From Admission to Arrival:

Helping International Students Get To UC Berkeley

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Today's Workshop Outcomes

- Advisors will learn and/or understand:
  - Glossary of terms and forms
  - Non-Immigrant Information Form (NIF) process
  - Obtaining an F-1 or J-1 Student Visa
  - Arrival to the U.S. process
- Q&A

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Terms

- "International"
- Visa
- Status
- F-1 vs J-1

Who is "International" Anyways?

- Very broad and often self-defined
- Alphabet soup of visa classifications
- Technically, any student who is not a Permanent Resident or US Citizen
- BIO is concerned with students who are on non-immigrant F & J visas sponsored by UCB
- Campus may define differently

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Student Visa Basics

- Purpose – used for entry only

- Stamp in the Passport

- All foreign nationals (except Canadian nationals) must have a valid visa to enter the U.S.

- Visas can only be issued outside the U.S. at a U.S. embassy or consulate

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Status

- Legal presence inside the US
- Student must maintain their status throughout their time in US
  - How do you maintain your status?
- BIO monitors and reports to SEVIS
  - SEVIS: Student Exchange Visitor Information System aka the government

F-1 & J-1 Student Visa Comparison

F Visa	J Visa
• Self-funded or sponsored, 1 year minimum	• 51% minimum non-personal support for the duration of the program
• On campus & post-completion employment options	• On campus & post-completion employment options
• **PROs**	• **PROs**
– Show less funding	– Good work options during & after program; easier to obtain & cheaper
– Good work options during & after program	– J-2 Spouse can work or study PT or FT
– Spouse can study PT	• **CONs**
• **CONs**	– Lots of funding needed up front
– F-2 Spouse can't work	– Higher possibility of restrictions (212e, 12 month bar)

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What is an I-20?

o A document created by the admitting school via SEVIS

o Required to apply for an **F-1** student visa*

o Required for entering the U.S. along with the visa

*Canadian citizens do not require a visa to enter the U.S. as an F-1 student, but do need the I-20.

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What is a DS-2019?

- A document created by the admitting school or exchange program via SEVIS

- Required to apply for a **J-1** student visa*****

- Required for entering the U.S. along with the visa

*Canadian citizens do not require a visa to enter the U.S. as a J-1 student, but do need the DS-2019.

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*Total ALL International Student Enrollment: 10 Years

Total ALL International Student Enrollment: 15 Years

Year	Enrollment
2003	2406
2004	2688
2005	2678
2006	2688
2007	2785
2008	3069
2009	3419
2010	3774
2011	4548
2012	4926
2013	5645
2014	5913
2015	5846
2016	5951
2017	6345
2018	6568

