

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA



Life whilst
studying at
the University
of California

TOPICS

- The UC system
- Academics
- Healthcare & Insurance
- Housing
- Student Life
- Student Support
- Finances

UC SYSTEM





UC BERKELEY



- Berkeley was the first UC campus
- Known for excellent academics
- Located near San Francisco in the Bay Area
- Long history of student activism

HOUSING

You are not guaranteed housing as an exchange student.

On campus

- Shared Dorm
- Meal Plan
- Resident Advisor
- Freshman

Off campus – plan for this

- Private accommodation i.e. apartment rentals (sometimes called community housing)
- Co-ops

HOUSING

- International House
- Residence Halls
- University Apartments (Channing Bowditch Apartments)
- Student Housing Cooperatives (UCEAP students have priority on waitlist)
- Off Campus Housing– Cal rentals
- <http://eap.ucop.edu/ReciprocalExchanges/Pages/Campuses/Instructions/Fall2016/UCB.aspx>

STUDENT LIFE – CAMPUS FACILITIES

Food on campus

- GBC
- Cafes

Places to study

Print in libraries



STUDY SPACES

Café Strada

Philz Coffee

Many options-
explore!

- North/
South/Westside

Libraries

- 41 total
- Doe, Moffit,
Mainstacks;
all connected
- East Asian
- Engineering
- Information
on all online

CLASSIC BERKELEY ATTRACTIONS

C.R.E.A.M

TopDog

Ici

Cheeseboard

Sliver

Durant food
court

Telegraph Avenue

Campanile

Big C

Football

ACTIVITY TIPS

- Make friends with California residents- driving/traveling around the state
- Wide variety of environments/attractions in California- huge state
- Redwoods
- Big Sur
- Los Angeles- 6 hours by car, 7 by bus
- Megabus / Greyhound
- Many beach towns along the coast
- The 5 highway
- The 1- Pacific Coast Highway- famous
- Baseball games!
 - SF Giant's
 - Oakland Athletics

- Sport clubs
- Societies (aka clubs)
 - Theatre
 - A Capella
 - Fashion Magazine
 - Cal TV
- Daily Cal
- Big Game
- Naked Run
- Social scene
 - Greek life
 - Co-ops

**STUDENT
LIFE -
ACTIVITIES**

- Caltopia- free stuff
- Calapalooza- student groups (societies)
- Four pools- usually open
- Concerts at the Greek
 - Cheepskate hill
- Superb events
- Berkeley Art Museum
- Shattuck- Cinemas, restaurants
- Tilden Park; hiking
- Always something happening on campus

STUDENT LIFE - ACTIVITIES

GO BEARS!



Student Groups!







STUDENT LIFE: CULTURE CLASHES

- People in the US tend to be more open and out-going.
 - Chances are the girl who bumped into you on the bus is just being friendly, not flirting.
 - Ladies, guys will be very forward.
- People sharing communal spaces tend to make conversation just because. Not responding is considered rude.
- Strangers will hold doors open for each other.
- If someone smiles to you on the street, smile back. This is a normal thing.
- We use the American style of eating (fork is held in the right hand), not the Continental.
- Pedestrians have the right of way.
- It's restroom (or bathroom), not toilet.
- "The customer is always right."
- Watch your language, please.
- We have a laid-back sense of style. Wearing sweats to class is perfectly acceptable.
- On the whole, we are big on manners.

ACADEMIC LIFE

- Berkeley – semester system (2 x15 wk)
- Exams 'Finals' 1 week/Midterms
- Grades A-F & GPA
- Marked on a curve
- DeCals
- Attendance & contribution part of grade
- Exam questions more structured
- Based around what is learnt in class
not further reading

ACADEMIC LIFE

- More class time - 2-3 lectures per week
- Bigger class sizes
- Class sign-up
- US students complete General Education (GE) courses
- Lower division – basic classes
- Graduate course - options
- ‘Course readers’ & buying books
- Study groups
- TA’s & professor – student relationship

HEALTHCARE

As a Reciprocity student, you will need to purchase a **compulsory HEALTH INSURANCE** for Berkeley, even if you have your own health insurance. It is extremely difficult to waive.

The cost is \$1095 per semester (2014-15 figures). There is a health centre on campus.

If you do not pay – you will not be enrolled.

All main services are offered, including general practice, sexual health, psychological and emergency services. You may sometimes have to pay a small fee for treatments

LOCAL AREA

- AC transit sticker
- Busride away from marina
- BART system
 - 30 minute ride to San Francisco
 - Stops running at midnight
 - Clipper Card is like Oyster Card
- Biking- caution
- Bay Area is a walking area

DAY TO DAY LIVING

- Open an American bank account – they do not have overdraft options
- ATMs charge when not associated with your bank
- Still use swipe – so will have to sign!
- Sales Tax added on at till – in CA about 8.25-10%
- Tips – a 15-20% for service. Not leaving a tip is considered rude.
- If you have a student loan – you may want to have a parent be able to talk to the student loan company on your behalf – phone before you leave
- Cell phones – best option pay as you go. Costs to receive texts & calls!

WHAT DO I NEED?

- Visa, passport & photocopies
- Cash for first few days
- Clothes for all weathers – it's not as hot as you think!
 - Berkeley- Bipolar weather
 - NorCal has greater variety of weather than SoCal
- Electricals – lower voltage don't bring hairdryers, speakers etc.
- House essentials like sheets can be picked up cheaply
- Few British Goods places, bring your own tea and biscuits?
- Really think about what you need to bring with you – things can be inexpensive
 - Exchange rate is in your favor!

WHERE TO SHOP

Target

- superstore for a wide variety of goods

IKEA

- Bus ride- not ideal for large goods

Berkeley Bowl

Safeway

Trader Joes

Avoid student store for books

- Use Amazon (new/used/rentals)
- Textbooks in library are limited, and 'on reserve'

USEFUL WEBSITES

<http://eap.ucop.edu/guides/reciprocity/Pages/default.aspx>

<http://eap.ucop.edu/ReciprocalExchanges/Pages/Discover-UC.aspx>

<http://eap.ucop.edu/ReciprocalExchanges/Pages/BeforeYouArrive.aspx>

<http://eap.ucop.edu/ReciprocalExchanges/Pages/resources.aspx>

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