



GUIDE TO INTERNATIONAL ADMISSIONS FOR UC BERKELEY

DISCOVER. CONNECT. ENGAGE. REFLECT. This is what we encourage UC Berkeley students to do during their four years on campus. UC Berkeley seeks applications from students from all over the world to be a part of our amazing community. We know that choosing your college is a huge decision, so we want to make sure you're prepared for the application process.

Freshman applicants are students who are currently in high school or secondary school (with or without university coursework completed), or students who have graduated from high school and have taken no university coursework.

Are you ready to #DiscoverBerkeley?

6 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT INTERNATIONAL ADMISSIONS

1

While international students have the same freshman requirements as US residents, **Berkeley has international specialists** who ensure international applicants receive a fair review in context.

All students, including international, must meet the minimum requirements for UC admission, regardless of citizenship or curriculum.

To be considered for admission, international applicants must finish secondary school and earn a certificate of completion, which allows admission to a university in their home country or country of graduation, of similar caliber to UC Berkeley.

For information on expectations by country, visit: bit.ly/UCBIntlAdmissions

2022 International Student Admissions Profile

Reflects middle 50% of students

Unweighted GPA
3.90–4.00

Weighted GPA
4.00–4.44

2

Berkeley seeks **authentic and innovative scholars**. Here is what you can do to show us who you are in your application.

We want you to make the most out of your application and take full advantage of each section. Here are a few tips to get you thinking.

For the **academic sections**, make sure to accurately and completely fill out the courses, grades, and exam sections. This application is self-reported, but we will validate the accuracy of the application after a student is admitted. Use transcripts and test score reports to accurately report your academic information.

Berkeley also understands that grades and test scores are static. We get more context about you through other parts of the application. We will not accept anything outside of the application itself - including unsolicited letters of recommendation, transcripts, resumes or portfolios. Once a student is admitted we will request official transcripts and other documentation to verify that what was self reported in the application matches the actual marks obtained.

For the **extracurricular activities** section, report any activities or work experience as completely as possible, including number of hours per week, weeks per year, grade levels, and responsibilities. If there is not enough space in these sections, use the additional comments to

provide us more details and context about your story.

Berkeley seeks diverse and unique perspectives. It is important to recognize that you do not have to do everything. While clubs and student organizations are great to report, you can also list other activities, such as family responsibilities and work experience. Nothing in the application is viewed negatively. Lean into your eccentricities and do not do anything just because you think it will look good on your application. **Be yourself.**



Most international students must complete an **English proficiency exam**.

Proficiency in English is critical to success at UC Berkeley. If you've completed all your secondary school/high school in a country where English is not the language of instruction, you can demonstrate proficiency by taking one of these exams earning the required scores: 6.5 or higher on the IELTS or a score of 80 or higher on the TOEFL or 115 or higher on the DuoLingo English Test (DET).

For more information on language requirements, visit **bit.ly/UCBEngProficiency**



Your **personal insight questions** are a way for us to get to know you. Treat it like a conversation or an interview.

For the **personal insight questions (PIQs)**, remember that we are not looking for writing samples (we see your academic abilities in the academic sections of the application). Think about your PIQs as a conversation or an interview. Answer the questions directly and identify examples that tell us the most about yourself. Choose the four questions that you want to write about and that tell the reader the most about you. Do not choose your questions or answers

based on what you think the admissions office wants to hear. We value your authentic voice, and seek context we cannot find elsewhere in the application. Other helpful contextual factors are - how does your city compare to other cities or regions in your country, what types of opportunities or resources are available? What are the challenges? How does your school and home situation compare to the city in these respects as well?



Residency for the purposes of admission is different from residency for the purposes of tuition.

With regard to residency for the purposes of admission, international students are reviewed using the same criteria as domestic students,

within the context of their home country and school curriculum. International students in the US on a visa cannot be classified as California residents for tuition purposes.

Funding an education as an international student at a university in the United States can be challenging. International students are ineligible for federal, state, and need-based university financial aid. Only US citizens, eligible non-citizens, and AB 540 eligible students can be awarded federal, state, and/or institutional,

need-based financial aid. However, you can research scholarship opportunities from private organizations both within the US and in your home country. The California Community College Pathway is a common way for international students to reduce their overall cost of a degree in the UC system. You would complete two years of general education courses at any one of the California Community Colleges then transfer to Berkeley.



Many **resources are available** to answer your questions.

Berkeley International Office: Support and resources designed to enhance the academic experiences of international students are available through the Berkeley International Office (BIO). BIO offers services in advising, immigration, advocacy, and programming to the UC Berkeley campus community. For more, visit their website: **internationaloffice.berkeley.edu**

- **Application FAQs**
admissions.berkeley.edu/application-faqs

- **Contact Us**
admissions.berkeley.edu/contact-us
- **Register for a Presentation**
apply.berkeley.edu/portal/presentation
- **Call the UC Application Center for technical support**
(800) 207-1710 (within US) or
(925) 298-6856 (outside US), or email
ucinfo@applyucsupport.net

Apply at: apply.universityofcalifornia.edu

Sign up for the Discover Berkeley email experience: admissions.berkeley.edu/signup



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Scan this code or visit **admissions.berkeley.edu/start-here** to begin your UC Berkeley Admissions journey.

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