*Includes EAP students

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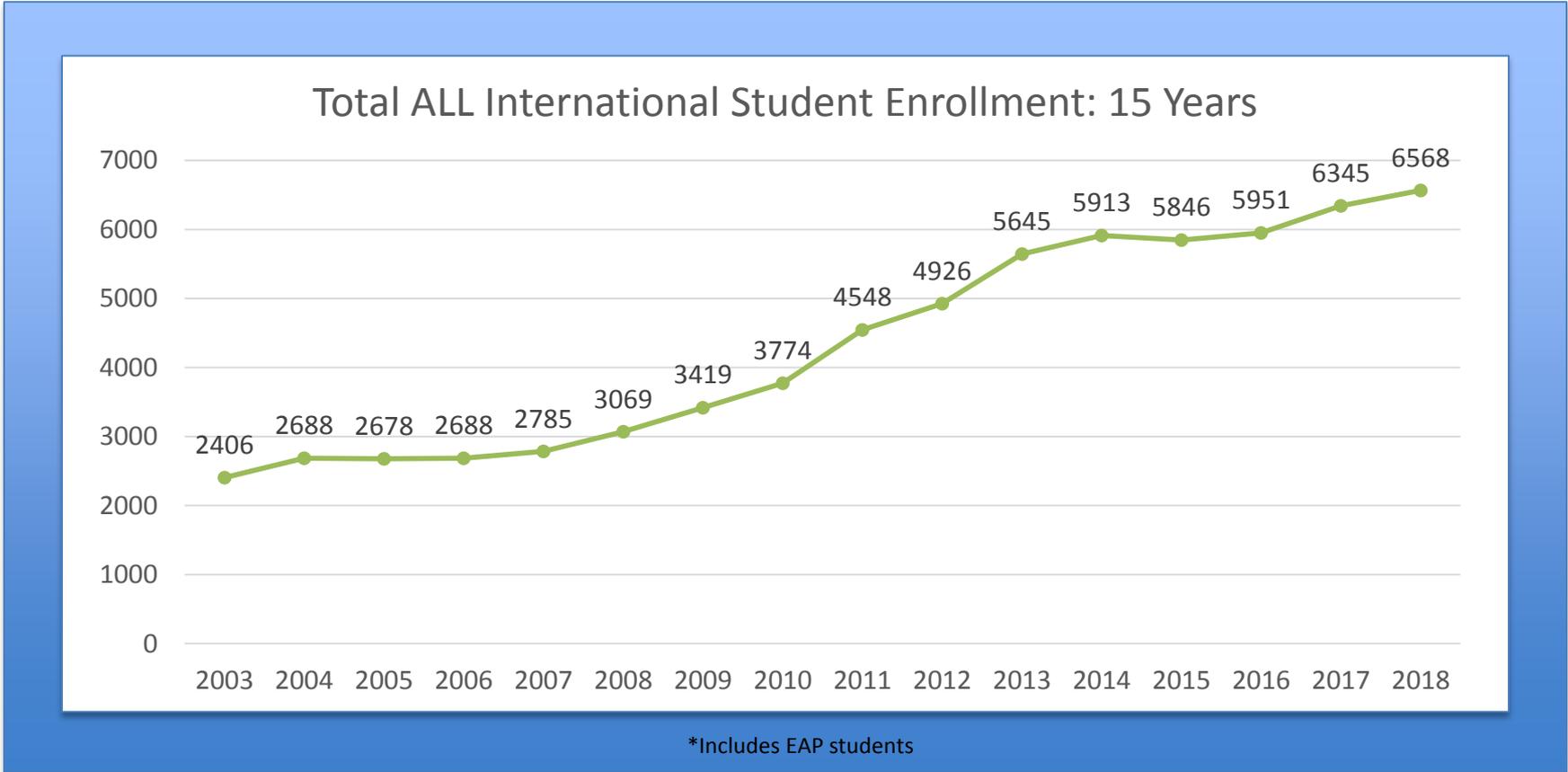
Total Enrollment of International Students

	Female	Male	Total	% Change from 2016
Undergraduate	1,704	1,860	3,564	2.92%
Graduate	980	1626	2606	4.95%
EAP	135	135	270	-2.17%
		Total	6,569	

Additional International Student Populations*

	Female	Male	Total	%Change from 2017
OPT & AT	945	1,280	2,241	13.76%
Masters Law (LLM) Summer Program	72	85	157	-14.67%
Summer Sessions	1,370	1,148	2,518	-17.36%
		Total	4,916	

*This data is not included in the 'Total Enrollment' table shown above, but are populations served by Berkeley International Office and the University.

Top 20 Countries of Origin

Rank	Country	Fall 2017	Fall 2018	Fall 2018 %Total	% Change from 2017
1		2,279	2,448	37.27%	7.42%
2		572	631	9.61%	10.31%
3		628	592	9.01%	-5.73%
4		355	378	5.75%	6.48%
5		161	175	2.66%	8.70%
6	Japan	127	148	2.25%	16.54%
7	Indonesia	148	142	2.16%	-4.05%
8	France	160	141	2.15%	-11.88%
9	United Kingdom	153	133	2.02%	-13.07%
10	Hong Kong	109	102	1.55%	-6.42%
11	Singapore	93	95	1.45%	2.15%
12	Brazil	74	89	1.35%	20.27%
13	Australia	87	88	1.34%	1.15%
14	Germany	91	88	1.34%	-3.30%
15	Turkey	66	78	1.19%	18.18%
16	Mexico	67	72	1.10%	7.46%
17	Thailand	67	72	1.10%	7.46%
18	Italy	49	62	.094%	26.53%
19	Spain	56	62	0.94%	10.71%
20	Malaysia	68	60	0.91%	-11.76%

