Graduate Life at Berkeley

The Graduate Division serves more than 11,000 students in over 100 graduate degree programs. We are here to help you from the time you are admitted until you complete your graduate program.

While your department is often your first stop for information, we help guide you along the path to your degree. We are your partners for an array of academic, personal, and professional support services that are key to the everyday well-being and life-long successes of Berkeley students. **Welcome!**

Graduate Division Resources

*The Graduate Division has three chief roles in supporting graduate education at UC Berkeley:*

**Degree Completion**
As a central service center for the entire campus, the Graduate Division works to guide and assist students from the moment of admission, through the various milestones of their progress, to the completion of their degree requirements.

**Personal and Professional Support**
We provide academic, personal, and professional support services that are vital to the everyday well-being and lifelong successes of Berkeley master’s, professional, and doctoral students.

**Policy Creation and Administration**
As the authoritative resource and chief advocate for graduate education, we ensure the equitable administration of policies governing graduate studies across Berkeley’s schools and colleges.
Lisa García Bedolla, Vice Provost for Graduate Studies and Dean of the Graduate Division, is the chief advocate for graduate education and research at Berkeley, working with the Graduate Council of the Academic Senate to sustain the world-renowned excellence of more than 100 graduate programs. The Vice Provost collaborates with campus faculty and staff to build diverse sources of financial, academic, career, and life-balance support for Berkeley’s 11,000-plus doctoral and master’s students.

Prior to her appointment at the Graduate Division, Dean García Bedolla served as the director of Institute of Governmental Studies at UC Berkeley and professor in the Graduate School of Education. She has earned five national book awards for her work exploring why people choose to engage politically, and has consulted for presidential campaigns and statewide ballot efforts.

Associate Deans

Associate Deans are faculty members serving part-time. They assist with strategic planning and communications, review requests for exception to policy, serve as liaisons to the Graduate Council, and represent the Graduate Division in academic program reviews.

Gail Brager is a Professor of Architecture. An Associate Dean since 2018, she oversees admission allotments for academic programs; reviews academic program proposals and related matters; oversees the Interdisciplinary PhD program; and supports the GSI Teaching and Resource Center, Graduate Writing Center, and Mentoring programs. She works with the Advisory Committee for Graduate Student Instructor Affairs and liaises with the campus’s diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives.

Eric Falci is a Professor of English. An Associate Dean since 2017, he oversees student financial support — fellowships, awards, grants, and academic employment — coordinates the annual campuswide Fellowships Competition; and determines small fellowship competitions. He oversees student welfare, health and wellness, and parenting issues. He works with the Advisory Committee for Graduate Student Professional Development.

424 Sproul Hall  graddean@berkeley.edu  510-642-5472
Our website is the central online resource for all graduate students. Find information about upcoming deadlines, fellowships, campus employment, developing professional skills, balancing your work-life priorities, filing your thesis or dissertation, and preparing for future careers. See our Student Resources page for essential information on everything from employment to academic milestones.

Events and Lectures

The Graduate Division hosts events that instruct and celebrate graduate students:

- New Graduate Student Orientation
- Celebration of Distinguished Fellows Reception
- Professional and Master’s Students Reception
- GSI Awards Ceremonies
- Mentoring Awards Ceremonies

Graduate students are encouraged to attend our annual series of Berkeley Graduate Lectures and Tanner Lectures on Human Values, which bring prominent scholars and speakers from around the world to campus.

E-Newsletters

The Graduate Division sends out a monthly electronic newsletter, GradNews, to the email address you’ve entered into Cal Central. GradNews brings you useful facts, tips, and announcements vital to all Berkeley graduate students, including fellowship opportunities, policy matters that affect you, and news of interest to graduate students, alumni, and faculty. We also distribute digital digests with information pertaining to student life and professional development. Sign up for these digests at grad.berkeley.edu/professional-development.

Share your research or ideas with us

Communications Contact

✉️ gradpub@berkeley.edu
📞 510-643-7358
grad.berkeley.edu/publications

Lectures Contact

✉️ lectures@berkeley.edu  ➤ 510-643-7413
gradlectures.berkeley.edu
tannerlectures.berkeley.edu
**ADMISSIONS**

Staff in the graduate admissions office are often the first point of contact for applicants. We advise applicants, faculty, and departments on policy and procedures for gaining admission to graduate study at Berkeley.

