

1 Housing

We start with one of the most important things: where you will hang your hat, for at least your first semester. The first thing you should do is get yourself a good map of the East Bay (especially Berkeley), such as the Oakland street map from the American Automobile Association (AAA).

Be prepared to search for housing for at least a week or two. Official estimates of the vacancy rate in Berkeley vary between 1% and 3%, but in reality it is less than 1%, due to seasonal variation — this is officially called a “housing crisis.” That is a mild term, indeed, for what things are really like. *Get here early, if possible before August (for Fall entrants) or January (for the Spring term), in an attempt to avoid the rush.* June is considered to be one of the best times to look for housing. Don’t expect to be able to find a place to live over the phone. You will probably have to be willing to spend 1 to 3 boring, frustrating weeks (the average is 2) looking for a place. After two weeks of checking out the day’s new listings at the Housing Office at 10:00 and the Berkeley Connection at 3:00 and finding that someone has beaten you to each tempting abode, you get into a “What am I doing? I don’t want to live here, anyway” mood.

Berkeley is loosely divided into several areas, including Northside, Southside, the Hills, the Flatlands, and the Marina district. You will primarily want to consider the first four for housing. The Marina district is basically an industrial area adjacent to Interstate 80. The Flatlands extend roughly from Martin Luther King Jr. Way westward to the Marina district. Southside and Northside are east of Martin Luther King Jr.; they are divided by the campus. The Flatlands are sometimes regarded as a higher-risk area to live in (auto insurance rates are substantially higher with some companies), although many students do live there happily and safely, and generally at lower cost than elsewhere in Berkeley. A good rule of thumb (which should keep you out of the dubious South West neighborhoods of Berkeley) is to look for housing in the region North of a line drawn between the Rockridge BART station and the corner of University and San Pablo Avenues. Also, definitely stay East of San Pablo Ave.

The eastern portion of Southside closest to campus consists largely of dorms (“residence halls,” mostly populated by undergrads), fraternities, and sororities. University-owned housing fills very quickly, so it may already be too late to apply. Students interested in living in the dorms may be interested in the newest residence hall, Foothill, at the northeast corner of campus (very close to the EECS department buildings). For more information on the residence halls, stop by the housing

office at 2401 Bowditch or call (510) 642-4108.

The housing office is also opening a set of studio apartments for graduate students in Southside, a couple of blocks from campus. The Manville Apartments are now available; for more information, call (510) 642-4109.

Students from outside the U.S. may still be able to obtain a room at International House, at the southeast corner of campus (2299 Piedmont Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94720, (510) 642-9470). It is clean, friendly, and close to campus (and that is saying a lot). Several of the first year students in the department stay there and most of them feel that it’s a great place to start. A \$30 application fee is needed, so be prepared to shell it out when you apply. The rates for the academic year range from about \$5024 to \$7269 for room and board. There are single and double rooms. To save money, half of a double is less expensive than a single. However, seriously consider paying the extra to get a room on your own. Living space in a dual occupancy room is far from copious. It is possible for graduate students from within the US to get a place in I-House too, but they get a lower preference. If you apply 6 months early, you should get in.

The rest of Southside is housing of varying quality. Some is “student ghetto” housing; some is located in nice residential neighborhoods. Northside is hillier than the relatively flat Southside. Northside consists of private residences intermixed with apartment complexes and houses divided up into flats; as one progresses northward, the proportion of private residences increases. There are very few apartment buildings north of Rose Street. The Hills are even hillier than Northside; living there generally requires a car for shopping, although commuting to campus can be done from some locations by bicycle and bus.

Rent can run anywhere from \$250 a month for unheated basements to well over \$1400 for palatial space and more than two bedrooms. The following estimates are necessarily rough. Places may be cheaper if obtained by word-of-mouth rather than public advertisements. An unscientific survey indicates that you might expect to pay about \$500 for a studio apartment, \$650 for a one-bedroom apartment, \$850 for a two-bedroom apartment, and \$250 to \$450 per occupant for a shared house or apartment, assuming private bedrooms. Furnished accommodations are available at a slight premium, and the furnishings are usually tacky. If you don’t share a place, be prepared to pay more than you would for a comparable shared space – i.e., a shared two-bedroom will usually be cheaper than a private studio or one-bedroom.

Many owners prefer renting to EECS graduate students (due to our maturity and relative financial sta-

bility), so make sure to mention this while apartment-hunting.

