Travel & Visa Webinar Spring 2022

Berkeley
INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

Workshop Overview

- Travel Alert & Current COVID-19 Entry requirements
- F-1/J-1 Document Review
- Automatic Revalidation (Travel to Mexico/Canada)
- Entry or Re-entry to the U.S.
- Travel Q&A
- Visa Process Overview
- Visa Process Q & A

Is this webinar for me?

- You have an I-20 or DS-2019 from UC Berkeley (or you are requesting one for Spring 2022)
- You are F-1/J-1 Degree-seeking Student or UCEAP Exchange Student
  - A J-1 student has one of the following categories listed in Section 4 of the DS-2019: STUDENT-NON-DEGREE, STUDENT BACHELORS, STUDENT MASTERS OR STUDENT DOCTORATE.
- You are NOT a J-1 Scholar, post-doc, or Visiting Student Researcher
- You have questions about current travel and immigration requirements!
- Other questions: Employment, changing visa categories, academic issues? Please meet with a BIO advisor!

COVID-19 Travel Alerts

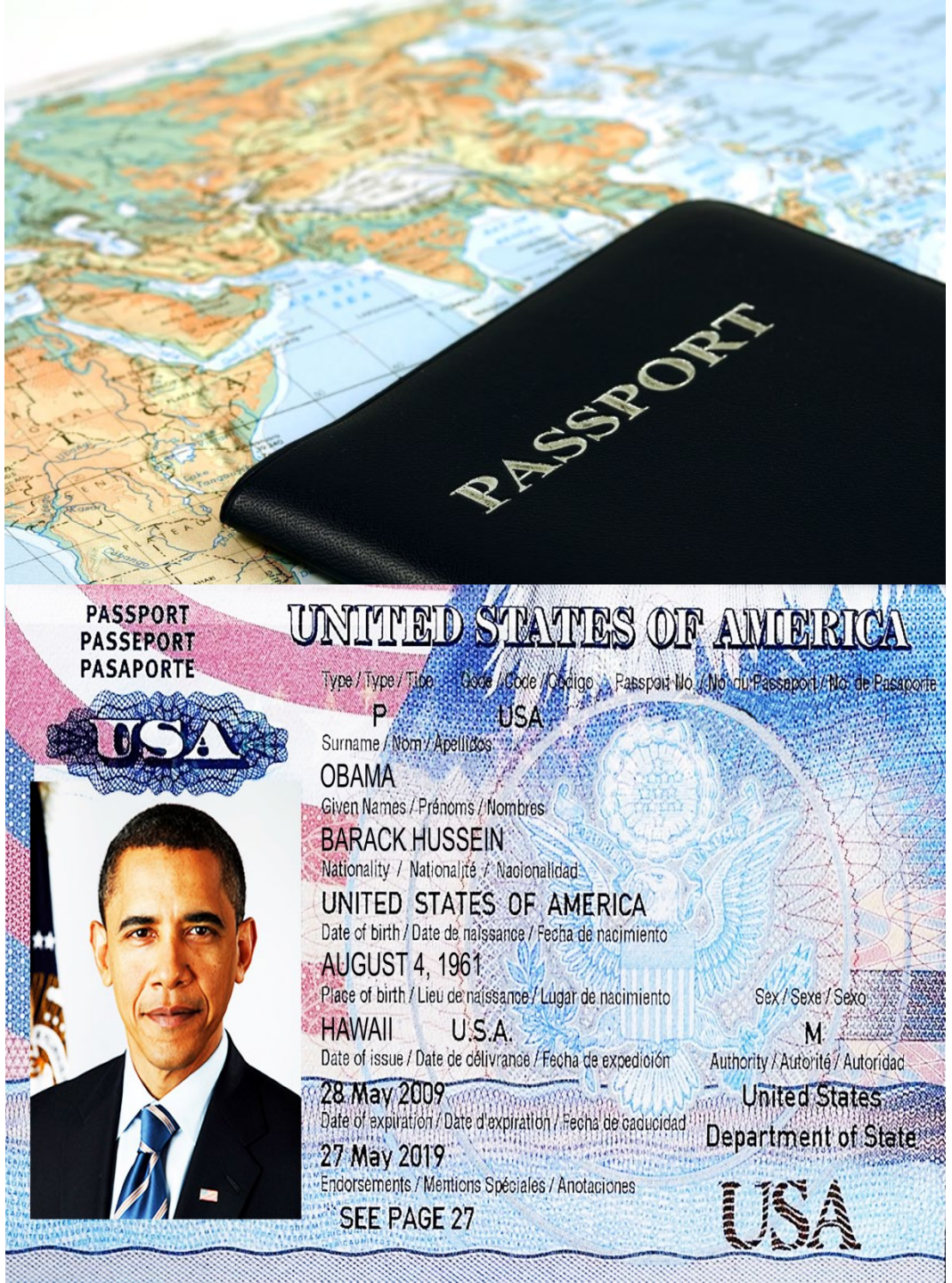
See Berkeley International Office's Immigration Policy Updates & FAQs for detailed information and updates:
https://internationaloffice.berkeley.edu/covid-19-updates-faq