- gradadm@berkeley.edu
- grad.berkeley.edu/admissions/apply

**APPOINTMENTS + EMPLOYMENT**

Our staff help students become employed and “appointed” with staff and academic titles such as Graduate Student Instructor, Graduate Student Researcher, Reader, and Tutor. We monitor student eligibility for fee and tuition remission and ensure compliance with mandatory policies.

- gradappt@berkeley.edu
- grad.berkeley.edu/financial/appointments/

**DEGREES**

Degrees staff track your progress from registration to graduation. After consulting with staff in your home department, you can make an appointment to discuss concerns about qualifying exams, advancement to candidacy, filing fees, probation, and re-enrollment. Browse procedures, forms, and applications on our web pages. **Master’s theses and doctoral dissertations are filed in our office.**

- degrees@berkeley.edu
- grad.berkeley.edu/academic-progress

**FELLOWSHIPS**

Fellowship staff help you fund your graduate education. Discover university- and federally-funded fellowships, foundation and corporate awards, department awards and block grants on our website.

- gradfell@berkeley.edu
- grad.berkeley.edu/financial/fellowships

**OFFICE FOR GRADUATE DIVERSITY**

327 Sproul Hall, Berkeley, CA 94720-5900

Office for Graduate Diversity staff provide support services for prospective and continuing students on the Berkeley campus in an effort to maintain a more diverse graduate student community. OGD is a resource for enhancing the educational experience of underrepresented students, including those who are undocumented, first-generation college students, and those who are educationally or financially challenged.

- grad.diversity@berkeley.edu
- diversity.berkeley.edu/graduate/gdp

**AMERICAN INDIAN GRADUATE PROGRAM**

597 Barrows Hall, Berkeley, CA 94720-5900

The director and staff of the AIGP promote the inclusion and success of American Indians and Alaska Natives in graduate education at Berkeley. Connect with AIGP staff to learn more about academic and community resources, or visit the program website.

- aigp@berkeley.edu
- diversity.berkeley.edu/graduate/aigp

**GRADUATE STUDENT LIFE**

Our Graduate Student Life Specialist supports graduate students around issues such as health education and wellness, housing, social connection, and engagement. The GSL specialist collaborates with the Graduate Assembly, University Health Services, the Student Parent Center, Berkeley International Office, Rec Sports, and other campus units to support student well-being and cultivate community among Berkeley’s graduate students.

- gradlife@berkeley.edu
- grad.berkeley.edu/financial/fellowships
Financing your Education

At Berkeley, your application for admission was simultaneously considered for funding. If you didn’t receive a departmental or university award at admission, don’t stop looking. Keep seeking opportunities throughout your graduate career, as opportunities shift as your work progresses. Be sure to build in sufficient time to complete each application’s requirements (including time for third-party references or nominations) to meet every deadline.

▶ UNIVERSITY FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

**Multi-year fellowships (2+ years)**
These fellowships usually cover tuition and fees, with a stipend for living expenses. Students are nominated by their academic departments and selected by faculty committees.

**One-year fellowships**
Students should consult their academic programs and apply directly for one-year fellowships to cover specific phases of graduate study, including:
- Research
- Internship
- Mentorship
- Dissertation Writing

**Grants**
Grants for graduate students usually offset or cover expenses related to specific projects, such as:
- Travel
- Summer Research
- Language Study
- Professional Development
- Conference Attendance

Be sure to search your department’s websites and other online resources like [grad.berkeley.edu/financial/fellowships](http://grad.berkeley.edu/financial/fellowships).

▶ EXTERNAL FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

Research portable awards from the National Science Foundation and other government agencies, as well as private sources. Browse the websites and publications of federal agencies and foundations, professional associations and journals in your field of interest, reference books such as *The Annual Register of Grant Support* and online sources such as [fastweb.com](http://fastweb.com) and [finaid.org](http://finaid.org).

▶ CAMPUS ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Students often work in campus academic appointments as Graduate Student Instructors, Readers, Graduate Student Researchers, and Tutors. These appointments provide stipends, skills training, and preparation for future careers. Depending on the percentage of time, they may also cover tuition and fees. To learn more, visit [grad.berkeley.edu/financial/appointments](http://grad.berkeley.edu/financial/appointments).

▶ CAMPUS EMERGENCY LOANS

Any registered student may apply for an emergency loan, interest-free if repaid within 60 days (with a small processing fee). The maximum loan amount is set each semester by the Financial Aid & Scholarships Office and is subject to change without notice.

