Dear

It's my privilege to welcome you to Berkeley, and I look forward to supporting you as you advance through your graduate studies. I speak for the whole of the university when I say: We are so lucky to have you here.

While your first point of contact will be your department, my staff and I work very closely with your department’s faculty and staff to ensure that the resources, systems, funding and processes are distributed and implemented equitably across schools, colleges, and departments. The deans and staff of the Graduate Division are your central campus resource to assist you in your search for financial support, in arranging research and teaching appointments, with building academic and professional skills, with well-being and student life issues — from the time you are admitted until you’ve earned your degree. At the end of this email, I’m including some essential resources for new graduate students.

The Graduate Division’s New Graduate Student Orientation (NGSO) for incoming students will be offered remotely as a weeklong series of afternoon workshops from August 18-25, 2020. Many of the workshops will be repeated, and some will be recorded and posted for later viewing. You will receive a series of informational messages throughout the summer that will include a schedule of workshops and events. Please check with your academic program for information about program-specific orientations.

While we know there is uncertainty about the fall semester in terms of what can and cannot happen in person, we hope you will take advantage of the virtual events, social hours and community-building spaces offered by Berkeley and your home departments. Our goal is for you to thrive during your time at Berkeley. Please don’t hesitate to reach out to us with any questions or concerns.

Fiat Lux!

Lisa García Bedolla
Vice Provost for Graduate Studies and Dean of Graduate Division

Three Things To Do This Summer

1. Read the Graduate Student Handbook
2. **Start Looking for Housing** (if you are coming to campus in person)
   - [Cal Housing + COVID-19 Updates](#)
   - [International House + COVID-19 Updates](#)
   - [Cal Rentals | Graduate Assembly’s Housing Guide](#)

3. **Stay Connected With The Graduate Division**
   - [Sign up for GradNews](#) | [Visit the Graduate Division website](#)

Follow Us on Social Media:

Questions? [Contact the Graduate Division](#).