
I cannot establish residency, but I graduated from a California high school. Do I qualify for any exemptions?

If you attended a high school in California for 3 or more years and graduated from a California high school, you may be exempt from paying nonresident fees. To be eligible for this exemption, you must:

- have attended a high school in California for 3 or more years, and
- have graduated from a California high school or attained the equivalent thereof, and
- not be a nonimmigrant (e.g., students holding an F-1 or J-1 visa)

If you believe that you are eligible for this exemption, you will be required to complete and submit an Application and Affidavit, as well as your official high school transcript(s) validating three-year high school attendance in California and graduation from a California high school.

Note: Documentation that you submit in support of your residency classification petition must be identifiable to you and no one else. This is particularly germane in cases where students have joint accounts with another person.

Please note: This summation is not a complete explanation of the laws regarding residency. Changes may be made in the residence requirements between the publication date of this statement and the relevant determination date. Non-citizen students should consult the Residence Deputy for information regarding special criteria in determining residency eligibility.

The full text of the campus policy can be found on the Office of the Registrar's website at:

http://registrar.berkeley.edu/current_students/residency.html

OR

at the Office of the President's website:

<http://www.ucop.edu/ogc/documents/uc-residence-policy.pdf>



If you have further questions regarding residency for tuition purposes, please contact the
Residence Affairs Unit
120 Sproul Hall

orres@berkeley.edu
(510) 642-5990

V3.0 01/13

How to Become a California Resident for Tuition Purposes

A Guide for Graduate Students Classified as Nonresidents



Residence Affairs Unit
Office of the Registrar
University of California, Berkeley

UC Berkeley is one of the premier universities in the nation, attracting students from many different states and countries. It is also a state-supported institution and, therefore, charges all nonresident students nonresident tuition. As a new graduate student, you were classified as a nonresident after completing the Statement of Legal Residence shortly after being admitted to the University.

Many graduate students (US Citizens, permanent residents, or eligible non-immigrants) who enter Berkeley as nonresidents and establish residency for the required year are classified as residents for tuition purposes within one year after their arrival. These students then receive the benefit of paying fees at the lower resident rate.

The classification process is not automatic. Continuing nonresident students who have made California their home and believe that they are eligible for resident status must submit a residency classification petition, along with supporting documentation, prior to established deadlines. Please contact the residency unit for the application filing periods.

Bear in mind that even though you will probably not submit a petition to change your residency status until the end of your first academic year at Berkeley, you must start the process of fulfilling the residency requirements as soon as you arrive. The following are guidelines as to what you should do in order to establish California residency for tuition purposes.

What should I do once I arrive?

- Document your presence in the state as soon as you arrive. Save your airline ticket or bank/credit card statements showing that you were physically present in California one year prior to the beginning of the term for which you are seeking resident classification.
- Establish a California residence in which you keep your permanent belongings.
- Obtain a California Driver's License within 10 days of arriving in California. If you have never had a driver's license in any state, obtain a California State Identification Card.
- Surrender all out-of-state driver's license and identification cards.
- Register your vehicle(s) in California within 20 days of arriving in the state.
- Register to vote in California, and vote in California elections.
- Pay California income taxes as a resident on all taxable income earned after your arrival in California and file California resident or part-year resident tax returns.
- File nonresident or part-year resident out-of-state tax returns if you have out-of-state taxable income prior to arriving in California.
- Designate and use a California address as your permanent address on all records (e.g., school, employment, tax forms, military, etc.).
- Open a California bank account and close out-of-state accounts. If your financial account is with an interstate or internet bank, change your permanent address to California.

Do I really need to do all of the above?

Yes, you must convert and/or relinquish all applicable ties to other states. Otherwise, you risk paying nonresident tuition until you have met all requirements.

What about non-academic periods?

Remaining in California during non-academic periods is a strong indicator of your intent to make California your home. You will be required to document that you were physically present in the State for at least 2 of the 3 months during the summer previous to the term for which you are petitioning for residency. Other non-academic periods will not be an issue if you provide strong indicators of intent. If you must leave the state for academic-related reasons (such as research), contact the Residency Unit.

What should I do to fulfill the financial independence requirement?

If you are 24 years old or older during the calendar year you are petitioning for residency, then you have fulfilled the financial independence criterion. Otherwise, do the following:

- Claim yourself as a tax exemption on your state and federal tax returns, and
 - make sure no other individual claims you as a tax exemption on his or her state and federal tax returns; or
 - work as a GSI/GSR at 49% time or more for the semester for which you are petitioning for residency.
-