F-1/J-1 Document Review

Passport

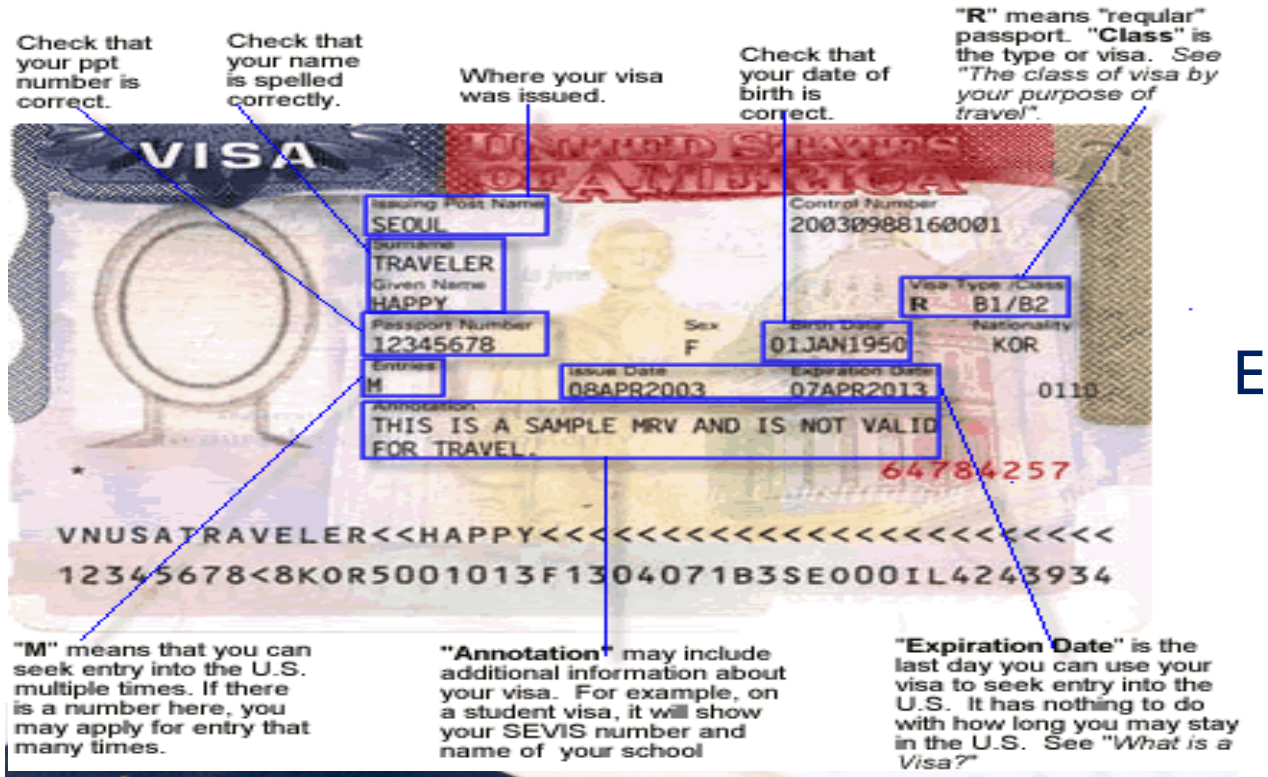
Must be valid at least 6 months into the future, 12 months recommended.

Can be renewed inside the United States.



Visa

Entry document into the United States.



I-20 or DS-2019

Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

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

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/PETITION 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 endorsed, may be used for reentry of the student to attend the same school after a temporary absence from the United States. Each certification signature is valid for one year.

SCHOOL OFFICIAL	TITLE	SIGNATURE	DATE ISSUED	PLACE ISSUED
		X		
		X		
		X		
		X		

Sample

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. 1405-0119
08/30/2017
ESTIMATED BURDEN TIME: 45 min
*See Page 2

[redacted] [redacted] [redacted] Gender: MALE

Date of Birth (mm-dd-yyyy): 04-10-1981 City of Birth: Binzhou, Shandong Country of Birth: CHINA Citizenship Country Code: CH Citizenship Country: CHINA

J-1

Legal Permanent Residence Country Code: CH Legal Permanent Residence Country: CHINA Position Code: 214 Position: UNIVERSITY GRADUATE STUDENTS

Primary Site of Activity: UC Berkeley Campus
199M Cory Hall
Dept of MSE
Berkeley, CA 94720-1768

2. Program Sponsor: University of California at Berkeley Program Number: P-1-00352

Participating Program Official Description:
PROFESSOR; RESEARCH SCHOLAR; SHORT-TERM SCHOLAR; SPECIALIST; STUDENT ASSOCIATE; STUDENT BACHELORS; STUDENT DOCTORATE; STUDENT INTERN; STUDENT MASTERS; STUDENT NON-DEGREE

Purpose of this form: Extend an on-going program

3. Form Covers Period:
From (mm-dd-yyyy): 07-01-2013
To (mm-dd-yyyy): 11-01-2017

4. Exchange Visitor Category:
RESEARCH SCHOLAR
Subject/Field Code: 40.0509 Subject/Field Code Remarks: 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:
Current Program Sponsor funds : $144,300.00
Lawrence Berkeley National Lab : $169,989.00
Total : $313,989.00

6. U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE / DHS USE 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 (INCLUDE DATE).

7. Nicole Schwab
Name of Official Preparing Form
Berkeley International Office
2299 Piedmont Ave.
Berkeley, CA 94720
Signature of Responsible Officer or Alternate Responsible Officer

Alternate Responsible Officer
Title
510-643-2412
Telephone Number
09-17-2016
Date (mm-dd-yyyy)

8. Statement of Responsible Officer for Releasing Sponsor (FOR TRANSFER OF PROGRAM)
Effective date (mm-dd-yyyy) 11-02-2015 Transfer of this exchange visitor from program number P-1-06007 sponsored by Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory to the program specified in item 2 is necessary or highly desirable and is in conformity with the objectives of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, as amended.
Supervisor
Vered, Tamar
Signature of Responsible Officer or Alternate Responsible Officer
Date (mm-dd-yyyy) of Signature

PRELIMINARY ENDORSEMENT OF CONSULAR OR IMMIGRATION OFFICER REGARDING SECTION 212(e) OF THE IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT AND PL 94-484, AS AMENDED (see item 9(a) of page 2).

The Exchange Visitor in the above program:
1. ☐ Not subject to the two-year residence requirement.
2. ☐ Subject to two-year residence requirement based on:
A ☐ Government financing and/or
B ☐ The Exchange Visitor Skills List and/or
C ☐ PL 94-484 as amended

(ALL USAID PARTICIPANTS G-2-00203 AND ALL ALIEN PHYSICIANS SPONSORED BY P-3-64130 ARE SUBJECT TO THE TWO-YEAR HOME RESIDENCE REQUIREMENT.)

Name Title
Signature of Consular or Immigration Officer Date (mm-dd-yyyy)

THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MAKE FINAL DETERMINATION REGARDING 212 (e).

