

# Brilliance in Action

The Berkeley International Study Program (BISP) provides the opportunity for short-term study abroad at the world-class and culturally-rich University of California, Berkeley. Affectionately called “Berkeley” or “Cal,” it is famous for its top scholars, social activism, innovation, and diverse student body. In other words, “Brilliance in Action.”

Berkeley’s professors are some of the best in their fields, engaged in groundbreaking research, innovative thinking, inspiring teaching, and service to society. No less than seven of the university’s current faculty hold the Nobel Prize, demonstrating the level of expertise offered at this premier university. In our globalized world, UC Berkeley famously continues to promote free speech and thoughtful debate as the world of work and social networking becomes increasingly diversified.

The campus is vibrant and alive with some of the best undergraduate and graduate students from California and all over the world, who actively engage in campus life and in the community. The campus and surrounding areas are rich in culture, with unlimited opportunities to experience life in California and the U.S.

As a result of the university’s continued research and academic excellence, UC Berkeley is at the top of multiple world rankings. Every year it has been named one of the world’s “Elite Six” global university brands, according to the Times Higher Education. Additionally, UC Berkeley has been named the number one public university in the 2020 US News and World Report global rankings of universities, as it has been for the past five years.



*“Studying in Berkeley gave me a chance to network and meet people that think a different way than I am used to. I guess that is a big part of studying abroad ~ learning to understand that there are many different lifestyles, ways of thinking and doing things!”*

Yasmin Graeml, Journalism student,  
Pontifical Catholic University of Paraná, Brazil



*Illustrated by Krystal Lauk, with permission for use from Berkeley Law*

UC Berkeley is located in the city of Berkeley, California, and is a mid-sized city known for its progressive policies and viewpoints, and is a hub of creativity and counterculture. It is just 20 minutes from iconic San Francisco. UC Berkeley is in close proximity to many famous sites, such as the Pacific Coast, the Golden Gate Bridge, Silicon Valley, Yosemite National Park, and the Sonoma and Napa Wine Country.

## See what the BISP students are sharing on social media!



@bispcal #bispcal #bispgobears



BISPCal



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INTERNATIONAL  
STUDY PROGRAM  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

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Information is subject to change.  
For the latest updates, please visit our website.

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# Experience Brilliance



# The Berkeley Experience

*“I love how Berkeley brings together great minds from across the globe. Clicking with sisters and brothers from around the world on our paths to knowledge and ambition is the most fascinating gift throughout this enchanting journey. Berkeley stands out for me given its academic prominence in political science, vibrant history of civil rights movements, and all the diverse cultures.”*

Ivory Chang, Political Science student,  
National Taiwan University, Taiwan



*“Berkeley is a rare spot in the world that brings together people of great diversity. Cherish the opportunity you get. There is so much to learn and experience through this interpersonal exchange. Take advantage of the various student activities available at Berkeley, step out of your comfort zone and try out new things!”*

Ja Young, German Language student,  
Korea University, Korea



*“If you value equality, diversity, curiosity and inclusiveness in addition to hard-working, dedicated and passionate professors.... UC Berkeley would be an excellent option!”*

Caroline Hop, Innovation and Entrepreneurship  
student, University of Agder, Norway



## So much to see, so much to do!

The Berkeley campus is buzzing with life, with more than 42,000 students from California and around the world to create a **dynamic and interconnected community**. Daily activities, performances and events are common on campus and the surrounding area, and is open to both the student population and the general public.

BISP students are encouraged to participate in **student groups**, of which there are over 1,000 available to choose from all over campus.

Students often **travel to fun and exciting places** within California. Common trips include nearby San Francisco, Napa Valley, Lake Tahoe, Yosemite and down the coastal beach areas to Los Angeles, Hollywood and San Diego. During school breaks they may go outside of California to Las Vegas, the Grand Canyon, up the Pacific Northwest to Oregon or Washington, New York, Chicago, Florida, Texas, or a particular favorite, Hawaii.



# BISP Makes it Possible

The Berkeley International Study Program (BISP) provides a unique opportunity for visiting international students to take high-quality courses alongside UC Berkeley degree students in a short-term study abroad program for one or two semesters. BISP provides sponsorship and the necessary letter of invitation to obtain a student visa for qualified students, who enroll in courses on a fee-paying basis. We also offer a robust program of activities and support to students who get the much sought-after “Berkeley Experience.”

