



SGROUP
EUROPEAN
UNIVERSITIES'
NETWORK

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT BERKELEY - SGROUP AGREEMENT

Applications Academic Year 2016/2017

1. BASIC UNDERSTANDING

The agreement with the University of California, Berkeley stipulates exemption from **tuition fees** for applicants from SGroup university members. All other expenses will be underwritten by the students, including registration/health insurance fee, visa documentation preparation fee and visiting student researcher fee. **Only audit courses are subject to fee waivers**, however, the candidates can also apply for a paid version of a Concurrent Enrollment and paid a require fee.

The fee waiver only applies for auditing courses, not for concurrent enrolment which signifies that the students will follow **non-degree studies**, i.e., students under the agreement will not receive a degree from the University of California, Berkeley and will not be registered as full-time students at the University of California, Berkeley.

2. ELIGIBILITY

The exchange is open to **graduate students** (fifth year or above in some countries).

The number of exchanges to be awarded in the academic year 2016/2017 is **eight**. The duration of studies is **one semester**, either Fall (August-December) or Spring semester (January-May). Applicants have to clearly identify in their application the semester they are applying for.

Please refer to <http://opa.berkeley.edu/AcademicCalendar/calendar.aspx> for the specific dates of the academic year.

The acceptance of any participants to this programme will be at the discretion of the host institution.

- **N.B.:** The agreement is open to all areas except: The UC Berkeley School of Law, The Haas School of Business, The Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism, The School of Social Welfare. The administration cannot require a department or school to accept non-degree exchange students if the receiving unit declares itself impacted. Some departments are perennially in that situation; others are there from time to time or for a particular sub-unit.

3. DEADLINES

There is one deadline per year for applications to both the Fall and Spring semester. **The deadline** for the document submission is **1st March 2016.**

4. PROCEDURE

Only **one** application is allowed per member university.

Applicants should get information about Berkeley from normal academic sources and define the activities (courses, etc.) that each candidate proposes to undertake. In order to increase the selection success it is recommended that in the application procedure candidates should indicate a specific professor at UC Berkeley whose courses they would like to follow or establish previous contacts with them, if possible.

Please note the SGroup Network will evaluate the candidates and select 8 best candidates to be submitted to UC Berkeley. For the SGroup's internal evaluation a word application form available at the SGroup website should be submitted to the Secretariat with the set of documents listed below. The documents should be sent electronically only to the SGroup Secretariat at sgroup@sgroup.be No hard copies will be required.

The candidates preselected by SGroup Network will be notified about the results and requested to upload their applications in the online system of UC Berkeley.

5. DOCUMENTS

The application packet should include the following documents *:

1. Nomination Letter from Home Institution
2. Application form found on the UC Berkeley website. Please note that the form must be typed.
3. Statement of Purpose / Academic Interest - a letter from the student describing his/her academic preparation and plan of study abroad.
4. Curriculum Vitae
5. Official Transcripts (in English or with translation)
6. Grading Key (comparison with grades to Berkeley System) - subject transcript of grades and grading scale used by the home University; in case a first degree has already been obtained, the same information as above on transcript of grades;
7. Letters of Recommendation
8. List of Courses applicant wishes to take at UC, Berkeley

* Please note that Documents 7 and 8 are optional.

*SGroup Secretariat
1st October, 2015*

ACADEMIC INFORMATION	
Academic Year	Fall Semester: 17 th August , 2016 – 16 th December , 2016 Spring Semester: 10 th January , 2017 – 12 th May, 2017
Academic Calendar	http://opa.berkeley.edu/AcademicCalendar/calendar.aspx
Department Exceptions/Restrictions	<p>The Department of Economics charges a \$2500 fee per semester for all visitors to the department. Students enrolling in courses via Concurrent Enrollment do not need to pay this fee.</p> <p>The School of Information does not accept auditors.</p> <p>The following departments do not participate in the GEO Exchange Program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UC Berkeley School of Law • The Haas School of Business • The Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism • The School of Social Welfare
Auditing Courses	<p>Exchange students may audit courses at the permission of the professor. Please note that auditors may attend courses but will NOT be expected to turn in assignments/papers or sit for exams, as professors will NOT evaluate them. Professors cannot provide auditors with a grade at the end of the semester. <i>Exchange students seeking official credit for courses taken at UC Berkeley must enroll through Concurrent Enrollment (please see next section).</i></p> <p>Auditing courses is optional. If the applicant’s primary interest in coming to UC Berkeley is to conduct research related to writing his/her dissertation, it is not necessary to take courses. GEO will provide auditors with an ‘audit report’ at the end of their time at Berkeley, which will list the courses that the student audited. It is possible for students to enroll in 1 or 2 courses (no more than 5 units) via Concurrent Enrollment with a J-1 visa (see fees below).</p> <p>After arriving on the Berkeley campus, auditors must pay a University Services Fee of \$500.</p> <p><i>*Students coming to UC Berkeley to audit courses or do research will enter the United States on a J-1 Research Scholar visa.</i></p>
Concurrent Enrollment	<p>The Concurrent Enrollment program allows students from international partner universities to enroll in courses offered at Berkeley for one or two semesters on a space-available basis, without applying for admission to a UC Berkeley degree program. Students who wish to enroll with Concurrent Enrollment must take a full course load. The Graduate Division at Berkeley defines a full course load as 12 units per semester. Effective the 2016 Spring Semester, Concurrent Enrollment will charge \$730 per unit. The Concurrent Enrollment program is administered by UC Berkeley Extension.</p> <p>Concurrent Enrollment: http://extension.berkeley.edu/info/concurrent.html Schedule of Classes: http://schedule.berkeley.edu/</p>