Unlike in many parts of the U.S., shopping malls have not completely taken over local shopping. Berkeley and the cities adjacent to it have a number of “shopping districts” where small storefront businesses mix with residences. These neighborhoods can be excellent places to live, especially for students who don’t mind a short commute, as they typically offer good public transit connections in addition to the convenience and charm (and, to be fair, higher prices) of the stores themselves. Rents vary widely, with many places cheaper or comparable to their Berkeley counterparts, and many priced for the well-heeled Yuppie crowd. Places to look for include Solano avenue in North Berkeley and Albany, the northern part of Shattuck avenue in Berkeley (the “gourmet ghetto”), and College avenue near Ashby (“Elmwood”). In Oakland, there is College Avenue between Claremont and Broadway (the “Rockridge” district, with its own BART station), Piedmont avenue, and the “Grand Lake” district, centered around Grand Avenue. near Lake Merritt. Other nearby cities to consider are El Cerrito, Kensington and Emeryville.

Parking permits for restricted access to some of the University lots are available if you live more than two miles from campus. However, parking is a premium here and ticket wardens are gainfully employed. Also these daytime permits tend to be expensive (about \$210 per semester).

The university operates about a thousand apartments for married students and students who are parents. The rents for these range from \$270 to \$523. Most of the apartments are in an area near the bay (Albany Village) a couple of miles northwest of campus (10 minutes by car if you can find a place to park, 25 minutes by bicycle). There is public transportation to the campus from these apartments. The remaining apartments are within walking distance of the campus, but are hard (translation: impossible) to get. Most of the apartments have two bedrooms; these have the shortest waiting period but only parents are considered for these. There are also some one and three bedroom apartments. Waiting lists are generally long. Expect a 2 month to 2 year waiting period, depending on the type of apartment. Students can apply before they arrive in Berkeley and thus shorten their waiting time. For more information and applications, contact the Family Housing Advisor, 2401 Bowditch Street, Univ. of California, Berkeley, CA 94720, (510) 642-4109.

1.1 Finding Housing

The EECS department has been helping graduate students find housing during the past few years. It might

be possible for you to find a place through Heather Levien (or Ruth Gjerde) (211 Cory, (510) 643-8347, heather@hera.eecs.berkeley.edu or ruthg@hera). If you give them an e-mail address, they can add you to a mailing list which advertises apartments and helps pair up roommates within the department.

The Community Living Office at 2401 Bowditch Street, (510) 642-3642, has listings for houses and apartments to rent or to share. The Housing Office will want to see your registration card (or your letter of admission and a photo ID) before letting you use their listings. They also have a file of people looking for places to live, but we’ve never seen anyone look through it. You can write or call the housing office to have them send you general information on housing, a map, and/or specific information on leases, utility service, etc. New listings are posted before the office opens, and frequently the best accommodations are gone within the hour. Please call to find out when they open, as their hours vary depending on demand. During the semester they are open between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. and are usually open longer during the summer. New listings are posted daily at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. If you are a GSI or GSR, you can get a listing of housing targeted specifically for employees of the university. This comes at a small fee (about \$45) and gets you a computer printout of housing vacancies a day before they are placed on the board for general student examination. Call the Faculty and Staff Housing Service, (510) 642-0706, for more details about this. If you want to live with another person or people, you must either rent a house or apartment and then look for roommates, or look for people who are trying to find roommates; listings for both purposes are maintained by the housing office.

Several commercial services provide listings, and they are definitely worth looking into. For example, The Berkeley Connection (2840 College Avenue, (510) 845-7821) charges a fixed fee of \$50 for access to their rental listings for two months. The charges for access to shared housing listings is \$25 for two months. Both services are available for \$60 for two months. They have an additional phone-in service that lets you get the information you need over the phone for a flat charge of \$5 over the basic service rate that you use. Homefinders (2158 University Ave, (510) 549-6450), has a similar deal. They charge \$55 for rental listings, \$25 for shared housing listings, and \$69 for both. Most issues of the Daily Californian (the free campus newspaper) have a coupon for a discount at Homefinders, so look for that. Their phone-in service is free. If you use a computerized listing service, select a broad range on price range and locality. Don’t let the computer weed out things in which you might be interested. It also gives you a

much better impression of what is available.