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Top 10 Undergraduate Programs

	Top 10 Undergraduate Programs	Total
1	Undeclared	1338
2		306
3		245
4		182
5	Applied Mathematics	157
6	Statistics	157
7	Environmental Economics and Policy	114
8	Business Administration	95
9	Architecture	94
10	Mechanical Engineering	88

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Top 10 Graduate Programs

	Top 10 Master's Programs	Total		Top 10 Ph.D. Programs	Total
1		227	1		123
2	Business Administration	183	2	Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences	121
3	Civil and Environmental Engineering	125	3	Computer Science	113
4	Industrial Engineering and Operations Research	98	4	Chemistry	105
5	Mechanical Engineering	75	5	Economics	79
6	Electrical Engineering and Computer Science	73	6	Physics	71
7	Architecture	72	7	Civil and Environmental Engineering	65
8	Business Administration: Financial Engineering	68	8	Materials Science & Engineering	64
9	Information Management and Systems	62	9	Mathematics	46
10	Statistics	37	10	Business Administration	37

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Once you receive admission, follow these steps to NIF and obtain your visa.

The **Arrival** Process

Approximate Processing Times

1
Accept Offer of Admission and pay deposit* → Create bConnected accounts → Review all Tasks & Notifications in Cal Central → Access and complete the NIF Task

Access & complete the above steps at calcentral.berkeley.edu
*Except EAP & readmitted students.

Please note: It may take 24-48 hours to gain access to all tasks.

1-5 days

2
BIO reviews your NIF → Incomplete NIFs: BIO will email you. This may delay processing → Congratulations! Your NIF is complete → Complete the iStart 101 Course

Processing time: 10-15 business days from when BIO receives your complete NIF
If you have questions email NIF@berkeley.edu

10-15 business days

3
BIO mails your I-20 or DS 2019 → Log into NIF to obtain SEVIS ID number → Pay SEVIS fee using SEVIS ID number* → Check out BIO's pre-arrival resources

Mailing time: 3-5 day for express mail, 1-4+ weeks for USPS airmail
*Pay SEVIS fee at least 3 days prior to visa appointment

1-4+ weeks

4
Make Visa appointment* → Receive I-20 or DS 2019 → Apply for & obtain Visa* → Make arrival plans (no earlier than 30 days prior to I-20 or DS 2019 start date*)

Consult your US Embassy/Consulate for visa processing times as they vary
*This may not apply to Canadian citizens or SEVIS transfer students

1-3 months (average)

5
Enter US with proper documents → Complete online arrival confirmation → Be sure you are registered (enrolled & tuition/fees paid) → Welcome to Cal! Attend orientation

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INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

2299 Piedmont Ave.
Berkeley, CA 94720
510-642-2818
internationaloffice@berkeley.edu

Non-Immigrant Information Form (NIF)

What is the NIF?

- Online application for admitted students to determine what type of U.S. immigration status will be used while at UCB
- For F/J students, NIF is used to request their I-20/DS-2019 visa docs
- It interfaces with Campus Solutions data & US immigration systems to receive and send data

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Who must complete the NIF?

- **ALL** admitted or readmitted international students are asked to complete the NIF regardless of visa status.

- Those who will be in F-1 or J-1 status get a Certificate of Eligibility (I-20 or DS-2019)