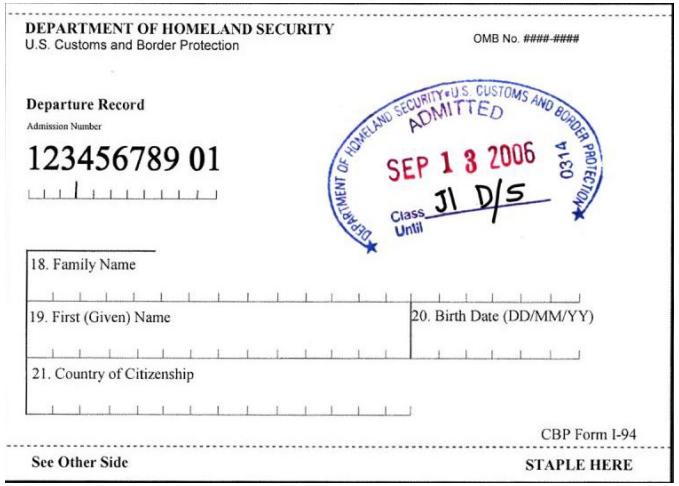
TRAVEL VALIDATION BY RESPONSIBLE OFFICER
(Statement validates period to 1 year*)
*EXCEPT: Maximum [illegible] Allowed for Short-term Scholars and [illegible] for Camp Counselors and Student Work/Travel
(1) Exchange Visitor is in good standing at the present time.
9/19/2016
Date (mm-dd-yyyy)
Signature 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

EXCHANGE VISITOR CERTIFICATION: I have read and agree with the statement in item 2 on page 2 of this document.
Signature of Applicant Place Date (mm-dd-yyyy)

DS-2019
07-2011
Page 1 of 2

I-94 Admission Information

Passport
Admission
Stamp &
Electronic I-94



Paper I-94 Form

Travel to Canada/Mexico: Automatic Revalidation

- Allows re-entry to the U.S. with an *expired* U.S. visa stamp in a valid passport
- Travel to Canada, Mexico & adjacent islands only*
- Travel outside of the US must be 30 days or less
- Keep the Paper Form I-94 when departing the U.S. (if applicable)
- Do you need a visa to enter Canada or Mexico?

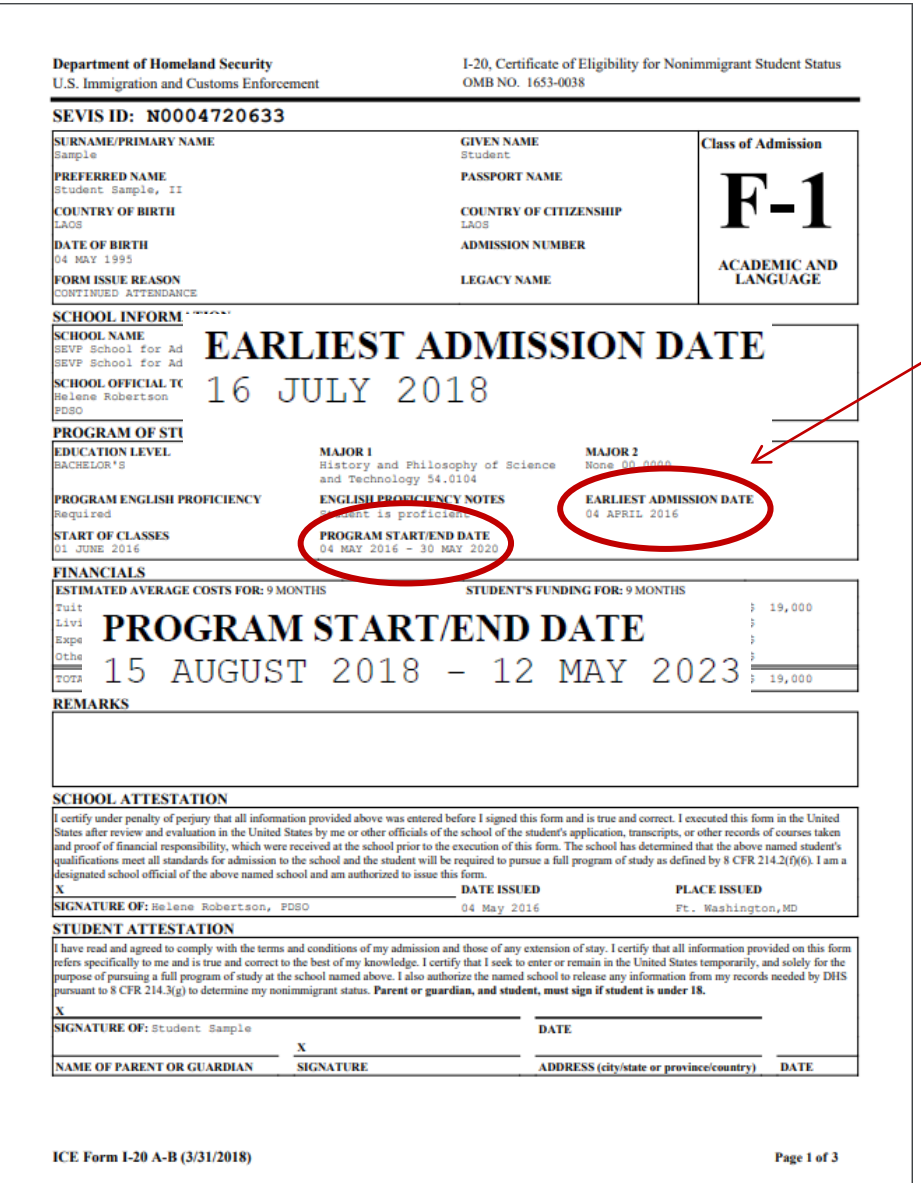
* For comprehensive list of adjacent islands, visit www.internationaloffice.berkeley.edu/can-mex_trave

Automatic Revalidation

- Automatic Revalidation does not apply to students or scholars:
  - Who apply for a visa in Canada, Mexico or adjacent islands.
  - Who are from Iran, Sudan, North Korea or Syria.
  - Who are returning to the U.S. after program has ended.
  - Who entered the U.S. under the Visa Waiver Program.
- Attempting to enter the U.S. with automatic revalidation when ineligible is fraud!

Arriving in the U.S.

New students: You can only enter the U.S. up to **30 days** before the Program Start Date on the I-20 or DS-2019. New Students who transfer their I-20/DS-2019 are not subject to the 30-day limit.



Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

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

SEVIS ID: N0004720633

SURNAME/PRIMARY NAME: Sample
GIVEN NAME: Student
PREFERRED NAME: Student Sample, II
PASSPORT NAME
COUNTRY OF BIRTH: LAOS
COUNTRY OF CITIZENSHIP: LAOS
DATE OF BIRTH: 04 MAY 1995
ADMISSION NUMBER
FORM ISSUE REASON: CONTINUED ATTENDANCE
LEGACY NAME

Class of Admission: F-1 ACADEMIC AND LANGUAGE

SCHOOL INFORMATION
SCHOOL NAME: SEVP School for Ad
SEVP School for Ad
SCHOOL OFFICIAL TO: Helene Robertson
PDSO

EARLIEST ADMISSION DATE
16 JULY 2018

PROGRAM OF STU
EDUCATION LEVEL: BACHELOR'S
MAJOR 1: History and Philosophy of Science and Technology 54.0104
MAJOR 2: None 00.0000
PROGRAM ENGLISH PROFICIENCY: Required
ENGLISH PROFICIENCY NOTES: Student is proficient
EARLIEST ADMISSION DATE: 04 APRIL 2016
START OF CLASSES: 01 JUNE 2016
PROGRAM START/END DATE: 04 MAY 2016 - 30 MAY 2020

FINANCIALS
ESTIMATED AVERAGE COSTS FOR: 9 MONTHS
STUDENT'S FUNDING FOR: 9 MONTHS
Tuit $ 19,000
Livi $
Expe $
Othe $
TOTA $ 19,000

PROGRAM START/END DATE
15 AUGUST 2018 - 12 MAY 2023

REMARKS

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 8 CFR 214.2(f)(6). I am a designated school official of the above named school and am authorized to issue this form.
X
SIGNATURE OF: Helene Robertson, PDSO
DATE ISSUED: 04 May 2016
PLACE ISSUED: Ft. Washington,MD

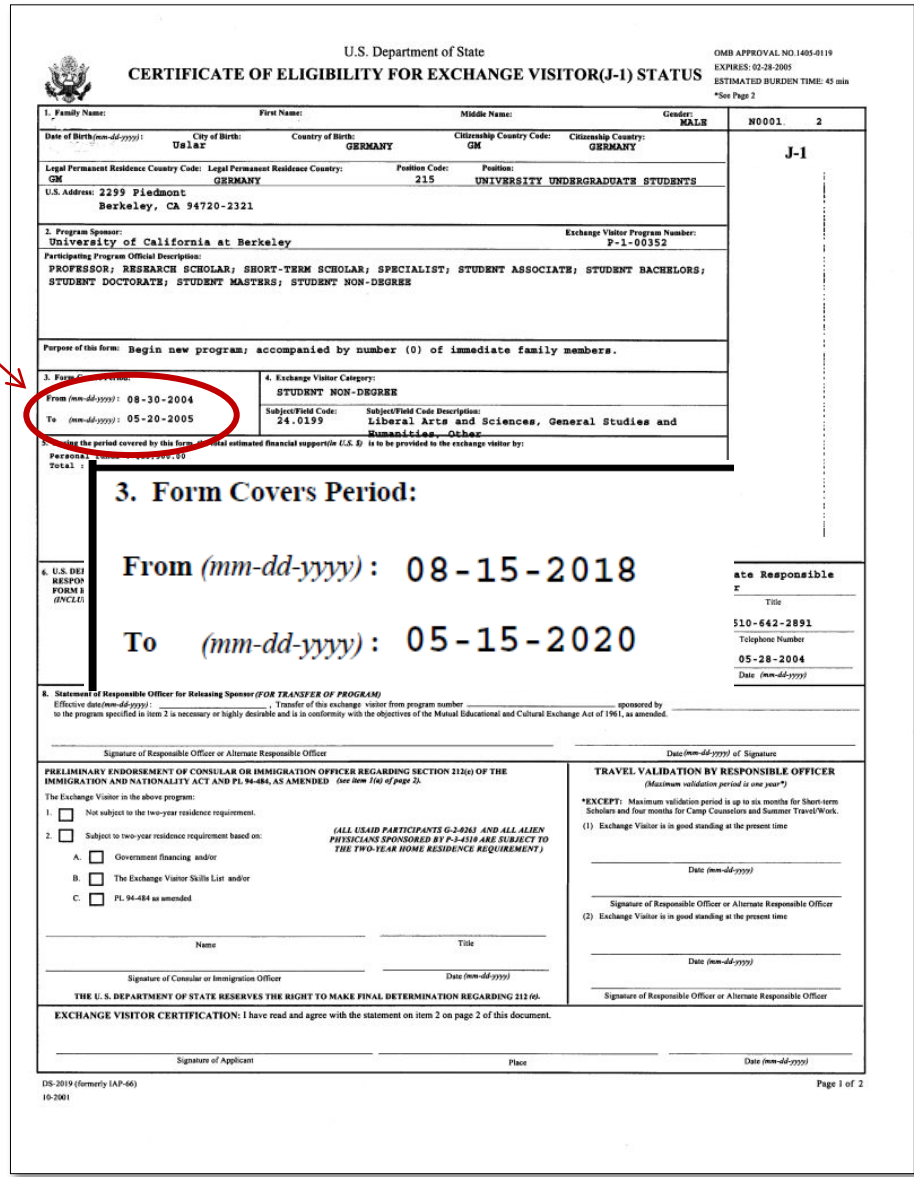
STUDENT ATTESTATION
I have read and agreed to comply with the terms and conditions of my admission and those of any extension of stay. I certify that all information provided on this form refers specifically to me and is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I certify that I seek to enter or 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 8 CFR 214.3(g) to determine my nonimmigrant status. **Parent or guardian, and student, must sign if student is under 18.**
X
SIGNATURE OF: Student Sample
DATE
X
NAME OF PARENT OR GUARDIAN | SIGNATURE | ADDRESS (city/state or province/country) | DATE

ICE Form I-20 A-B (3/31/2018)
Page 1 of 3

Check your I-20 or DS-2019

BIO recommends entering at least 1 week before your classes begin

New students: Make sure you arrive before any required Orientation events



U.S. Department of State
CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY FOR EXCHANGE VISITOR(J-1) STATUS
OMB APPROVAL NO.1405-0119
EXPIRES: 02-28-2005
ESTIMATED BURDEN TIME: 45 min
*See Page 2