	<p><i>*Students who enroll in courses via Concurrent Enrollment will enter the United States on an F-1 visa. It is mandatory that students who come on an F-1 visa enroll in a minimum of 12 units per semester.</i></p> <p>Concurrent Enrollment Fees (Fees subject to change):</p> <p>One Semester: Tuition (12 units): \$8,760 International Student Fee: \$200 Cal1 Card/Concurrent Enrollment Fee: \$375</p> <p>Full Academic Year: Tuition (24 units): \$17,520 International Student Fee: \$200 Cal1 Card/Concurrent Enrollment Fee: \$375</p>
Courses at Berkeley: Offered on a Space-Available Basis Only	<p>GEO cannot guarantee that an exchange student will be able to audit or enroll in (via Concurrent Enrollment) every course they wish to take. Courses are offered on a space-available basis. Some courses may be impacted due to high enrollment of domestic students.</p> <p>Please be aware that not all courses listed in a department's curriculum are offered every semester. Student demand and faculty availability has a great effect on determining what courses are offered.</p>
Language Requirements	<p>Exchange students enrolling in courses via Concurrent Enrollment must submit a TOEFL score report of at least 90 IBT or IELTS score of 7.</p> <p>Exchange students who are auditing and/or doing research must provide proof of English language skills in the form of a TOEFL, IELTS or a Skype interview with host faculty. We will accept a statement from the exchange coordinator or faculty advisor guaranteeing proof of English proficiency. (http://internationaloffice.berkeley.edu/elp-documentation)</p>
Required Course Load for J-1 and F-1 Students	<p>J-1 Students: Students auditing courses and/or doing research are not required to take a minimum number of courses. It is possible for students to enroll in 1 or 2 courses via Concurrent Enrollment on a J-1 visa.</p> <p>F-1 Students: In accordance with federal regulations governing F-1 students in the US, international graduate students must follow a full-time and directed course of study. Full-time means a minimum of 12 units per semester and directed means that for the most part the student must be studying within a single department. A minority of the student's coursework may occur in a separate though closely related department with the special permission of the host faculty at Berkeley. 1 Berkeley unit is equivalent to 3 hours of work per week.</p>
Visa Requirements	<p>Visas for incoming exchange students will be processed by UC Berkeley.</p> <p>Students coming to UC Berkeley to audit courses or do research will enter the United States on a J-1 Research Scholar visa: <i>(J-1 visa) DS-2019 Processing/Shipping: \$540, Administrative fee: \$60, J-1 visa: \$160</i></p>

	Students who enroll in courses via Concurrent Enrollment will enter the United States on an F-1 visa : <i>F-1 visa: \$160</i>
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	
Housing	Housing is not guaranteed. Most exchange students spending a semester at Berkeley prefer stay at the International House. It has several advantages. The International House is ideally located at the edge of campus. Your furnishings and meals are provided; and you may confirm your housing before leaving home. The International House on the Berkeley Campus accepts reservations for one semester or more on a space-available basis. (http://ihouse.berkeley.edu/)
Health Insurance for J-1 and F-1 Students	Exchange students are required to have health insurance that meets the U.S. Department of State's regulations. If their insurance does not meet the approved levels, they may purchase insurance through our provider. If their home insurance meets the U.S. Department of State regulations for health insurance, they may request an exemption from purchasing this insurance. Please see the UC Berkeley Visiting Scholars Benefit Plan found here: http://www.garnett-powers.com/academics/ucb/index.htm http://vspa.berkeley.edu/visiting-researcher-scholar-insurance

USEFUL WEBSITES	
Berkeley International Office	http://internationaloffice.berkeley.edu/
Visiting Scholars and Postdoc Affairs	http://vspa.berkeley.edu/
Concurrent Enrollment	http://extension.berkeley.edu/info/concurrent.html
UC Berkeley Visiting Scholars Benefit Plan	http://www.garnett-powers.com/academics/ucb/
University Health Services	http://www.uhs.berkeley.edu/vspd/visitingscholar.shtml
International House	http://ihouse.berkeley.edu/applicants/rates.php
Cal Rentals	http://housing2.berkeley.edu/calrentals/
Craigslist Apartment Rentals	http://sfbay.craigslist.org/search/apa/eby?query=&srchType=A&minAsk=&maxAsk=&bedrooms=&nh=48
Visitor Services	http://visitors.berkeley.edu/
Getting to Berkeley	http://visitors.berkeley.edu/gethere/public_transit.shtml
Campus Map	http://berkeley.edu/map/