- US Citizens, Permanent Residents and all other visa classifications (H-1B, E-2, J-2, L-2, H-4, etc) will be able to indicate this in the NIF and will not receive anything, from BIO.
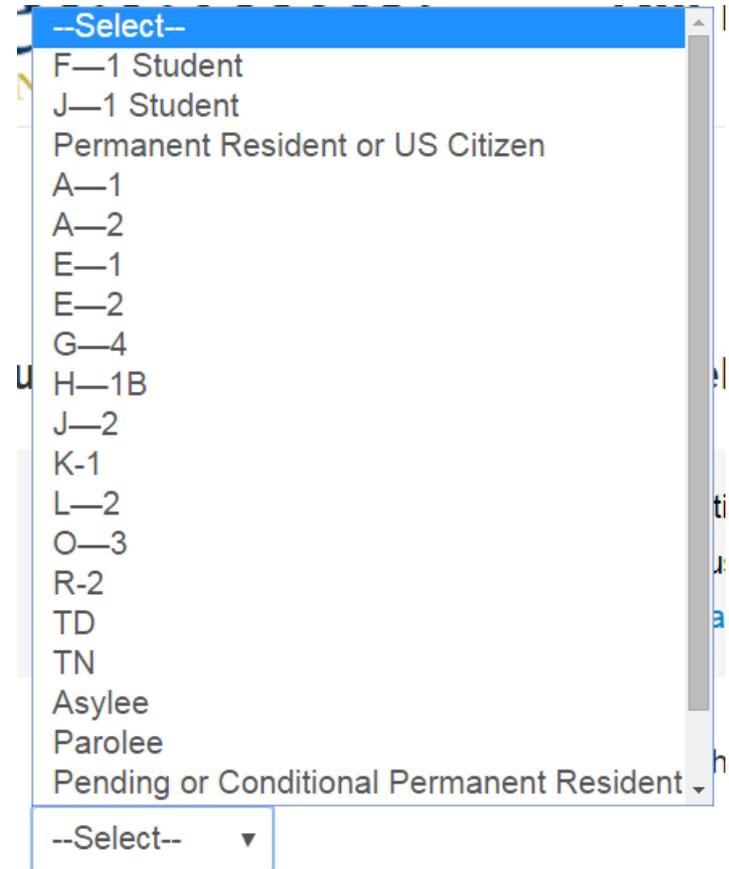
--Select--
F—1 Student
J—1 Student
Permanent Resident or US Citizen
A—1
A—2
E—1
E—2
G—4
H—1B
J—2
K-1
L—2
O—3
R-2
TD
TN
Asylee
Parolee
Pending or Conditional Permanent Resident

--Select--   ▼

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Accessing the NIF

CalCentral

*NIF will appear as a **Task***

Our BIO Website

http://internationaloffice.berkeley.edu/students/new/nif

Future 2   Due

Non-Immigrant Info Form (NIF)   04/07
BERKELEY INTERNATIONAL OFFICE   INITIATED

Complete the NIF as soon as possible! All international students are required to complete the Non-Immigrant Information Form (NIF). All F-1 and most J-1 students will receive an I-20 or DS-2019 upon successful completion of the NIF. Log back into the NIF to track your progress.

*If you are transferring your F/J from another US institution, you should complete the NIF now and speak to your school about your F/J release date. You will receive your I-20 or DS-2019 after your release date.

Students in other immigration statuses should also complete the NIF, but will not receive any documents from Berkeley International Office.

Contact: internationaloffice@berkeley.edu

Access the NIF

Arrival Confirmation   05/22
BERKELEY INTERNATIONAL OFFICE   INITIATED

UC Berkeley   Search this site

Berkeley International Office

Home   Students   Professors & Researchers   UCB Departments   About   Contact

Home » Students » New » The Non-immigrant Information Form (NIF)

The Non-immigrant Information Form (NIF)

View   Edit   Revisions

STUDENTS
- Prospective
- New
  - Fall Orientation
  - Spring Orientation
  - F-1 vs. J-1: Which Status is Right For You?
  - Other Visa Types (Non-F or J)
  - **The Non-immigrant Information Form (NIF)**
  - NIF Processing Stages
  - NIF Frequently Asked Questions
  - Health Services and Insurance
  - International Student Arrival Confirmation
- Transfer

What is the NIF?

The Non-immigrant Information Form (NIF) is an online application form that gathers information from international students about their status in the U.S. The NIF is also used to request a Certificate of Eligibility I-20 or DS-2019 for those who will have F-1 or J-1 student status while at UC Berkeley.