While you are looking for housing, you will need a place to stay. Hotels and motels are relatively expensive, at least \$40 per night. Over the summer, the University rents out rooms in some dormitories through the University Guest Residence Program, operated by Conference Services. The cost is \$24 per person for a double room, or \$38 for a single. The rooms are available approximately June 1 through August 13, at which point they revert to dormitory service. They also offer 6 or 10 week summer rentals. You can make a reservation and get details about these accommodations by calling Residence Hall Summer Housing at (510) 642-5796. Note that some of these rooms are taken well in advance (some dates are already booked up in February). If you will be arriving after 6:00 p.m., you must make arrangements in advance or you will not be able to get into the building to register. As an alternative, if you contact the EECS department ahead of time it is quite possible that arrangements can be made for you to stay with one of the current graduate students for a week or two while you look for housing.

When you go to look at an apartment, be prepared to give the landlord information about your credit history, employment and previous tenant history (i.e. names and addresses of previous landlords). Some people like to make up a “tenant résumé” with all this information on it to avoid filling out forms each time. If you rent an apartment, you may end up with either a month-to-month tenancy or a one-year lease; in either case, be prepared to give the landlord as much as three times the monthly rent before you can move in: the first and last month’s rent plus a one-month security deposit refundable with interest. The State of California and the City of Berkeley have laws which provide much protection for tenants. (Berkeley has the dubious distinction of having rent controlled housing; this is changing.) Among other things, these laws specify that tenants may not be evicted without proper cause and that rents on apartments can be raised only once a year. The Community Living Office can provide more information about your rights. Also, if needed, you can consult with the Renters’ Assistance Project of the Associated Students of the University of California (ASUC), located at 314 Eshleman Hall, or telephone (510) 642-1755.

You will generally need to pay a deposit to Pacific Gas and Electric; they usually ask for \$110. If this seems too much, complain to PG&E, mentioning that you are a poor, starving student, and they may lower the deposit to \$90 or less. The phone company, too, may demand a deposit, plus payment of installation charges in advance; this can come to as much as \$80.

A trend which has swept the U.S. in recent years is the shopping club, and the Bay Area is no excep-

tion. These businesses charge a yearly membership fee in exchange for the right to buy goods in quantity at huge, warehouse-like stores. You may be able to save a substantial amount of money on supplies and small furnishings for your new apartment here. The closest such store is Price-CostCo (the ungainly name is the result of a merger between the two largest chains), located a few miles north of campus along highway 80. Many EECS students have memberships; you may be able to convince a current member to accompany you before you decide whether or not to join.

Keep two things in mind when all this is running through your head: First, you can always move if you don’t find the ideal place. Just about everyone does at some point during their stay in Berkeley. Second, like every one of us, you will eventually find housing more or less to your satisfaction, though it may not be in Berkeley.

2 The Area

The San Francisco Bay Area is without question one of the best places in the United States to be a student. There are many, many things you can do when you should be studying.

2.1 Geography of the Bay Area

Berkeley is on the east side (“East Bay”) of San Francisco Bay (“The Bay”), north of and adjacent to the city of Oakland. San Francisco is about 7 miles (12 km) across the Bay. The Bay Bridge connects Oakland with San Francisco. San Francisco (“The City,” or “SF,” but NOT “Frisco”) lies on the northern end of the San Francisco Peninsula. The Peninsula stretches 40 miles (65 km) south to Palo Alto and San Jose (“Silicon Valley”). North of San Francisco, across the Golden Gate Bridge, is Marin County. North of Berkeley are the cities of El Cerrito, Albany, and Richmond, and to the east, on the other side of the Berkeley Hills, are Orinda, Lafayette, Walnut Creek and Concord.

2.2 Climate

Wonderful (generally)! Berkeley is close enough to the sea to benefit from its climate stabilization, but far enough inland to avoid some of the dank fogs that hang over SF during the summer months. Fall is probably the best season, with little fog and moderate to warm temperatures. August and September are the warmest months. In winter the temperature rarely, if ever, gets below freezing, but it can be cold: 5° to 15°C (45° to 55°F). The winter rains (mostly just a drizzle) start sometime in late November, and last

through March. The normal seasonal rainfall is roughly 75 cm (30 inches). The rains generally cease in spring, and it gets warmer, with shorts weather beginning in early May. The summer brings fogs that generally dissipate by mid-morning. However, the temperature always goes down with the sun. Even on a hot day, you'll need a sweater at night. If you go to the other side of the Berkeley Hills or down to the San Jose area in the summer, the temperature can be 40°C (100°F), but it rarely exceeds 30°C (90°F) in Berkeley proper. No matter what time of year, the evenings and early mornings are always cool and you will find you will have to carry a sweater or light jacket. If you were looking for a suntan, you probably should have gone to UCLA.

