

Berkeley

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

International Study Program



Experience Brilliance

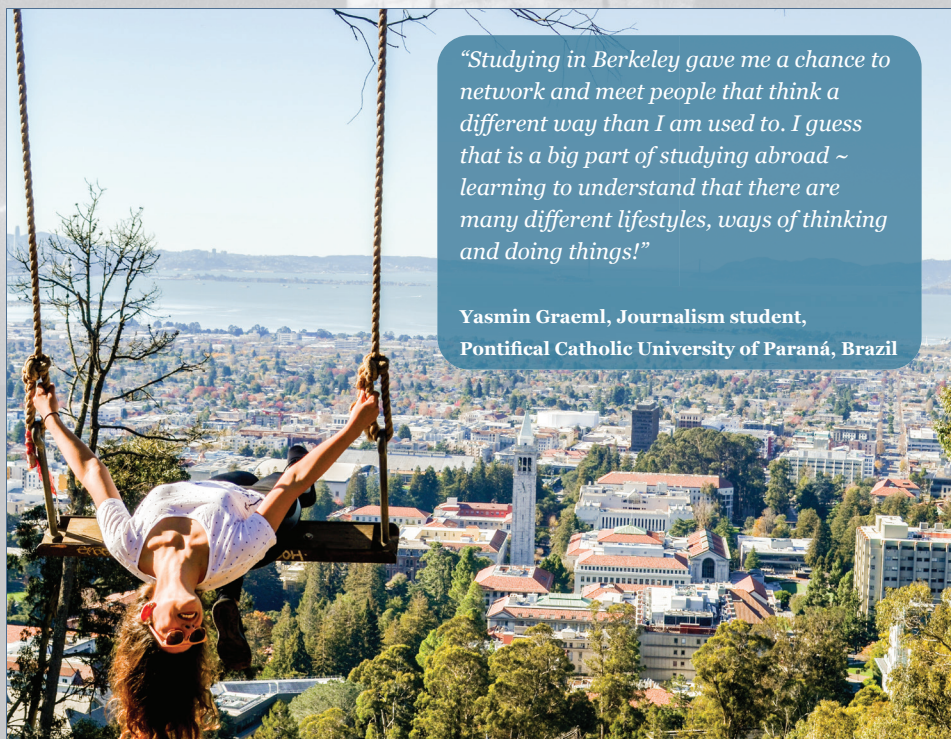
Brilliance in Action

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. Ten 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. For example, UC Berkeley ranks as the #1 public university and 4th best global university, according to the most recent U.S. News and World Report.



“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**

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 45,000 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 1,400 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

BISP provides a unique study abroad opportunity for visiting international students to take high-quality courses alongside UC Berkeley degree students 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 between 300–500 visiting international students from all over the world, who enjoy the experience of taking classes at the world-famous UC Berkeley. The students 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 departments across

campus that 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

“My advice is this: come here, study carefully, seriously and hard. Experience many new things and have more fun than you will ever have experienced.”

Professor Trond Petersen, BISP Director and Associate Executive Dean of the College of Letters and Science



How to Apply

BISP has agreements with over 75 universities, in nearly 20 countries. Most students who participate in BISP are nominated by partner institutions and screened for qualifications which may include academic achievement, proficiency in English, and appropriate study fit. Those from a non-English speaking university must have a TOEFL (90 or higher), IELTS (7.0 or higher), or Duolingo (125 or higher) test score.

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. Please go to <https://bisp.berkeley.edu/about-us/our-partners> to see a complete list of our partners.*

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 at <https://bisp.berkeley.edu/apply>. Prospective students will be interviewed to ensure that they are well prepared and a good match for BISP and the course offerings at UC Berkeley.

The general period of time in which BISP accepts independent inquiries for each semester is listed below. Partner universities may have earlier deadlines.

	Semester Dates	Application Period
Fall Semester:	Mid-August to Mid-December	February 15-May 15
Spring Semester:	Mid-January to Mid-May	September 1-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

Estimated costs per semester

Tuition (minimum of 12 units required)	\$750 per unit
Program Application Fee	\$100
International Services Fee	\$125
Registration Fee	\$250
Estimated Living Costs (housing + food)	~ \$11,250
Health Insurance	\$900
Total (depending on number of units taken)	~ \$21,625-\$23,875

All fees listed above are in US Dollars, and are based on the 2024-25 academic year. These fees do not include the SEVIS fee, which is paid directly to the U.S. government.

Optional Programs

Special Focus

The BISP Special Focus program allows students the opportunity to take three thematically-linked courses and complete a related research project under the guidance of a professor for academic credit.

Field Studies in Entrepreneurship

The BISP Special Focus program allows students the opportunity to take three thematically-linked courses and complete a related research project under the guidance of a professor for academic credit.





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

UC Berkeley is located in the city of Berkeley, California, 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.

Want to Spend a Summer in Berkeley?

Students wishing to have more time at UC Berkeley can also participate in Summer Sessions before or after their time with BISP. Inquire early to have enough time for registration and visa processing.



BISPCal



Berkeley International Study Program

Berkeley International
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA Study Program

Berkeley International Study Program
410 Social Sciences Building, MC #1980
Berkeley, CA 94720-1980

Email: bisp@berkeley.edu
Website: bisp.berkeley.edu

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