1. Family Name:
First Name:
Middle Name:
Gender: MALE
N0001. 2
Date of Birth (mm-dd-yyyy):
City of Birth: Uslar
Country of Birth: GERMANY
Citizenship Country Code: GM
Citizenship Country: GERMANY
J-1
Legal Permanent Residence Country Code: GM
Legal Permanent Residence Country: GERMANY
Position Code: 215
Position: UNIVERSITY UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS
U.S. Address: 2299 Piedmont
Berkeley, CA 94720-2321
2. Program Sponsor: University of California at Berkeley
Exchange Visitor Program Number: P-1-00352
Participating Program Official Description:
PROFESSOR; RESEARCH SCHOLAR; SHORT-TERM SCHOLAR; SPECIALIST; STUDENT ASSOCIATE; STUDENT BACHELORS; STUDENT DOCTORATE; STUDENT MASTERS; STUDENT NON-DEGREE
Purpose of this form: Begin new program; accompanied by number (0) of immediate family members.
3. Form Covers Period:
From (mm-dd-yyyy): 08-30-2004
To (mm-dd-yyyy): 05-20-2005
4. Exchange Visitor Category: STUDENT NON-DEGREE
Subject/Field Code: 24.0199
Subject/Field Code Description: Liberal Arts and Sciences, General Studies and Humanities, Other
Personal
Total :

3. Form Covers Period:
From (mm-dd-yyyy): 08-15-2018
To (mm-dd-yyyy): 05-15-2020

ate Responsible
r
Title
510-642-2891
Telephone Number
05-28-2004
Date (mm-dd-yyyy)

8. Statement of Responsible Officer for Releasing Sponsor (FOR TRANSFER OF PROGRAM)
Effective date (mm-dd-yyyy): Transfer of this exchange visitor from program number sponsored by to the program specified in item 2 is necessary or highly desirable and is in conformity with the objectives of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961, as amended.
Signature of Responsible Officer or Alternate Responsible Officer
Date (mm-dd-yyyy) of Signature

PRELIMINARY ENDORSEMENT OF CONSULAR OR IMMIGRATION OFFICER REGARDING SECTION 212(e) OF THE IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT AND PL 94-484, AS AMENDED (see item 1(a) of page 2).
The Exchange Visitor in the above program:
1. ☐ Not subject to the two-year residence requirement.
2. ☐ Subject to two-year residence requirement based on:
A. ☐ Government financing and/or
B. ☐ The Exchange Visitor Skills List and/or
C. ☐ PL 94-484 as amended
(ALL USAID PARTICIPANTS G-2-0263 AND ALL ALIEN PHYSICIANS SPONSORED BY P-3-4310 ARE SUBJECT TO THE TWO-YEAR HOME RESIDENCE REQUIREMENT)
Name
Title
Signature of Consular or Immigration Officer
Date (mm-dd-yyyy)
THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MAKE FINAL DETERMINATION REGARDING 212 (e).

TRAVEL VALIDATION BY RESPONSIBLE OFFICER
(Maximum validation period is one year*)
*EXCEPT: Maximum validation period is up to six months for Short-term Scholars and four months for Camp Counselors and Summer Travel/Work.
(1) Exchange Visitor is in good standing at the present time
Date (mm-dd-yyyy)
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

EXCHANGE VISITOR CERTIFICATION: I have read and agree with the statement on item 2 on page 2 of this document.
Signature of Applicant
Place
Date (mm-dd-yyyy)

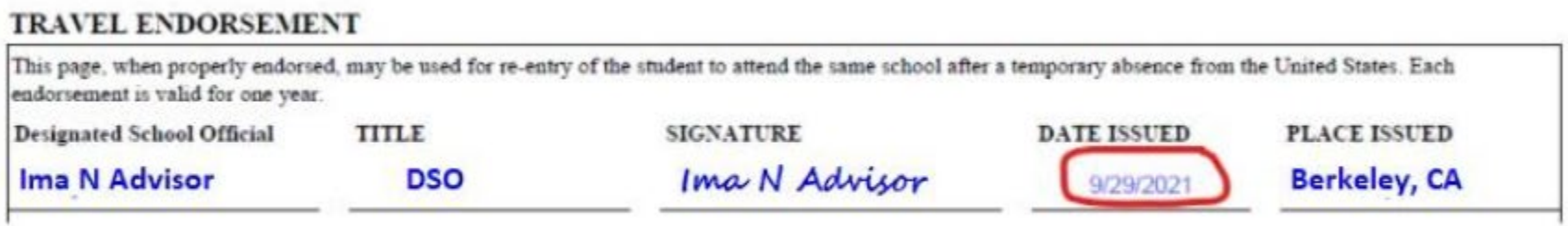
DS-2019 (formerly IAP-66)
10-2001
Page 1 of 2

Returning students-
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*!

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

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



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

(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?

If you do need an updated travel signature, you can choose from these options:

1. Attend aF-1 Travel Signature day event tomorrow Friday, May 6 - 10am - 12pm
2. **F-1 only:** 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.
3. Submit a Replacement Document request to internationaloffice@berkeley.edu to receive a new I-20 or DS-2019 with a new travel endorsement. (Note: BIO has a 5 business day processing time! F-1's may receive I-20s via email. J-1s must either pick up their DS-2019 or select delivery by mail.)

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. https://www.cbp.gov/travel/us-citizens/know-before-you-go/prohibited-and-restricted-items

Reminder: Medical and recreational marijuana remains **illegal** under U.S. federal law. Possession or use may result in deportation,

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: https://www.aclu.org/blog/free-future/can-border-agents-search-your-electronic-devices-its-complicated

Required Arrival Documents

Be prepared to present the following documents to the CBP Officer:

- Passport (valid for at least 6 months into the future) with a valid nonimmigrant visa (if applicable)
- Original form I-20 or DS-2019
- Evidence of financial resources (see Required Funding Documentation)
- Proof of UC Berkeley admission (new students) or enrollment (current students)
- Proof of SEVIS fee payment
- Vaccination/Testing requirements

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 Berkeley International Office as soon as possible: http://internationaloffice.berkeley.edu/contact-us

Re-entry to the U.S.
F-1 OPT

F-1 Students with pending OPT/STEM OPT applications

- Valid Passport
- Valid F-1 Visa Stamp
- I-20 with travel endorsement from Berkeley International Office every six months
- I-797 Notice of Action Receipt
- Proof of funding
- Job offer letter recommended

F-1 Students with approved OPT/STEM OPT

- Valid Passport
- Valid F-1 Visa Stamp
- I-20 with travel endorsement from Berkeley International Office every six months
- EAD card
- Proof of employment (job offer or employment verification letter)
- Proof of funding (salary)

Re-entry to the U.S.
J-1 Academic Training

- Valid Passport
- Valid Visa Stamp
- DS-2019 w/Academic Training details and recent travel endorsement (within 12 months) from Berkeley International Office
- Employment verification letter
- Proof of financial support for J-1 and any J-2 dependents

Visa Process Overview

The Application Process

(NEW/READMITTED STUDENTS) Submit the online Non-Immigrant Information Form (NIF)

(NEW/READMITTED STUDENTS) Berkeley International Office issues your new I-20 or DS-2019.