2.3 Things to do

Berkeley is well endowed with diversions, including dozens of cinemas and theaters, all kinds of musical events, coffeehouses, bookstores, and so on. If you get tired of Berkeley, San Francisco is only a short bus or BART ride away; it has all the things one would expect in a major city, including a symphony, opera, museums, galleries, ethnic neighborhoods, good restaurants, etc. Many say it is the most beautiful city in the U.S., and you should not ignore it during your stay here.

There are also many natural diversions in the immediate area and farther out. Berkeley itself has a rose garden and many vest-pocket parks scattered through the city. Just east of Berkeley and Oakland are numerous good-sized parks run by the East Bay Regional Parks District. These are ideal for picnics, day hikes, and bicycling trips. San Francisco has Golden Gate Park and a wonderful rugged, rocky coastline. Marin County has many beautiful natural areas, such as Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Muir Woods, and Point Reyes National Seashore. Farther north are magnificent redwood forests along the coast, the Napa Valley wine country, and the "Gold Country" along Highway 99. To the south, there are many parks in the Santa Cruz mountains, and beautiful rugged coastline along Highway 1. Farther away are the Sierra Nevada, Lake Tahoe, Yosemite National Park, and many other park and wilderness areas. River rafting, skiing, and backpacking are all very popular. And we've only mentioned the most obvious places...

2.4 Food

Restaurants abound in the Bay Area, especially in SF (which, by recent figures, has the largest per-capita restaurant density of major cities in North America, surpassing New York). Innumerable small ethnic and fast-food places adorn the north and south ends of the

Berkeley campus; some of them are very good and most are cheap. The greater Berkeley area sports many more. "Northside" — located near the corner of Hearst and Euclid just off campus — is by far the most common lunch hangout for EE and CS students, offering everything from gourmet hot dogs (at the infamous Top Dog) to sushi.

Vegetarianism is popular and well accepted, particularly in Berkeley. Restaurants and grocery stores catering to both local and international vegetarian diets abound. It is not too difficult to meet other dietary requirements either. Several stores in Berkeley sell Hallal meat; most seem to be concentrated around the intersection of University and San Pablo, an area known for its international groceries. Kosher meats and other foods are available at Oakland Kosher Foods on Grand avenue. All supermarkets carry a variety of packaged Kosher foods. Only a handful of restaurants in the entire Bay Area offer Kosher supervision, although many students find vegetarian restaurants to be an acceptable option.

Among "fancy" restaurants, one stands out: Chez Panisse on Shattuck, home of the "California Cuisine" with its French and Mediterranean influences and obsession with the freshest local ingredients. The downstairs restaurant, with its prix-fixe dinners, is a place to take your parents or your friends with expense accounts; expect a three-digit bill, reserve well in advance, and be prepared to eat anything — the menu changes each night but offers no choices. The upstairs restaurant, which offers a regular menu selection, is less expensive and does not take reservations. Come early to sign up and you can spend the next hour or so browsing in Black Oak Books, one block away.

3 Doing Business with the University

Berkeley is a large university, and you will in your years here come in contact with a number of administrative offices, secretaries, and, if you're lucky, even a professor or another student or two. The secretaries and administrators in our department, the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences, and in the Computer Science Division (note the creeping administrative complexity), are generally helpful, friendly, and well worth knowing.

The EECS Graduate Office is located in 211 Cory, and is the central focus for many academic administrative matters. CS graduate students can also go to 367 Soda to take care of most administrative details. The Computer Science Division office in 387 Soda handles

mail, key distribution and access to photocopiers for students with offices in Soda Hall.

There are quite a few staff-people to help you navigate the sometimes-treacherous waters of the Berkeley bureaucracy. Mary Byrnes and Ruth Gjerde deal with current students, and maintain EECS current graduate student records. Ruth Gjerde is replacing Heather Levien, whose presence here will be sorely missed. Kathryn Crabtree (the High Priestess and Den Mother) handles current student records in the Computer Science Division. Sheila Humphreys, academic coordinator for student affairs, is the person to see regarding affirmative action and for information on available financial support (especially regarding fellowship opportunities for affirmative action students and women). She is involved in recruitment and serves as a liaison to several student organizations and as a student advisor/advocate for academic matters. Mary Byrnes is the supervisor for grad student matters and the admissions process and also coordinates fellowships. If you have problems with admission (or re-admission, if you were previously enrolled at a UC campus), you should see Patrick Hernan. General admissions information is available at (510) 642-3068.