[financialaid.berkeley.edu/short-term-emergency-loan](http://financialaid.berkeley.edu/short-term-emergency-loan)

▶ FEDERAL LOANS

The Financial Aid & Scholarships Office administers Federal Direct Loans, several smaller federal loan programs, and the Federal Work-Study Program. Graduate students who are U.S. Citizens or permanent residents can usually borrow what they need to cover the difference between their academic year budget (tuition, fees, and living expenses) and merit-based awards and other available resources.

For detailed information on how and when to apply for loans, how funds are disbursed, and important links, see the [Graduate Award Guide](http://financialaid.berkeley.edu/graduate-award-guide) online:

[financialaid.berkeley.edu/graduate-award-guide](http://financialaid.berkeley.edu/graduate-award-guide)

If you still have questions after visiting the website, you can submit questions at [Cal Student Central](http://studentcentral.berkeley.edu/open-case). Be sure to include your student ID number and make sure your email address and phone number are correct in Cal Central.

[studentcentral.berkeley.edu/open-case](http://studentcentral.berkeley.edu/open-case)
GRADPRO PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES AND PROGRAMS

The Graduate Student Professional Development Guide helps you identify skills to develop and steps to take each semester to strengthen those skills.

grad.berkeley.edu/professional-development/guide

Individual professional development planning tools help you set goals and track your progress.

grad.berkeley.edu/idp

The GradPro online calendar features workshops, conferences, talks, and other events sponsored by GPD and campus partners that aim to build skills for various careers.

grad.berkeley.edu/events

GSI TEACHING & RESOURCE CENTER

The Graduate Student Instructor Teaching and Resource Center prepares graduate students for teaching at Berkeley and in future academic and professional careers. Offerings include fall and spring teaching conferences; workshops on teaching; the online course, Professional Standards and Ethics in Teaching; a Certificate of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education; confidential consultations on teaching and on preparing teaching materials for the academic job search; electronic resources, including the Teaching Guide for GSIs; grants and awards for GSIs and their faculty mentors; the Language Proficiency Program for international GSIs; and seminars for faculty on teaching with GSIs.

301 Sproul Hall

 gsi.berkeley.edu  gsi@berkeley.edu  510-642-4456

GRADUATE WRITING CENTER

The writing center assists graduate students in developing the academic skills necessary to successfully complete their graduate degrees and to prepare for future academic and professional careers. Offerings include workshops on academic writing (grant writing, thesis/dissertation writing), editing, and publishing; writing groups; and confidential consultations.

307 Sproul Hall

 gradwriting@berkeley.edu  510-643-9392

 gsi.berkeley.edu/professional-development/graduate-writing-center

SUMMER INSTITUTE FOR PREPARING FUTURE FACULTY

This six-week summer program is designed to support doctoral candidates preparing for future academic positions. Find it on our website under “Workshops, Seminars, and Institutes.”

gsi.berkeley.edu/programs-services

Photo: Noah Berger
University Health Services

2222 Bancroft Way  uhs.berkeley.edu
.telltang@berkeley.edu  510-642-2000

UHS provides comprehensive medical, mental health, and health promotion services to Berkeley students, as well as limited services to other eligible groups. Services are designed to minimize the impacts of illness, emotional distress, or injury on studies and work. The facility is fully accredited and staffed by board-certified physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, a nutritionist, and nurses.

Students can use medical services just as they would at their regular doctor's office and urgent care center, whether or not they are enrolled in the Student Health Insurance Plan.

To start your care at UHS, visit:

uhs.berkeley.edu/gotang

PAST WORKSHOPS FOR GRADUATE AND UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

• Managing Stress, Anxiety, and Depression
• Managing Social Anxiety
• Exploring Majors/Careers as an International Student
• Mindfulness Meditation

PAST COUNSELING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES GRADUATE STUDENT GROUPS

• From Self-Criticism to Kindness
• Grief & Loss Support
• Graduate Women's Support
• Graduate Men's Support
• Queer Womyn of Color Support
• Understanding Self and Others

Please check the sites listed below for the most current list of available groups. Groups begin in late September or early October.

Call to register.  510-642-9494

uhs.berkeley.edu/counseling/group
uhs.berkeley.edu/students/counseling

Graduate Professional Development Partners

We partner with campus organizations to support the career growth of Berkeley graduate students. Below are some of our key partners.

► THE CAREER CENTER

The Berkeley Career Center offers confidential appointments with career counselors, workshops on the academic job search and expanded professional options, an M.S./Ph.D. Career Fair, employer information sessions, and the annual Ph.D. Career Colloquium.

