Getting Ready:

How do I check in?
You may Check-in on your designated Check-In day beginning at 3pm unless otherwise stated in your contract. I-House Resident Assistants and Front Desk staff are available to assist you and answer your questions. You can reach them by dialing (510) 642-9490, 8am and 12am every day. After midnight, we kindly request that you use that phone number for emergencies only. Please bring a photo ID with you when you check in.

Can I arrive early?
Our ability to approve a request for an Early Arrival is contingent upon the availability of your assigned room. Due to this, we are not always able to grant late requests for an early arrival. Please contact ihres@berkeley.edu at least two weeks prior to your arrival date with such requests.

Can I arrive late?
Yes. If you plan to arrive after the scheduled move-in date, please notify us in advance so we can ensure that we have your check-in package ready for you at the Front Desk on the day of your arrival.

Can I store my luggage at I-House?
We do have a very limited amount of storage space that may be available on the day of move-in for those who arrive before we begin the check-in process. This is available on a first come, first served basis. If you need longer-term storage, you can contact the Resident Service Center to inquire about availability of their storage lockers. They can be reached at 510-642-9459 or marthamc@berkeley.edu.

What should I bring for my room?
Very little. Your room is furnished with a regular twin size bed, a dresser, a desk, a desk chair, and desk lamp as well as ceiling light. Each room is also equipped with a radiator, allowing you to control heating within your room. Linens and pillows are available for purchase at the Resident Service Center (RSC) in the Ground Floor Laundry Room. In addition, you may rent other items such as an iron, mini refrigerator, a microwave, or television from the RSC rather than bringing your own. Please see our What to Bring (pdf) for more information and a list of prohibited items.

Can I have mail or packages sent to me before I arrive?
No. Due to the sheer number of residents moving in during our primary check-ins we are unable to accept packages until after residents have checked in.

What is my mailing address?
Your mailing address to receive mail is:

Your Name
International House
2299 Piedmont Avenue
Your Room #
Berkeley, CA 94720-2320 USA
Once you have completed Check-In, you will be able to access the combination to open your mailbox via the StarRez portal. You may pick-up bulk packages by visiting the mailroom during the hours posted on the mailroom door and showing them the package slip that you will have received in your mailbox.

**How do I get from SFO/Oakland airport to I-House?**
BART goes directly from both Oakland and SFO to Downtown Berkeley, where you can take a taxi to the International House—about a 5 minute drive. You may also use a shuttle service or a cab. Please visit the [SFO](https://www.sfo.com) or [Oakland Airport](https://www.flyoakland.com) websites for comprehensive airport transportation information.

**Living at I-House:**

What's the occupancy at I-House during the Academic Year? What's the population of residents like?
We currently house 585 residents for the Academic Year. Of these, about 75% are international students from all over the world including visiting scholars, researchers and Education Abroad Reciprocity students. Most years, we have about 55% graduate students, post docs and visiting scholars and 45% undergraduates. Visiting scholars comprise around 10% of our resident population. During the summer months, we also get residents from a broad variety of countries and academic programs.

Do you accommodate special diets? Vegetarian?
Dining Services provides a variety of meal options, including vegetarian selections. Although not guaranteed, special diets can usually be accommodated within our facility. Residents can arrange a meeting with our dining staff to discuss any special dietary concerns or food allergies by e-mailing [ihdining@berkeley.edu](mailto:ihdining@berkeley.edu).

Can I transfer from I-House to a campus dorm or vice versa?
I-House is separate from the UC Berkeley dormitories, so you cannot transfer your residency to the campus dormitories. Each housing option requires a separate application and has separate policies.

Are rooms/floors coed?
Shared rooms are not coed. Each floor is coed with the exception of the female only 8th floor.

Are bathrooms and showers shared? How many are there?
Bathrooms and showers are shared but are separated by gender. There are 2 bathrooms and 2 shower facilities for each gender on each floor with the exception of the 8th floor which is our Women’s Hall and only has a female bathroom and one shower facility.

What parking lots/spaces are available?
Parking on the UC Berkeley campus is very difficult. Street parking at meters is free after 6 pm. In non-metered areas, parking is free for two hours and unregulated after 7 pm. A limited number of permits are available through the City of Berkeley for an annual fee of $45, which exempts you from the two-hour limit. Please see the City of Berkeley [parking website](https://www.cityofberkeley.net) for more information. Meters are free with a California disabled placard.

Who do I go to if I have questions or concerns while living at I-House?
Do not hesitate to talk to the Resident Support Services (RSS) staff at the Front Desk. They are available to help you 24 hours a day, daily. You can also reach them by calling 510-642-9490. Concerns of a sensitive nature will remain confidential.
I-House Resources:

Where do I find more information about I-House, including its policies and procedures?
Please read our Summer Resident Handbook located on our website under Residents > Resident Portal. The handbook has a wealth of information pertaining to anything you need to know about I-House.

Is there a kitchen I can use?
We do have a small kitchen that is available for use by residents. The kitchen includes pots, pans, dishes, utensils and appliances. Residents can reserve the kitchen in advance. Please visit the Front Desk for information regarding kitchen use and policies. There is also a microwave conveniently located near the elevators in the laundry room, available for resident use at anytime.

Do you have a library or quiet place to study?
Our library is open 24 hours a day and features international newspapers and a variety of periodicals. It offers a congenial, yet quiet, study atmosphere. Access is restricted to residents only.

Where can I print documents?
You can purchase pre-paid printer cards from the RSC that allow you to use the printer in the third floor computer lounge and the photocopy machine on the second floor at the back entrance to the library. There is also a scanner available in the computer lounge, free of charge for uploading documents.