The NIF is for admitted students in degree or exchange programs. If you are attending UC Berkeley for Summer Sessions only, see our Summer Sessions information.

Who Must Complete The NIF?

All non-immigrant students must complete the NIF as part of their admissions acceptance. This includes students who intend to hold F-1 or J-1 status, as well as other classifications such as E-2, J-2, L-2 and H-4 (see Other Visa Classifications).

Accessing The NIF

- **New admits:** Use the NIF Task item in Cal Central to access the NIF after submitting your Statement of Intent to Register (SIR).
- **Readmits:** Use the NIF Task item in Cal Central to access the NIF. This should appear after the Office of the Registrar has processed your readmission.
- **Returning Students completing degree this Summer:** See information about Starting or Returning in Summer

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What is needed to complete the NIF?

ANSWER QUESTIONS

- Selection of immigration status they plan to hold while at UC Berkeley.
- biographical info
- current visa situation
- summer enrollment
- Each student's NIF questions are customized to their academic program and visa situation

UPLOADS

- Valid passport (and for dependents, if applicable)
- Sufficient Proof of Funding for the program. Funding amounts will be displayed in NIF
- Proof of summer enrollment, if applicable
- Other documents based on their situation

DELIVERY METHOD

- Express Mail (highly recommended, 3-5 days)
- Regular USPS Airmail (1-4 weeks)
- Pick Up

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Funding Requirement (F vs J)

Undergraduate
T/F   : $46,170
Living   : $18,900
Total   : $65,070

Graduate
T/F   : $33,979*
Living   : $18,900
Total   : $52,879

Graduate
* Some programs have professional fees which will be calculated in addition to this amount

Spouse + $7,650
Per Child + $6,750

J-1?
x by length of program

2. How will you fund your first year at UC Berkeley?

1. Check all funding types you will use to demonstrate funding for your first year.
2. List the US Dollar amount available for each type of funding.
3. Your Total Resources **must match** your Total Budget. Make adjustments as necessary until you reach the exact amount.
4. You will be required to upload proof of each type of funding as part of your NIF.

☐ My own personal funds (including loans) $

☐ My family's (or other individual's) funds $

☐ UC Berkeley Awards (scholarships, GSI/GSR, grants etc) $

☐ Employer/institutional support/award $

☐ Other type of funding. $

Documenting Funding

- All students are required to meet or exceed specific minimum budget to qualify for visa document

- Acceptable Funding > *less than 6 months old!*

http://internationaloffice.berkeley.edu/funding_documentation

  - Bank statements
  - Private sponsor support letter required if not personally funded
  - ***Berkeley Award Letter or Department Support Statement*** – specific funding totals per year are appreciated
  - Official sponsor support letters (government, corporation, scholarship)

internationaloffice.berkeley.edu

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Guarantee of Financial Support
Academic Departments

You may complete this form online at http://internationaloffice.berkeley.edu/students/request_forms.

The purpose of this form is to facilitate the process of documenting financial support for international students requesting Form I-20 (F-1) or DS-2019 (J-1). The University is required by law to verify that sufficient funding is available for the intended program. This form must be completed by a department administrator, adviser or faculty person.

Student's Information

Last Name	
First Name	
Cal ID Number	
Email	
Phone	
Status	☐ F-1 ☐ J-1
Showing Support For	☐ New I-20 or DS-2019 ☐ Extension I-20 or DS-2019 ☐ Adding a Dependent

Department Information

Department Name	
Name of Person Completing This Form	
Title of Person Completing This Form	
Email	
Phone	

Financial Support Information

Funding Sources (check all that apply)	Length of Support	$ Amount
☐ Scholarship or Fellowship		
☐ Department Grant		
☐ Resident Fees		
☐ Non-Resident Tuition & Fees		
☐ GSR or GSI Stipend/Salary		
☐ Other (describe)		
Total Funding =		

Department Certification

I certify that to the best of my knowledge, the student will receive the support detailed above.