Most research assistants, known to the bureaucracy as Graduate Student Researchers or GSRs, work for the Electronics Research Laboratory (ERL), the office for which is in 253 and 254M Cory. ERL administers research, while EECS is responsible for teaching; each has its own director and staff. Shirley Price handles GSR employment records and paychecks. If you will be starting as an GSR and have not completed your paperwork by mail, you should see Shirley immediately upon your arrival. *Delays in filing the necessary forms will delay your first paycheck.*

The next level of administration is the Graduate Division (located in Sproul Hall); you may occasionally have contact with these offices. The Berkeley campus-wide administration is also housed in Sproul Hall.

Fellowship checks are delivered to 192 University Hall. You can now ask for the checks to be directly deposited to your bank account and avoid having to stand in line every month.

3.1 Support

If you have been offered a position as a Teaching Assistant (TA or GSI) and have not yet been given a specific teaching assignment, you should check with Sue DeVries (CS) or Cindy Manly-Fields (EE), and talk to the professors for the classes you might want to teach. Fall teaching assignments are usually not made until late in the summer, and are very flexible until (almost) the day classes start. These full-year GSIs are entitled to receive a check for moving expenses, which may be

as much as \$440, depending on the distance moved. This includes moves from outside the U.S. Payment of this money is not automatic; to get it, you must ask in 211 Cory Hall. The money comes in only after the first year has elapsed. Sue DeVries handles GSI employment records and paychecks; see her as soon as you arrive to complete your paperwork. *Be sure your paperwork is in order or your first paycheck will be delayed!*

If you were hired as a Research Assistant (RA or GSR), you should contact the professor with whom you will be working, as you are entitled to a desk someplace near your professor or where you work. However, be patient! Desk space in some parts of Cory Hall is the only thing less available in Berkeley than housing. For access to the building after hours, card keys can be obtained from 395 Cory Hall. This requires you to get some forms signed by your research advisor (or similarly important person who can justify your necessity for access).

For information about fellowships, see Mary or Sheila and watch for announcements on the bulletin boards opposite 218 Cory. GSI and GSR salaries, and most fellowships, are subject to U.S. and California taxes. However, the portion of your GSI or GSR salary that goes towards tuition and required school expenses, such as textbooks, may be *non-taxable*; you should check with the EEGSA and CSGSA for details.

If you don't have support, which many of us don't, despair not! If you have mastered (or can teach yourself quickly) one or more salable topics such as introductory electronics or computer science, you have a good chance of being hired on a semester-by-semester basis as either a GSI or a reader. One can also be a GSI at the Self-Paced Center on an hourly basis. Your best approach is to drop by the EECS Graduate Office and talk with the people in charge of hiring GSIs and readers — they welcome help in filling GSI positions.

Most research projects in EECS are funded through the Electronics Research Laboratory (ERL), Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory (LBL) or the Office of Research Services (ORS), amongst others. You may wish to discuss your research support with the directors of these units if you so desire.

Warning 1: If you accept a *full-year* position as a Teaching Assistant, you will be expected to teach for a full academic year. The department does not like people to discard GSI appointments to accept research assistantships.

Warning 2: Fall GSI's may receive their first paycheck as late as October 1; GSR's should expect a four-to six-week delay between filing employment forms and receiving a first paycheck. *Bring adequate funds* to survive until you are paid.

Special loans for new GSI's are available from the

Title	Name	(510) 64x-xxxx	Room	electronic mail
Academic Co-ord.	Sheila Humphreys	3-8205	231 Cory	humphrys@hera
Grad. Stud. Matters	Mary Byrnes	2-3694	211 Cory	mkbyrnes@hera
EE Graduate Assist.	Ruth Gjerde	3-8347	211 Cory	ruthg@hera
CS Graduate Assist.	Kathryn Crabtree	2-9413	449 Soda	crabtree@hera
Admissions	Patrick Hernan	2-9265	207 Cory	hernan@hera
EECS Scheduling	Cindy Manly-Fields	2-7372	231 Cory	cmanly@hera
GSI Empl. Records	Sue DeVries	2-0544	367 Soda	sued@hera
GSR Empl. Records	Shirley Price	2-9204	254M Cory	shirley@diva
	CS Division	2-1042	387 Soda	
	EECS Dept. Office	2-3214	231 Cory	

University. Under this program, you will be advanced half a month's salary, which must be paid back in January. See Mary Byrnes or Ruth for preliminary paperwork; then prepare to stand in line in University Hall.

