

Kaplan International Center Berkeley

Situated in the heart of downtown Berkeley, only 30 minutes from San Francisco, the Kaplan International Center Berkeley has provided countless international students with an unforgettable learning experience in the United States. Whether you're just starting your English studies or are already an advanced student, and whether you're looking for an intensive or a part-time course, you can surely find something to suit your needs.

Berkeley is a major cultural center and is the home of the University of California Berkeley, one of the top universities in the world. As a vibrant college town, renowned for its unique charm and colorful mixture of people and lifestyles, Berkeley is an ideal location for international students. With San Francisco just a short, 20-minute train ride away, students take advantage of all this metropolitan city has to offer, while studying and living in a safe and relaxed atmosphere. Located in the Bay Area, Berkeley has long been a premier tourist destination due to the region's diverse landscape including beautiful forests, beaches, mountains and California's famous wine country.

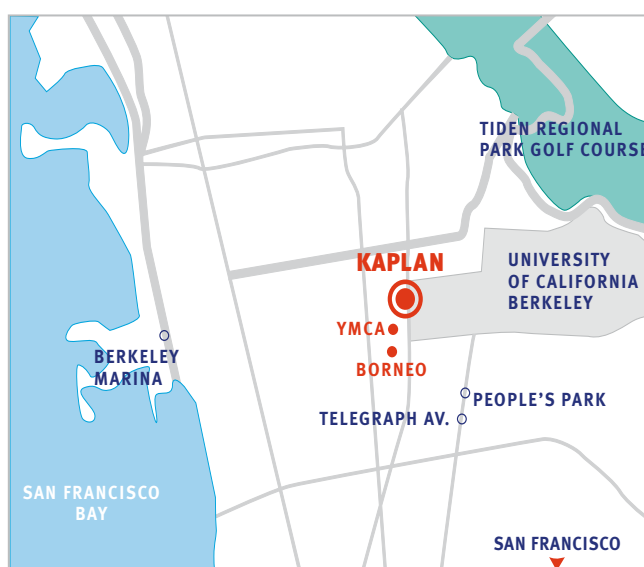
Kaplan International Center Educational Programs in the USA are accredited by the Accrediting Council for Continuing Education and Training.



Kaplan International Centers is a member of AAIEP (American Association of Intensive English Programs), TESOL (Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages) and NAESA (Association for International Educators).



Kaplan Berkeley Center



Kaplan International Center Berkeley
 150 Berkeley Sq.
 Berkeley, CA 94704
 USA

Center Facilities

Classrooms

There are multiple classrooms, all with access to TVs and projectors.

Multimedia and IT center

There is a computer lab, an audio-visual room and a study room with individual cubicles, some of which contain televisions, DVD players and headphones, free wireless internet access and computer terminals. The multimedia center is an integral part of your learning. Lessons are frequently taught in the lab using the latest software.

Library

The Kaplan center has a library, which includes not only study guides but also fiction books. The Kaplan center is a block away from the Berkeley Public Library, which has extensive collections of foreign language books and ESL materials.

Student Lounge

There is a student lounge available for students' use. It includes two vending machines, a refrigerator and a microwave.

Cafeteria

The Kaplan center is surrounded by many cafés, eateries and parks.

Sports facilities

There are numerous parks with basketball courts, tennis courts, and a baseball field nearby.

Gym facilities

Students can join a local gym such as the YMCA or 24 Hour Fitness located nearby.

Activities/Social Program

There is a wide choice of activities available to students in Berkeley ranging from short day trips to overnight weekend excursions to famous tourist attractions. Popular activities include visits to Fisherman's Wharf, the Alcatraz tour, the Golden Gate Bridge walking tour, Napa Valley wine tasting, a trip to Santa Cruz, various collegiate/professional sporting events, and weekend trips to Los Angeles, Las Vegas, Yosemite National Park and more.



Kaplan classroom



Front reception

Your first day

On the first day of your course you need to report to Kaplan Berkeley at 10 am. Your first day will be a Monday unless there is a national holiday on the Monday - in which case your first day will be Tuesday.

Your course will begin with an all-day introduction, which will include:

- Welcome coffee/tea
- A fun speaking activity
- A placement test to determine the level of the course you require
- A free lunch and walking tour of Berkeley
- Presentation: Student visa - policies and procedures
- Homestay/apartment information
- Presentation: Student activities, academic advising

Please bring the following with you:

- I-20 form (if you have an F-1 visa)
- Proof of health insurance (unless you plan to purchase Kaplan's health insurance)
- Photocopies of passport/I-94 immigration papers

At the end of the day you will receive information about your class schedule, classroom number, study level, elective course, and the hours you are to attend class. You will be assigned to the most appropriate class for your level of English.

Local Information

Transport - buses and trains

Berkeley has an extensive transportation system including local bus lines and train system (BART) which services the East Bay, San Francisco, and local airports.

Banks and Post Office

There are numerous banks all within one-block of the Kaplan center. The post office is a 5-minute walk away on Shattuck Avenue.

Department stores and supermarkets

There are several department stores within walking distance.

Berkeley is world renowned for great local grocers with an assortment of fresh, organic foods. There is also a farmer's market every week a few blocks from the center.

Telephone and Internet Café

The Kaplan center provides students with wireless internet and nearby cafés and bookstores also have wireless internet capability.



Berkeley view



Fisherman's Wharf



Visit Alcatraz

Sample Activities Schedule

Please note that this is a sample program and activities may change. Some activities are organized by the center and some activities are independent.

Week one

Monday	Orientation
Wednesday	International potluck
Thursday	Fillmore Jazz Festival
Friday	Baseball game
Saturday	Santa Cruz trip - beach, hiking and boardwalk

Week two

Monday	Coffee break
Tuesday	Asian American Art Festival
Wednesday	Movie night
Thursday	Soccer at Golden Gate Park
Friday	Snowboarding weekend

Cost of Living

Approximate prices in USD (subject to change)

Lunch	\$5-10
Hamburger	\$3-7
Coffee	\$2-4

Tickets:

Movie	\$6-10
Weekly MUNI pass	\$20
Monthly AC Transit bus pass	\$80

The weekly MUNI pass provides students access to most forms of Public Transportation in San Francisco and the surrounding areas. With this pass students have unlimited access to the San Francisco Metro System, The buses, and historic streetcars that operate in downtown. The pass is valid Monday through Sunday. This pass is not valid for the San Francisco Cable Cars or the BART System (Bay Area Rapid Transit)

Transfer Information

Kaplan Transfers

A staff member, shuttle service employee, or your host family will be waiting for you at San Francisco International airport (SFO) or Oakland airport (OAK). They will be holding a Kaplan sign. Before your departure you will receive a welcome packet confirming this information.

Independent Transfers

Students who opt not to use the transfer service should take a BART transport from San Francisco to Berkeley. The BART has a stop inside of the International Terminal at San Francisco International Airport (SFO), making it very convenient for students.

If students use BART, they are advised to take a Dublin Pleasanton Train to the Balboa Park station. Here students should exit and transfer to the Daly City/ Richmond Train, then exit at the Downtown Berkeley Station. From here the Kaplan center is across the street. The ride time is approximately 40-45 minutes.



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