2440 Bancroft Way  510-642-1716
career.berkeley.edu/Phds/Phds

► BEYOND ACADEMIA

This career education conference and network was created by and for Ph.D. students and postdoctoral scholars who are considering careers outside of academia or are interested in learning about the many career options available to Ph.D.s.

Conference attendees hear from, and interact with, panels of successful and creative professionals; workshops and networking events allow for discussion in an informal setting.
beyondacademia.org

► VISITING SCHOLARS & POSTDOC AFFAIRS PROGRAM

VSPA coordinates various career networking opportunities open to graduate students at Berkeley. Staff offer programs and services to help meet the educational needs and career interests of postdoctoral scholars and to foster a robust postdoctoral community.

302 Sproul Hall  vspa@berkeley.edu  510-643-9681
vspa.berkeley.edu

For a complete list of campus partners, visit
grad.berkeley.edu/professional-development/partners
Campus Services and Resources

Berkeley International Office (BIO) provides expertise to international students and scholars through advising, immigration services, advocacy, and programming for the Berkeley campus community.

2299 Piedmont Avenue
PHONE 510-642-2818 internationaloffice.berkeley.edu

CalCentral Dashboard includes all crucial student information: admissions, financial aid, registration, enrollment, billing and payment, advising, course management, and records.
LAPTOP calcentral.berkeley.edu

Cal Student Central This multi-service unit, which includes the Financial Aid & Scholarships Office, assists students with registration and enrollment, billings and payments, and federal and emergency loans.
120 Sproul Hall PHONE 510-664-9181 LAPTOP studentcentral.berkeley.edu

Disabled Students’ Program provides disability-related classroom and academic accommodations for students with disabilities. Staff advise about special aid, scholarships, and vocational rehabilitation benefits. Student grants are available for disability-related assistive technology.
260 Cesar Chavez Student Ctr. PHONE 510-642-0518 / TTY: 510-642-6376 DSP.berkeley.edu | Fax 510-643-9686

Early Childhood Education Program (ECEP) provides early childhood services to infants, toddlers, and preschoolers at five centers in Berkeley and Albany. A number of spaces are reserved for the children of student parents, and subsidies are available to qualified parents. Enrollment is limited; apply as early as possible.
2339 Haste Street PHONE 510-642-1827 LAPTOP ece.berkeley.edu/students

Gender Equity Resource Center provides support and services for women and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer students, as well as advocacy, support, and education on sexual and relationship violence and hate crimes.
202 Cesar Chavez Student Ctr. PHONE 510-642-4786 genderequityresourcecenter.berkeley.edu

The Graduate Assembly (GA) is the official campus student government. The GA provides resources and advocacy for graduate students at Berkeley, funds graduate student groups, collaborates with the administration, and launches independent projects that support graduate student communities. Eshleman Hall, Room 444, PHONE 510-642-2175 ga.berkeley.edu

Housing options for graduate students include university-owned and -operated housing, group housing co-operatives, and off-campus rental housing. Start your journey at housing.berkeley.edu. Most grad students live in off-campus housing. Berkeley’s Cal Rental’s website can assist you with finding rentals.
PHONE 510-642-3644 calrentals@berkeley.edu och.berkeley.edu housing.berkeley.edu/graduate

Library Services The Berkeley Library offers world-class collections and resources in more than 20 subject-based libraries on campus. Access the list of databases by subject, type, and title on the Library website. To learn about services that support your research and to find your department’s library liaison, visit:
LAPTOP lib.berkeley.edu/information/graduate-students

Ombuds Office for Students and Postdoctoral Appointees is a neutral and confidential resource for conflict resolution with a campus-related issue or concern. The Ombudsperson will listen to your case, serve as a sounding board, discuss your options, provide coaching on communication, and help you navigate difficult situations.
PHONE 510-642-5754 Ombuds SA.berkeley.edu/ombuds

The Path to Care Center provides affirming, empowering, and confidential support for survivors and those who have experienced gendered violence or harassment. Confidential advocates bring a non-judgmental, caring approach to exploring all options, rights and resources.
Appointments: PHONE (510) 642-1988 sa.berkeley.edu/dean/confidential-care-advocate

Berkeley Graduate Division
Learn more at grad.berkeley.edu

Photos: cover and page 1, Elena Zhukova; pages 2-4, Keegan Houser