A final warning: Paychecks do not always come on time. If you have trouble getting paid, tell the professor that you work for. Do not assume that a desire to be paid on time is a display of impoliteness. You should be paid on time, not a month late. If there is a foul-up, emergency paychecks can be issued in a matter of days.

One more note: If you have a fellowship, but would still like to be a GSI or GSR it is allowed for you to work up to quarter-time (10 hours per week) as a GSI or GSR.

3.2 California Residency

If you are a U.S. citizen or permanent resident living outside of California, you should take immediate steps toward establishing California residency when you arrive in Berkeley. This can save you a great deal of money later on. Note that for most purposes, you can become a state resident right away, but this is not true for tuition purposes. In the past, the university has required proof that you have lived in California for at least one full year (365 days) *before the beginning of the semester* and "show intent to permanently reside in California" before they would consider you to be a resident for tuition purposes. There is now the additional requirement that you need to show financial independence for the year prior to the semester in which residency is requested (or two years, if you are younger than 24). The main evidence for this is tax forms from previous years showing that you supported yourself and, especially, that you were not claimed as a dependent by someone else. Students who are not citizens or permanent residents of the U.S. cannot become California residents, except for a few visa categories. Information is available from the residence office in 120 Sproul Hall, (510) 642-1614. In any case, here are some of the

things you should do *immediately on arrival* to prove your good intentions:

1. Register to vote in California.
2. Get a California Driver's License or Identification card.
3. Register your car in California. Note: If you bring a car from out of state into California this can be very expensive (\$300 - \$700).
4. Open a local checking account and save cancelled checks.
5. Keep all of your rent receipts.
6. File a California State Income tax form, even if you have nothing to report. In your first year, it will be form 540NR; thereafter, form 540.
7. Whenever you fill out a University form that asks for your "permanent address," use your Berkeley address.

All of the above except item number 3 should be done *immediately* after you find a place to live – these tasks are quite painless, but have a way of being forgotten once classes have begun. Item 3, re-registering your car, may involve changes in your insurance and it may be advantageous to defer this, especially if the car is registered in your parents' name. Note that the state in which you have your driver's license has nothing to do with the state in which your car insurance or registration exists. A photographic California Driver's License or State Identification Card is invaluable for check cashing and other miscellany; it is universally accepted (and demanded) as the primary form of identification here (plus it has a cool hologram pattern on it). Either card can be obtained at the Dept. of Motor Vehicles office in Oakland (on Claremont Avenue) or El Cerrito (off San Pablo). If you intend to visit the DMV, *telephone for an appointment before hand*. The lines

are always very long, and the people working there are frustratingly slow.

After you have done all of the above, you still have to prove to the University that you were actually *in* California for the year. Taking classes is not considered adequate proof of physical presence. **The best method of proving physical presence is to use a credit card in California at least once per month, and to save the receipts.** ATM receipts are **not** accepted as proof of physical presence.

4 Banks, Checks, and Cash

Berkeley is blessed (possibly damned) with a huge number of banks – most of the major California banks have at least one office within a few blocks of the campus. If you already have an account with one of them, you will be able to continue using it, although you will need an account at a local branch (as well as a California Driver’s license or State Identification Card) to negotiate checks in many stores.

In addition to the large commercial banks (Bank of America, Citibank, First Interstate, Security Pacific, Wells Fargo), Berkeley has a number of smaller banks and savings and loans (American, Great Western, Home Savings, Home Federal, Homestead, San Francisco Federal, Union) that offer checking accounts. There is also a state employees’ credit union which you can join if you are a teaching assistant or research assistant. The banks and S&L’s vary quite a bit – a bunch of phone calls will pay off here. There are several things to keep in mind when you’re shopping. These include the policy regarding placing holds on deposits, ID required to open a checking account, location of automatic tellers (Wells Fargo and Bank of America have several on Southside, and most of the others have some downtown), and automatic teller networks. Most California banks are on the STAR system, and some are on the nationwide Cirrus and PLUS systems. Banks will usually charge \$0.75 to \$1 for an ATM transaction at a machine that isn’t theirs. You can also use many ATM cards at many local stores (supermarkets, bookstores) to pay for your purchases.

