Psychological Services**
- **Recreational Sports**
- **Outdoor Adventures**
Academic Resources for undergraduates students

**terms to know**

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<td>• Selecting courses</td>
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Academic Tips

• Enroll online prior to arrival
• Contact academic advisors and instructors
• Consider a wide range of courses
• Bring your transcript and home university academic advisor's contact information with you
• See the UCEAP webpages: http://reciprocity.uceap.universityofcalifornia.edu
• Attend the BIO and Golden Bear Orientations
Berkeley Study Abroad

- UCEAP Reciprocity Adviser: Michelle Ayazi
  - Contact via email: mayazi@berkeley.edu
  - Zoom or phone appointments available

If you have questions about UCEAP policies or procedures - and/or if you have questions that are academic, administrative or personal in nature - and you are not sure who to ask .. ask Michelle!
UC Berkeley Student Systems
Campus E-mail (bMail)

- `bmail.berkeley.edu`
- Need student ID and passphrase
- Required for all students
- Used by staff and professors to contact students
CalCentral

- [http://calcentral.berkeley.edu](http://calcentral.berkeley.edu)
- Use to update local address, phone number, email (all required)
- View tasks to complete, including Golden Bear Prep, Immunization/TB records submission, etc
- Access academic information and enrollment tools
- Pay mandatory fees
  - Health insurance and document fee (due before the first day of class)
  - You are exempt from tuition and campus wide fees but may incur add/drop, late fees etc.
Health and Immunizations

Requirements

- Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP)
  - All students are automatically enrolled in SHIP
  - J-visa health insurance requirements are strict
  - Most international insurance plans do NOT meet SHIP waiver requirements (*plan for this expense*)
  - SHIP coverage begins on August 1: Must have insurance that meets J-visa requirements if you will be in the U.S. prior to Aug 1

- Documentation of immunizations and TB screening
  - Deadline: July 31, 2021
  - Check UHS website for info about immunizations
Packing & Entry

Available at:
http://internationaloffice.berkeley.edu/students/new
Packing for your trip

- Check the U.S. Customs and Border Protection website: [www.cbp.gov](http://www.cbp.gov)
- Check in advance with your airline the weight and maximum dimensions allowed for baggage
- Consider Berkeley’s weather (U.S. uses °F)
  - Summer temperatures 12°C to 24°C
  - Winter temperatures 6°C to 14°C
Packing for your trip

- Food items
  - Check help.cbp.gov
  - Failure to declare will result in fines
- Prescription medications / eye glasses
  - In original containers
  - Up to 30 days
- Plug adaptor / converter
- Do not bring things that you can easily find in the US
Travel Documents

- Valid passport
- Valid visa
- DS-2019 from UC Berkeley
- SEVIS fee receipt
- Financial documentation
Passport

- Renew if it will expire in the next 6 months
- Photocopy important pages (biographic, visa) to carry with you after arrival
- Keep original in a safe place
Visa

*Check your visa for accuracy!

Visa type: J-1 or F-1

Expiration date

Number of entries allowed (M - multiple)

*The visa is used only for entering the U.S. If it expires while you are here, there is no need to renew it. However, if you leave the U.S., your visa must be valid for reentry.
DS-2019

Check your DS-2019 for accuracy!

Your program start and end dates

- You may arrive in the US no more than 30 days before your program start date.
- You must depart the U.S. within 30 days after your program end date.
SEVIS Fee Receipt

• Pay online at www.fmjfee.com/
  – $220 (J - 1)
• Print Receipt
• 3 days prior to Consulate/Embassy appointment
Arrival in the U.S.
Arrival in the U.S.

- US Customs and Immigration
- Present your travel documents to a CBP officer
Getting to Berkeley

• From San Francisco Airport (SFO)
  – 45 minutes
• From Oakland Airport (OAK)
  – 30 minutes
• Public Transportation
  – BART (Bay Area Public Transit)
  – www.bart.gov
  – Destination: Downtown Berkeley
Getting to Berkeley

• Shuttle Service
  – www.supershuttle.com
  – www.bayporter.com

• Taxis and Rental cars
  – www.hertz.com/rentacar/reservation
  – www.avis.com/car - rental/avisHome

• Ride apps
  – Uber or Lyft - download on your phone, very common
Fall 2021
International Student Orientation

Wednesday, August 18, 2021
1:00PM – 5:00PM PDT
Fully Virtual

Register and see the schedule:
https://internationaloffice.berkeley.edu/students/new/orientation/transfer
Golden Bear Orientation

**July 20 – August 13: Prep Online**
This online program provides an overview of UC Berkeley and your transition to campus.

**August 19 - 23: Online**
Mandatory components of the orientation will be online. Any in-person programming offered during GBO will be optional. This orientation will help you make connections, find resources, and experience the campus.

For more information, visit: [http://orientation.berkeley.edu/](http://orientation.berkeley.edu/)

Participation in both is mandatory.
Online Arrival Confirmation & U.S. Address Update Required!

http://internationaloffice.berkeley.edu/students/new/arrival-confirmation

1. Update your local address and phone number on CalCentral
2. Upload your I-94 Arrival Record to our website

Everything can be done online and will take approximately 10 minutes.

*If you cannot access your I-94, please come to Berkeley International Office for assistance.
Travel Signature

- You need a travel signature if you plan to travel internationally during your program

- Get a signature at Berkeley International Office during the semester, prior to your departure from the US.
Making Connections

- BIO Bear Meetups
- English Conversation Tables
Getting Involved on Campus

- **Student organizations**
  - Over 1,200 student groups categorized into 15 unique communities
  - LEAD Center lead.berkeley.edu
  - Tabling on Sproul
- **Leadership opportunities**
  - Volunteer with Berkeley International Office
- **Community engagement**
  - Public Service Center
- **Jobs/internship On campus or Off campus during/after studies**
  - *Need permission from BIO before starting any work; check BIO website*
  - Talk to an International Student Advisor early to inquire
See you at Orientation on Wednesday, August 18!

Go Bears!
Contact Us!
Berkeley International Office

Address: 2150 Shattuck Avenue, Suite 500, Berkeley
(Right in front of Downtown Berkeley BART station)
Email: internationaloffice@berkeley.edu
Phone: (510) 642-2818
Website: internationaloffice.berkeley.edu
Thank you!

We look forward to meeting you in Fall 2021!