(NEW/READMITTED STUDENTS) Pay SEVIS fee

Complete online visa application (Form DS-160)

Pay visa application fee

Schedule visa interview appointment

Attend visa interview

Receive passport back with visa

Visa application fees, forms and appointment scheduling are all accessible online

Wait times for visa appointments and processing vary by location; apply as early as possible to avoid delays.

Find your consulate location and current wait times.

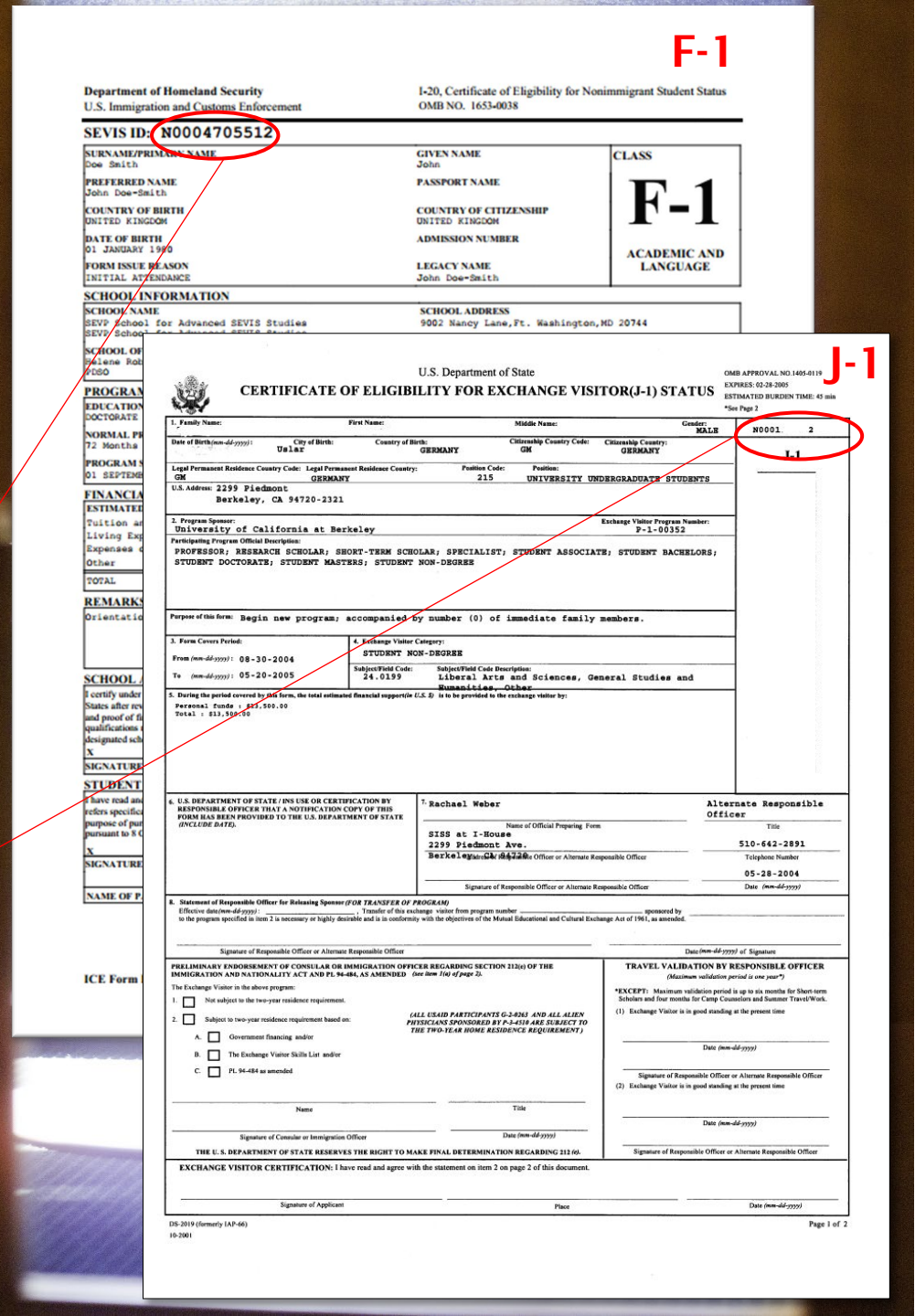
Receive the I-20 or DS-2019 → Pay the SEVIS fee → Complete the visa application form → Pay the visa application fee → Schedule visa interview appointment → Attend visa interview → Receive visa

Your I-20 or DS-2019

Certificate of Eligibility; Allows you to apply for an F-1 or J-1 student visa.

Contains details about you, your school, and program of study.

SEVIS ID number is located in the top right corner.



Pay the SEVIS Fee

SEVIS: Student and Exchange Visitor Information System

Make this payment after receiving SEVIS ID. The fee amount is subject to change, you may pay online at and find the most up-to-date information at: www.fmjfee.com

You only pay this fee once for the SEVIS record.

Print your receipt after payment! You'll need proof of the payment for future visa interview or entry to the US.

After paying the SEVIS fee, Canadian citizens do not need to complete the remaining steps for visa application. Canadian citizens will apply at the border with required arrival documents.

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

SEVP

Student and Exchange Visitor Program: SEVIS I-901 Fee OMB 1653-0034 (Expires 04/30/2015)

Home

Help

SEVIS Main Page

Submit Form I-901 and Fee Payment

Check I-901 Status / Print Payment Confirmation

Recent News and Updates

Contact Us

Call DHS: (US)1-703-603-3400

Welcome

Welcome to the Student and Exchange Visitor Program (SEVP) SEVIS I-901 Fee processing website.

This site provides automated capabilities that support the payment of the fee for F-1, F-3, M-1, M-3, and J-1 Non-immigrants required and authorized by Public Law 104-208, Subtitle D, Section 641. Please continue to read below.

