



Berkeley Law, University of California

Study Guide

1 Overall impression

I really enjoyed my first Summer at UC Berkeley and cannot wait to attend the second Summer! This is a once in a lifetime opportunity and I would recommend it to anyone if you have the chance. It is a very intense program where you learn a lot and make lasting friendships.

2 Making preparations

(e.g. administrative matters, finding information)

Making preparations requires some time and energy but it will get easier as you get to Summer 2. I recommend asking former students for their experiences if you want to save time and energy. A lot of information is provided on the UC Berkeley website as well as in the university's regular e-mails to its future students. You can also book remote appointments with a student advisor from ADP office. Do not be afraid of the visa application procedure: It is quite confusing at first (and expensive), but the Embassy in Bern issues F1 visas pretty quickly.

3 Contacts/Responsibilities

(e.g. important contact persons at the Partner University and Faculty)

ADP office is your go to place for any question related to the LLM program. For any health related matter/question, the university provides comprehensive services through a platform called "e-tang" which is included in the university fee.

4 Housing

Housing in Berkeley is expensive and difficult to find; I recommend you sort it out in advance. You can book student housing or look for an apartment through the platforms provided by UC Berkeley or Airbnb. Make sure you live in a safe area and not too far from uni: I would recommend, Emlwood, Claremont, the Berkeley Hills, Albany, North Berkeley in general.

5 Arrival

You will receive all necessary information and meet plenty of people on orientation day.

6 Telephone

(e.g. costs, carriers)

I recommend using "Mint", a prepaid provider which offers the option of having an e-SIM. Costs: \$90 for 3 months of unlimited calls, messages and data.

7 Bank account

I would not recommend opening a US bank account in order to avoid problems with the Swiss banking regulations. You will be fine using Neon, Revolut, your regular credit card and some cash. Neon is governed by Swiss bank law and has good exchange rates: Revolut provides proper credit cards and works quite well too.

8 Transport

Flight from Zurich to San Francisco; Uber to Berkeley (around 20 - 45 minutes depending on the traffic). I would not recommend taking the BART on arrival, especially if you are alone and/or travelling after the sunset.

9 General information about the Partner Faculty and student life

Having a good social life is highly valued in Berkeley. People are from all around the world. Since it is an executive program, you will get in touch with people often older and way more experienced than you. Apart from making new friends, this is a very enriching and helpful experience for your future career!

10 Teaching and studying at the Partner Faculty

(e.g. program structure, methodology, exams, etc.)

Intense program: Classes in the Morning, free in the afternoon, numerous assignments throughout the week. It is expected that you attend classes, actively participate and discuss and do your homework. We took take-home exams because the first Summer was during the pandemic. However, they usually have in-person exams as well as research papers.

11 City

(e.g. cultural activities, sports, discounts, nightlife, must-sees, short trips, etc.)

Must-sees: SF Moma, San Francisco, Berkeley Hills, Highway 1 (Carmel, Monterey, Santa Cruz...), Yosemite, Lake Tahoe, Napa Valley.
Brunch in Berkeley. "Rick and Ann's" :-)

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