Get Ready for Berkeley!

Don't forget to read the Graduate Student Handbook, our return-to-campus webpage, or these online resources to prepare you for graduate life at Berkeley.

Save the date for our virtual New Graduate Student Orientation from August 16-20, and watch the recording of our Incoming Graduate Student Town Hall and Welcome event from July 1.

Dear Name,

As the Director of Graduate Student Life in the Graduate Division, I'm pleased to welcome you and to share some resources that can make your transition to Berkeley smoother. Before you arrive on campus this fall, we've provided a few recommendations for what you can start doing now to prepare for your arrival. Also, we've created a Slack Workspace for incoming graduate students as a place to build community.

Housing

Explore your housing options early using some of the helpful links below, and if you're planning to apply for residency status in the future, be sure you understand the residency requirements for graduate students. Incoming students new to California should plan to arrive in Berkeley by August 23, 2021 to establish residency for Fall 2022 (though for vaccine-related purposes, students should ideally arrive in the Bay Area and be fully vaccinated by August 4). If you're an international student, the Berkeley International Office should be your primary point of contact for questions.

Looking for a roommate? Attend a Virtual Housing Mixer on July 15 at 2 p.m. Pacific Time to meet other new students.
**Arrival and Vaccine Information**

Students should make every effort to be fully vaccinated before arriving on campus. The University of California is moving forward with a vaccine mandate which will take effect by July 15, 2021. Please take a moment to read through the [UC immunization requirement](#) and the [COVID-19 vaccine requirement](#).

If you were vaccinated at a non-UC Berkeley vaccination site, please [upload](#) your vaccination information through the secure eTang portal as soon as you are able. UC Berkeley will accept COVID vaccines from other countries that are approved by the [World Health Organization](#).

We recognize that, if you are outside the United States, you may not have access to vaccines. We have [campus vaccination sites](#) that will provide you with vaccines before classes start, but you will need to allow time to do this.

Ideally, all students will arrive in the Bay Area and obtain vaccinations by August 4, 2021, two weeks before the UC Berkeley fall term begins on August 18. (Instruction begins on August 25 for most programs.) All students will need to get tested through a [campus testing site](#). International students should get tested before they depart and 5 days after their arrival in the U.S. For complete information, read through UC Berkeley’s [arrival guidelines for students](#), which will let you know whether you need to sequester when you arrive in the Bay Area. Once you take at least one COVID-19 test, your [testing badge](#) will be valid for 180 days from the date you were fully vaccinated. Once fully vaccinated, no regular surveillance testing is necessary.

Exceptions to the vaccine policy for religious or medical conditions will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and a process to submit these exceptions will be available by July 15, when the UC vaccine policy is finalized.

If you wish to waive our Student Health Insurance Plan, the deadline to do so is July 15 (or August 15 with a late fee assessed).

**Other Things To Do**

Also, don’t forget to upload your photo to the [Cal 1 Card website](#) so your ID can be waiting when you arrive!

If you are bringing your family with you, take a look at the resources for [parenting assistance](#) and [family support](#).

[Sign up to receive emails](#) to receive emails with bi-weekly suggestions for local attractions, events and activities curated by your fellow students! Join a group and meet other students from across campus.

If you would like to set up a meeting with me to discuss various campus resources, [sign up for a 15-minute virtual appointment](#). For ongoing updates, visit the Graduate Division’s [return-to-campus webpage](#).

Warmly,

Larissa Charmsangavej  
Director of Graduate Student Life

---

**New Student Resources**

**Look for Housing**

- [Cal Housing](#) | [Cal Rentals](#) | [Craigslist Bay Area](#)  
[Sumer Transition Housing](#) | [Graduate Assembly’s Housing Guide](#) | [Housing Tips](#)
Find International Student Resources

- Berkeley International Office
- New International Student Resources
- International House

Learn about Health Care Resources

- Immunization Mandate | Student Health Insurance Plan (SHIP)
- SHIP Waiver | Dependent SHIP Enrollment
- Using the Campus Health Services

Explore Resources for Students with Families

- Student Parent Center | Back-Up Child Care Program
- Financial Support for Student Parents | Berkeley Parents Network
- Berkeley Parents Slack Channel

Get Ready to Enroll

- Enrollment FAQ | Class Schedule

Questions? Contact the Graduate Division.

Sign Up for GradNews

Copyright © 2021 UC Berkeley, All rights reserved.

Our mailing address is:
421 Sproul Hall, Berkeley, CA 94720