_____ _____
Signature of Person Completing This Form   Date

Q:/Internal/Handouts and Request Forms/Students/Request Forms/support.departments.pdf   Revised 3/2015

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Tracking Progress

Log back into NIF

- **Processing Stage**
- **Summary of answers**
- **SEVIS ID**

Processing Stage Descriptions

Listed below are descriptions of what your processing stage really means and what you need to complete the process.

Started

You still have work to do! You have started the process, but have not completed and submitted it yet. In this stage, you are able to access the application and edit your information. Please complete all required sections and make sure to click **Submit** when finished.

Submitted

Your NIF/VSIS application, including all required uploaded documents, has been received by our office. The Review team will soon check to make sure that all your uploaded documents are legible, accurate, and complete. If your application is not complete, you will be contacted by email and your processing status will be changed to **Incomplete** or **Awaiting Documentation** (see below). If your application is complete, your processing status will be changed to **Processing** (see below).

Incomplete/Awaiting Documentation

You still have work to do! You have received an email from our office describing exactly what information and/or documents are missing. We cannot proceed further until we receive this information, therefore please read the instructions in the email carefully and respond as soon as possible. This may delay the processing of your I-20 or DS-2019.

Document Not Needed

It looks like you are not requesting an I-20 or DS-2019 from UC Berkeley at this time. No further action is needed.

Common Name: Vanina Gran
Submitter Campus Id: S1709-2
Submitter Email: vgranell@berkel

Rec

Received

Welcome to the NIF!

fake page Processing From ISSM and Campus

Select the Attributes this person is coming to the NIF with.

Your Immigration Status at UC Berkeley

What immigration status do you plan to hold while at UC Berkeley?

F-1 Student

Standard Processing Time: 10-15 days from a complete submission

Flowchart

Biographical Information

B

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NIFs by Month

2018

Today!

NIF Questions?

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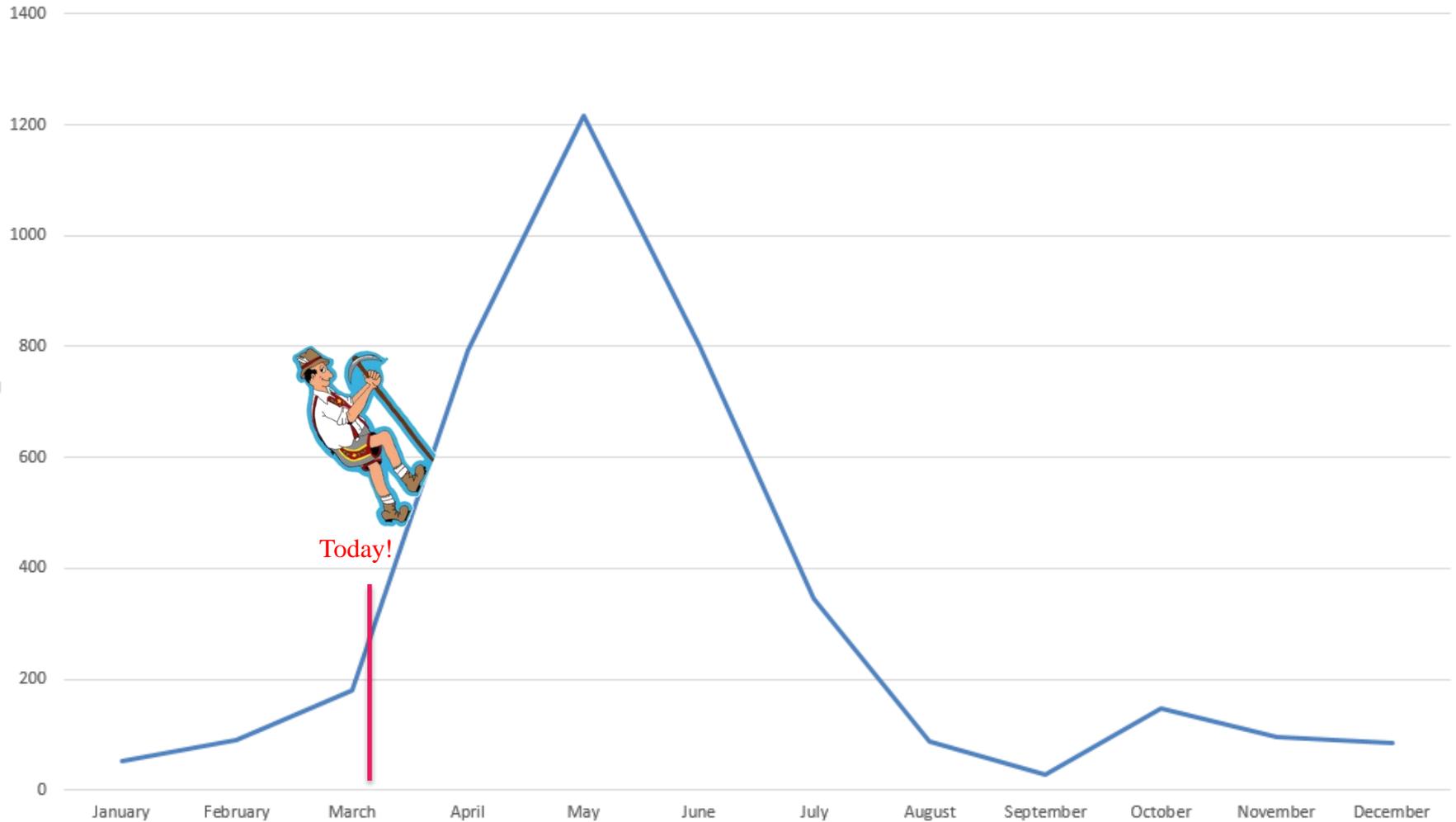
Applying for a Visa

