Summer 2015
Frequently Asked Questions

Getting Ready:

How do I check in?
For the Summer Session, you may Check-in at the Front Desk after 3pm on your scheduled move-in date unless otherwise stated in your contract. I-House Resident Assistants 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?
Unfortunately, we are usually unable to accommodate any early arrivals. In rare cases, we are able to accommodate such requests with two weeks advance notification. Please contact ihres@berkeley.edu for more details.

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

Can I store my luggage at I-House?
We only offer luggage storage on your check-in date if you arrive earlier than the check-in time. We are unable to store luggage prior to the date of your check-in due to limited securable space.

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 are available for rent and you can purchase a pillow 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.

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 or Oakland Airport websites for comprehensive airport transportation information.
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

When you arrive, your Check-In envelope will include a card containing the combination to open your mailbox. 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.

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 590 residents for the Academic Year. Of these, about 65% are international students from all over the world including visiting scholars, researchers and Education Abroad Reciprocity students. Most years, we have about 60% graduate students, post docs and visiting scholars and 40% undergraduates. Visiting scholars comprise around 15% of our resident population.

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.

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.

How do I pay my Room & Board fees? When are they due?
There a variety of ways you can pay your fees. The preferred way is via wire transfer or direct deposit. You can pay your fees via cash, check or credit card (Visa or MasterCard) at our Cashier’s Window or online for credit card payments here. Summer housing fees are required to be paid in full prior to your arrival. If you have specific questions about payment options (i.e., setting up direct deposit or wire transfer), please contact our Resident Account Manager, Queenie Santos at qcs@berkeley.edu or 510-643-8316.
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.

Can I change my room or my roommate?
Due to the many complicated reservation periods during the Summer Sessions season, all room assignments and roommate matching are done by Admissions staff. We do not allow Room Changes during the summer months except for administrative purposes, room type upgrades (when available), or emergency situations.

What parking lots/spaces are available?
Parking on the UC Berkeley campus is very difficult. 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 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 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. Take the time to familiarize yourself with the handbook.

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. We require a $100 deposit for kitchen use, which is returned if you leave the kitchen in proper condition (clean with no items missing). 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 is strictly prohibited inside I-House and on the surrounding property. In addition, the entire UC Berkeley campus is tobacco-free.

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 showers.