If you don’t already have a credit card, you should consider getting one. Bank of America, Wells Fargo, Citibank, and others offer student credit cards; you can apply (and will probably receive one) even if you don’t have your checking account at that bank. Students can also get an American Express card, but it’s far more expensive (\$55 annual fee vs. \$0-25) and accepted at fewer places. However, American Express has been offering cheap domestic plane tickets, so it may be worth it if you have family a long plane flight away.

Out-of-area checks are usually not accepted by grocery stores and local merchants. You should expect a seven working-day “hold” to be placed on any out-of-state check that you deposit in your bank account (see above). To get around this problem when you arrive, come equipped with at least \$500 in traveler’s checks, and the remainder of the funds you wish to deposit in the form of a certified or cashier’s check, which you can usually (but not always) convince the banks to make available immediately. If you stay in the residence halls, they should take out-of-state checks for payment of room rent; you should also be able to use an out-of-state check for your apartment deposit and first and last months’ rent.

5 Transportation

Disclaimer: although a reasonable attempt has been made at making this an accurate statement, not all of the routes, fares or connections in this section have actually been traveled by anyone we know.

5.1 Cars

Like all of California, the Bay Area comes equipped with a marvelous system of freeways that can whisk you to SF, Sausalito, Silicon Valley, Lake Tahoe and even (God forbid) Los Angeles. Unfortunately, to use them you need a car (or motorcycle). Fortunately, public transportation in the area is adequate (except when trying to get to the South Bay from Berkeley), and many students get along quite well without cars.

Since the October 1989 earthquake, however, driving in the Bay Area has become a bit more complicated. The “Cypress structure,” a section of 880 (which connects to the Oakland Airport and the Oakland Coliseum) no longer exists, and the detours, although easy to follow, make things a bit slower during rush hour, which is already slow.

If you’re a member of the California State Automobile Association (AAA), you can get free maps and trip planning services. The closest office of AAA is located at 1775 University Avenue, (510) 845-8890.

5.2 Mass Transit

Almost all of the Bay Area’s mass transit systems are fully wheelchair-accessible. In particular, all BART stations have elevators and AC Transit and MUNI buses are equipped with lifts and fold-away seats.

BART (the Bay Area Rapid Transit system, info: (510) 465-2278) is our computer-controlled “marvel” heavy rail transit system. BART interconnects almost all the central business districts of the East Bay and

SF, but unfortunately does not serve the Peninsula (e.g. SF Airport, Stanford and Silicon Valley). The trains are comfortable and efficient, and fares are reasonable (currently \$1.80 one-way from Berkeley to SF), although fare increases will take effect later this year. You may take your bike on BART except during “commute hours,” which are defined as 6:30 to 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. To do this, you’ll need to get a special pass which is available at any station.

The AC Transit (Alameda-Contra Costa Transit, info: (510) 839-2882) bus system serves the East Bay with connections to SF. Amazingly, the buses are usually on time (you can get a schedule) unless delayed by traffic or mechanical trouble. Feeder routes run directly to all sides of the UC campus during rush hours and cost \$1.10. The network allows you to get to within a few blocks of almost anywhere in the East Bay. For \$0.25, you can obtain a transfer good for an unlimited number of rides within three hours or so. Transfers are also available when leaving BART, but you must pay \$0.60 when you board a bus. Monthly and semester passes are also available from the Berkeley TRIP office (more on that in a bit).

AC Transit also has several routes to the Transbay Terminal in SF. It costs \$2.20 to go to SF. AC Transit’s Transbay buses are identified by letters (e.g. F). East Bay-only bus designations contain numerals (e.g. 43 or 51M). At the Transbay terminal in SF, you can connect with the three independent systems that serve the counties of San Francisco, Marin and San Mateo. The “F” bus can be caught all along Shattuck Avenue every 15 minutes or so and goes to SF.

San Francisco features a gamut of public transportation services: BART, old electric streetcars, new “Muni Metro” underground streetcars, electric buses, diesel buses and (on the hills) the famous cable cars. This motley but convenient collection is under the management of the San Francisco Municipal Railway or “Muni” (info: (415) 673-6864). Buses cost \$1.00 and you can get a day-pass for \$2.25 or a month-pass for \$35.00. A round-trip MUNI ticket may be purchased inside a BART station for \$1.00 in quarters.

The Golden Gate Transit (GGT) bus system serves Marin County (that’s on the north side of the Golden Gate Bridge). It is primarily useful for going sightseeing or hiking in SF’s backdoor wilderness, the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. The SAMTRANS (San Mateo Transit, info: (800) 660-4287) bus system connects the Transbay Terminal to points south of SF. One can get to SFO Airport for \$1.00 in about 50 minutes or to Stanford in about 1-1/2 hours for about \$1.50. There are also ferries that run between SF and Marin, the buses of County Transit in San Jose, and the commuter trains of Southern Pacific Railroad that run between SF

and the Peninsula (“Caltrain”).