Do you have wireless internet?
I-House has its own wireless network which is accessible by residents throughout the house. Information for access to the network is available at check-in. The public and common areas on the ground and second floor, including the Café with its patios, are served by the campus-wide wireless AirBears network. It is maintained by the university. More information on AirBears.

I-House Policies:

What are Quiet Hours?
Creating noise that unreasonably disrupts residents or neighboring community members at any time is unacceptable. In addition, residents are asked to be especially considerate during the quiet hours from 11pm-10am on weekdays, and 1am-10am on weekends. For both the academic year semesters and for the summer sessions, around-the-clock quiet hours begin on the last day of instruction and continue to the end of the term. There are several resident lounges available for larger/noisier gatherings, please ask our front desk for more information.

Is smoking allowed at I-House?
Smoking and tobacco use is strictly prohibited inside I-House, on the surrounding property and on the UC Berkeley campus. Those who wish to smoke are asked to do so across the street from the building.

Can I have a guest stay with me?
Overnight guests are welcome at I-House in accordance with our Guest Policy. Each resident is allowed to have an overnight guest for a maximum of three nights per semester. Guests are not permitted for more than three consecutive nights without a special exception. An appeal for an exception can be submitted to the Director of Admissions. For those residents with a roommate, you must have her/his permission prior to hosting any overnight guests. In addition, you will need to notify the Front Desk that you have a guest. Female guests will be issued a temporary key to the women's bathroom and
## What to Bring

Please refer to the checklist below for suggested items that may help you set up your new home away from home at International House. This is not an exhaustive list, but we hope it will give you some idea of things you might want and need.

### What you'll find . . .

- Each space is fully furnished with a bed, dresser, nightstand, bookshelf, desk, desk chair, desk lamp and wardrobe or built-in closet. A wastebasket and recycling bin is provided in each room.
- Small refrigerators may be rented for the duration of your stay from the Residents’ Service Center.

### What you may need...

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>What you may need</th>
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<td>academic supplies</td>
<td>Ethernet cable</td>
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<td>alarm clock</td>
<td>laundry basket</td>
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<td>bedding (twin)</td>
<td>laundry detergent</td>
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<td>bathrobe</td>
<td>pillow</td>
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<td>carry-all shower tote</td>
<td>slippers</td>
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<td>coffee maker</td>
<td>soap</td>
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<td>electrical outlet adapter</td>
<td>surge-protected power strip</td>
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<td>fan</td>
<td>toothbrush/toothpaste</td>
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<td>first-aid supplies</td>
<td>towels/wash-cloths</td>
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<td>hair dryer</td>
<td>hangers</td>
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We realize that many of you will be traveling halfway across the world and will not be able to bring along every item on this list. Our Residents’ Service Center sells many of the above items including pillows. We also have basic linens, mini-fridges, microwaves, irons, vacuums and other supplies available for rent. During I-House’s Fall Welcome Week, we have planned trips to a nearby IKEA store where additional items for your room can be purchased.

### What not to bring...

The following items are prohibited in I-House:

- additional room furniture
- candles
- flammable liquids or explosives
- hot plates
- halogen lamps
- incense
- pets (other than fish in a small tank)
- weapons or dangerous instruments
Short Term Accommodations

Here is a list of conveniently-located, short-term lodging options around UC Berkeley. Each listing includes contact information, price range, and distance from the UC Berkeley campus, the Downtown Berkeley BART station, and the International House. We hope this will help you prepare for your arrival as well as future visitors!

**Berkeley YMCA Hostel:** $45-80
2001 Allston Way, Berkeley
(510) 848-6800
hotel@ymca-cba.org
Two blocks from campus, one block from BART, 10 blocks from I-House. *Shared bathrooms & full kitchen.*

**Nash Hotel:** $50-80
2045 University Ave, Berkeley
(510) 841-1163
www.nashhotel.com
1.5 blocks from campus, two blocks from BART, 12 blocks from I-House. *Cheapest rooms share a bathroom, other rooms have private bathroom.*

**French Hotel:** $105-130
1538 Shattuck Ave, Berkeley
(510) 548-9930
french-hotel-berkeley.com
Six blocks from campus, 8 blocks from BART, 20 blocks from I-House.

**Downtown Berkeley Inn:** $110
2001 Bancroft Way, Berkeley
(510) 843-4043
www.downtownberkeleyinn.com
Three blocks from campus, three blocks from BART, 8 blocks from I-House.

**Berkeley Travelodge:** $110-120
1820 University Ave, Berkeley
510-843-4262
www.travelodge.com
Four blocks from campus, four blocks from BART, 14 blocks from I-House.

**Beau Sky:** $120-170
2520 Durant Ave, Berkeley
(510) 540-7688
beausky.com
One block from campus, 6 blocks from BART, 3.5 blocks from I-House.

**Berkeley City Club:** $150
2315 Durant Avenue, Berkeley
(510) 848-7800
berkeleyhistorichotel.com
One block from campus, five blocks from BART, 4.5 blocks from I-House.

**Hotel Durant:** $150
2600 Durant Avenue, Berkeley
(510) 845-8981
www.hoteldurant.com
One block from campus, 7 blocks from BART, 2.5 blocks from I-House.

**Hotel Shattuck Plaza:** $170
2086 Allston Way, Berkeley
(510) 845-7300
www.hotelshattuckplaza.com
Three blocks from campus, one block from BART, ten blocks from I-House.

**Bancroft Hotel:** $135
2680 Bancroft Way, Berkeley
510-549-1000
www.bancrofthotel.com
Across the street from campus, 8 blocks from BART, 1 block from I-House.