Please visit the **Recent News and Updates** page for up to date information on changes to the I-901 payment process.

Notice of OMB 1653-0034 Expiration

The OMB number on your receipt shows an expiration date of January 31, 2015. This date does NOT affect your I-901 payment receipt nor does it mean your fee will expire on January 31, 2015. It is for government, internal use only.

To complete and submit a new SEVIS Form I-901 and pay the I-901 Fee, click the Submit Form I-901 and Fee Payment button.

Submit Form I-901 and Fee Payment

To check the status of your Form I-901 or I-901 Fee payment, click the Check I-901 Status / Print Payment Confirmation button.

Check I-901 Status / Print Payment Confirmation

Receive the I-20 or DS-2019 → Pay the SEVIS fee → **Complete the visa application form** → Pay the visa application fee → Schedule visa interview appointment → Attend visa interview → Receive visa

Find the U.S. Embassy or Consulate near you

Go to www.usembassy.gov.

Check your local embassy or consulate's website for specific visa application instructions.

Look for instructions to apply for a **Non-Immigrant Visa**

The U.S. Embassy website may link you to a 3rd party website for visa application instructions.

Form DS-160

Online visa application form for all non-immigrant visas.

Select your embassy location first.

Print the confirmation page with a barcode when complete.

Receive the I-20 or DS-2019 → Pay the SEVIS fee → **Complete the visa application form** → Pay the visa application fee → Schedule visa interview appointment → Attend visa interview → Receive visa

DS-160 Tips

U.S. Point of Contact:

- Berkeley International Office
- Family member or friend

Address where you will stay in the U.S.

- It's okay if you don't know where you will live.
- Provide an address where you may stay when you first arrive.

Upload your photo while completing the online Form DS-160.

Check the photo guidelines on the official website: http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/english/general/photos.html

Pay the visa application fee

Non-refundable fee

Sometimes called the “MRV” fee or “NIV” application fee.

Payment instructions are specific to your local U.S. embassy.

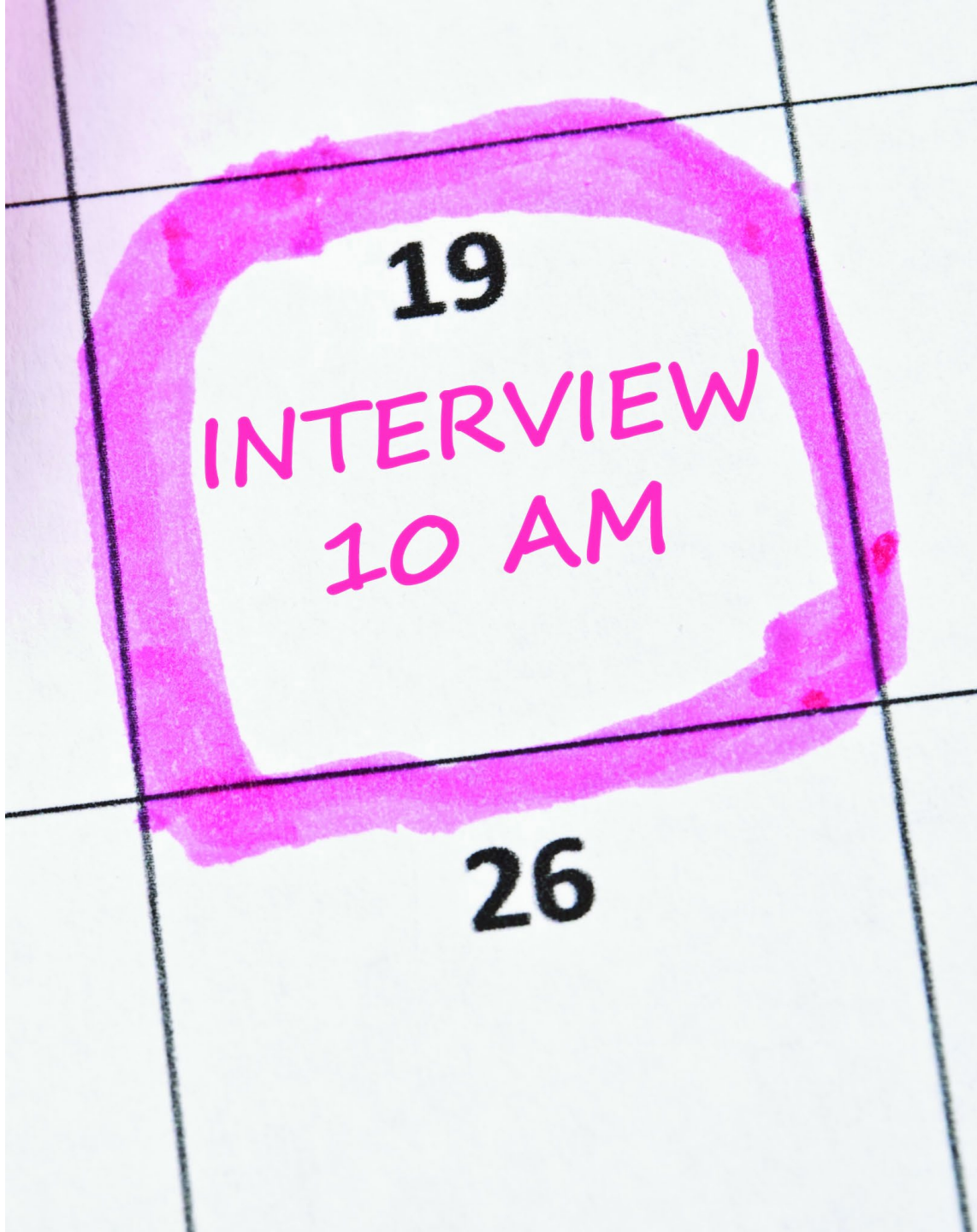
Check when applying for the most up-to-date information on the fee amount.

Print your receipt!

Schedule visa interview appointment

Follow instructions given by the U.S. embassy or consulate where you intend to apply.

Do not wait to schedule! Wait times for appointments can be long during summer months. Schedule as soon as possible.



Receive the I-20 or DS-2019 → Pay the SEVIS fee → Complete the visa application form → Pay the visa application fee → **Schedule visa interview appointment** → Attend visa interview → Receive visa

Preparing for the interview

Check the U.S. embassy website for a complete list of documents required for the interview.