- Appointment Availability
  - Consulates & Embassies closed for US and local holidays
  - Summer is a busy time
- Processing Time
  - Students can apply for their visa as soon as they receive their I-20/DS-2019. However, F-1 visas cannot be issued more than 120 days before program start date. J-1 are not subjected to this 120-day limit.
  - Varies depending on country
- Administrative Processing
  - 2 – 3+ months
  - Common amongst Iranians, Indian, Chinese, and students in hard sciences
- In Case of Visa Denial
  - Contact Berkeley International Office
  - Obtain reason in writing

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Arriving to the U.S. - Port of Entry

New students can enter the U.S. no more than <u>30 days</u> before program start date listed on the I-20 / DS-2019

- Program start date = first day of semester
- Fall 2019 = August 21, 2019

Inspection by Customs & Border Protection (CBP) at the airport

- Determine eligibility to enter U.S.
- Stamp Passport with F-1/J-1 and Duration of Status (D/S)
- All within 30-45 seconds! (Hopefully!)

Once here, complete arrival confirmation process with BIO

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In order to activate a student's immigration record...

1. Complete online arrival confirmation with BIO
2. Update local address & phone number in Cal Central

BIO Resources

internationaloffice.berkeley.edu

- iStart: 101 Course and Golden Bear Prep
- Webinars, emails & videos
  - Housing, involvement, visa, academic success, financial
- iStart: Cal Edition mobile app
- In person orientation
  - Tues, Aug 13 UGs
  - Wed, Aug 14 Grads

New Students

Visas Housing Money Enrollment Transport Health

Requirements:
- Submit your online NIF
- Apply for your visa
- Complete the iStart 101 Course
- Complete Online Arrival Confirmation
- Join Orientation Events

Pre-Arrival Online Webinars

These online webinars are presented by Advisors at Berkeley International Office and are designed to give you basic tips for making a smooth transition to Berkeley. Click the links below to view on YouTube, or visit our Tudou page.

- Applying for a Student Visa
- Housing in the Bay Area
- First Year Experience
- Undergrad Academic Success and Culture
- Grad Academic Success and Culture
- International Transfer Students
- EAP: Preparing for Your Study Abroad
- Money Matters

WHAT TO PACK
for UC Berkeley New International Students
by Berkeley International Office

iStart: The Cal Edition App

Not just any mobile app-it's your gateway to living, studying, and thriving at UC Berkeley.

iSTART: Cal Edition was developed by an international student and Berkeley Internatio

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Arrival Questions?

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Response Questions

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THANK YOU!

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