Each semester, BISP sponsors over 400 visiting international students from all over the world, who enjoy the experience of taking classes at the world-famous UC Berkeley. They tend to do quite well here and have a fantastic experience both in and outside the classroom. BISP students often transfer these courses back to their home universities for their degree requirements.

BISP students come from a wide variety of academic backgrounds. BISP has its roots in an academic department

and continues to maintain a very close relationship with other departments to provide a rich schedule of courses for all students, particularly those in the social sciences, arts, humanities, biological and physical sciences. We have many students from other fields such as business, media, health, education, and politics who find relevant courses in these study areas. It is common in the U.S. for students to take courses in subjects outside of their major. UC Berkeley faculty and students greatly appreciate the participation of students from many cultures in the classrooms, making it an exciting and vibrant multicultural learning environment.

BISP provides a well-rounded, enriching experience with dedicated staff to support them. Students also participate in activities planned by our Cultural Peer Mentors, UC Berkeley students who assist with adjustment to the Berkeley campus and surrounding area, and provide opportunities to get to know other students and the culture of Berkeley and the U.S.

## The BISP Advantage

- Gain a new perspective pursuing your interests in the U.S.
- Prepare for your future in an ever-increasingly global world
- Engage in a vibrant and multicultural study abroad experience
- Benefit from comprehensive academic and social support from start to finish

*“There is no better opportunity to experience what it means to live in a global world than to study abroad. To live and study in a foreign country is to learn on a daily basis—as if without trying—what it means to step outside of one’s own customs and culture, and to see other parts of the world as both surprisingly familiar and refreshingly strange. Study abroad is the perfect complement to all the wonderful things that Berkeley offers on campus, and as anyone who has returned will say, it is bound to change you for the rest of your life!”* **Professor Anthony Cascardi, Dean of Arts and Humanities**



# Applying to BISP

BISP has agreements with over 60 universities, in over a dozen countries. Most students who participate in BISP are nominated by these partner institutions once they are screened for qualifications which may include academic achievement, proficiency in English, and appropriate study fit. Those from a non-English speaking university must demonstrate this with a TOEFL (90 or higher) or IELTS (7.0 or higher) test score. Please go to <http://bisp.berkeley.edu/programs/> and click on the link for BISP Partner Universities to see a complete list of our partners.\*

**Students who attend a partner university** should inquire at their university’s International Office for procedures and deadlines to apply locally for a nomination to attend BISP. We recommend doing this as soon as possible as their deadlines will be earlier than the dates listed below.

**Students who do not attend one of our partner universities** may apply directly to BISP as an independent student, also called “freemover.” Information about this process can be found on the link above. BISP will accept a limited number of students who qualify, if there is space in their chosen area of study.

The general period of time in which BISP accepts independent inquiries for each semester is listed here:

	Semester Dates	Application Period
Fall Semester:	Mid–August to Mid–December	February 1 – June 15
Spring Semester:	Mid–January to Mid–May	July 15 – October 15

\*Universities and scholarship organizations who are interested in a BISP partnership may inquire about this possibility by sending an email to [bisp@berkeley.edu](mailto:bisp@berkeley.edu)

## Estimated costs per semester

Tuition Cost (minimum of 12 units required)	\$750 per unit
UCB Extension International Student Fee	\$100
Concurrent Enrollment Term Application Fee	\$125
Cal Services Fee	\$250
Estimated Living Costs (housing + food)	~ \$10,500
Health Insurance (unless waived)	~ \$825
Total (depending on number of units taken)	~ \$20,800–\$23,050

All fees listed above are in US Dollars, and are based on the 2020–21 academic year. These fees do not include the SEVIS fee, which is paid directly to the U.S. government.

## Want to spend the summer in Berkeley?

Students coming in the fall semester may wish to take a couple of courses during the late summer session, starting in early July, in order to adjust to life in Berkeley earlier.

Students entering in the spring semester may choose to extend their time by taking summer classes in late-May and June. If you’re interested, contact us!