Prepare to bring:

- Passport
- I-20 or DS-2019
- Acceptance letter(New Students) or / Proof of enrollment (continuing students)
- Proof of funding (financial statements, award letters)
- SEVIS Fee receipt
- DS-160 Confirmation page

Receive the I-20 or DS-2019 → Pay the SEVIS fee → Complete the visa application form → Pay the visa application fee → Schedule visa interview appointment → **Attend visa interview** → Receive visa

The interview

Security at the U.S. Embassy - find out what items will not be allowed inside the building before you go.

Wait for your number to be called.

A brief interview; only a few minutes.

The interviewer is interested in:

- Your studies
- Non-immigrant intent
- Financial ability
- Language ability

Receive the I-20 or DS-2019 → Pay the SEVIS fee → Complete the visa application form → Pay the visa application fee → Schedule visa interview appointment → Attend visa interview → Receive visa

Interview Tips

Answer questions concisely and honestly.

Be aware that the consulate may also conduct a social media review. Be smart about what information you post online.

If you don't understand something, don’t be afraid to ask.

Be respectful and courteous.

Receive the I-20 or DS-2019 → Pay the SEVIS fee → Complete the visa application form → Pay the visa application fee → Schedule visa interview appointment → Attend visa interview → Receive visa

Receive visa

Check U.S. embassy website for instructions for passport pick-up or delivery.

Check the visa for accuracy

- Spelling of your name
- Visa type: F-1or J-1

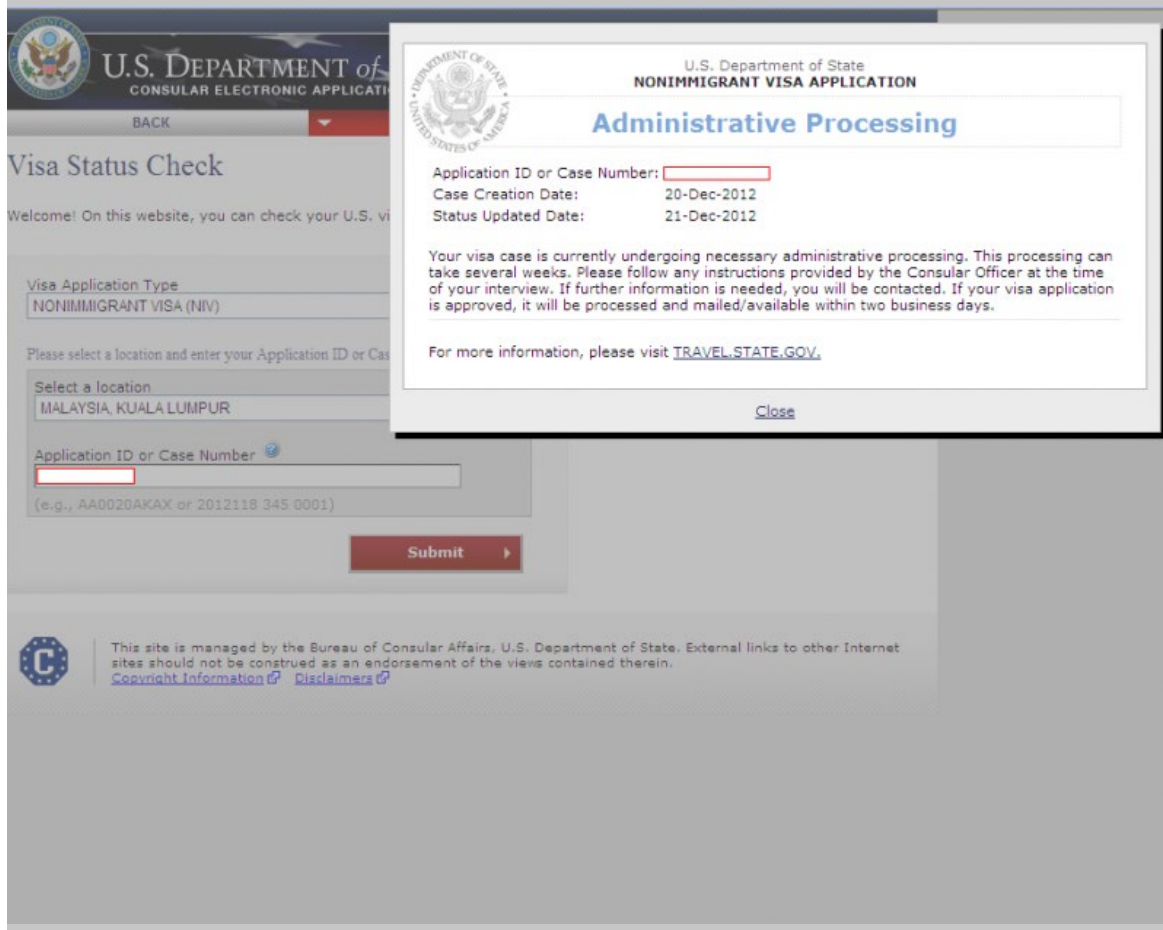
Security Checks

Will cause a delay in visa processing. Contact BIO if you have concerns about a delayed arrival.

Average processing is 60-90 days, but in some cases can take as long as 6 months.

U.S. Department of State Information: https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/visa-information-resources/administrative-processing-information.html

Berkeley International Office: http://internationaloffice.berkeley.edu/security_clearances



Don’t panic if your visa is denied

Ask for the reason of denial in writing.

Make detailed notes about the interview (officer’s name, questions asked, and your answers).

Email internationaloffice@berkeley.edu and recount details including the location of the consulate and the date and time of your interview.

After consulting with a BIO advisor, re-apply with additional information that addresses the denial reason.

Visas for family

Visas for Dependents

- F-2
- J-2

Children under 21

Legally married spouse

May apply with the F-1 or J-1 or independently

Will need their own documents and copies of the F-1/J-1 documents

More information:
http://internationaloffice.berkeley.edu/inviting_family

Berkeley
INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

internationaloffice.berkeley.edu

General questions: internationaloffice@berkeley.edu

NIF questions: nif@berkeley.edu

510-642-2818

Student Advising Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday (No advising on Wednesday!):

10am-12pm and 1pm-4pm (PT)

https://internationaloffice.berkeley.edu/students/student-services