Caveat: All public bus systems require exact change, so be prepared. Most of them will take bills. BART stations have change machines for bills up to \$5. Always be on the lookout for free transfers; they crop up in more places than one might expect.

Maps and schedules of the common local bus transit routes are available in the Student Union on campus and at the Berkeley TRIP store. BART has general area maps showing how to make some basic connections to the bus systems. There is the “Regional Transit Connection” and the ever-popular “Fun Goes Farther on BART.” Also look in bookstores or similar places for a “Regional Transit Guide” that sells for \$3.95 – this is highly recommended for anyone who plans to make use of regional mass transit. An AC Transit “Basic Route Map” will be sent to you by mail if you call the info number, (510) 839-2882. AC Transit route maps and schedules are available on board buses or can be sent to you by mail if you call the info number. There are also transit maps in the front of the yellow pages in the phone book.

Berkeley TRIP (2033 Center Street, (510) 643-7665) is an excellent resource center for the serious or casual commuter. They have most of the maps and other publications listed above. They also sell various types of discount passes for various public transportation systems, including \$96 worth of BART tickets for \$80 without any time limit on their use. If you find yourself using AC Transit or BART on a regular basis, you may be interested in special student-rate passes. These passes may be purchased once per semester.

5.3 University Transportation

Transportation Services run a campus shuttle bus called the “Perimeter Shuttle.” These mini-buses leave for downtown Berkeley every ten minutes (during the day) from the Mining Circle. They end up near the Berkeley BART station. The stop is right in front of the Bank of America at Shattuck and Center. The trip costs \$0.25. Passes for the University shuttles are available; ask a driver or contact the Berkeley TRIP office. For wheelchair access, call ahead at (510) 643-5708. If you purchase either a daytime parking permit or a BART discount pass, you automatically receive a free shuttle bus pass that is good for an entire semester.

The UC Police, under the name “Cal-B SAFE,” sponsor a night safety shuttle service which stops at a number of points on both Northside and Southside between 6:30 and midnight. Door-to-door service is available for Northside destinations between Gayley Road and Shattuck avenue. Schedules are available at the TRIP store. A night escort service is also available on

campus between 6:30 p.m. and 2:30 a.m.; call 642-9255 for details.

Eastbound buses to the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory (a University-affiliated research center) and Lawrence Hall of Science leave from the front of Cory Hall.

As a service to library patrons, the University Library operates buses to other UC campuses. There are three a day to UC Davis, two a day to UC Santa Cruz, six a day to UCSF, and eighteen a day to the Berkeley Field Station. These buses do not run on public holidays. Reservations should be made in advance by contacting the main library.

5.4 Getting to Berkeley

Coming to UC Berkeley by car is extremely easy. When you arrive in the Bay Area, make your way to I-80. Take the University Avenue exit to campus. Proceed all the way up University (heading east) and when it ends you are here. Getting here by public transport is slightly more complex.

5.4.1 Airlines

There are three major airports in the Bay Area. Avoid San Jose since it is the farthest from Berkeley (60 miles, 100 km) and does not have a good connection to Berkeley. San Francisco (SFO) is on the Peninsula about 9 miles south of downtown SF and about 35 minutes to an hour by car from Berkeley depending on traffic. The Oakland Airport is 6 miles (10 km) south of Downtown Oakland and is about 20 minutes by car from Berkeley. It is also much easier to get to Oakland than SFO. If you tell your travel agent that you want to go to the Bay Area (or even Berkeley) they will most likely send you to SFO. All other considerations being equal (like money or connections), Oakland is the better bet.

You can get from SFO to Berkeley in several ways. Here is a list of some suggestions in order of preference:

1. Call a friend with a car.
2. Take one of 2 van services: the Airport Connection (call (800) 247-7678 for reservations) or Bayporter (call (510) 467-1800 for reservations). Both vans will drop passengers at the Durant Hotel, which is two blocks from campus. It is a good idea to make reservations at least 24 hours in advance. They charge about \$20 from SFO to the Durant Hotel. Bayporter will also provide door-to-door service for \$16 to any location in Berkeley, or \$21 to any location in Oakland. The last vans leave at midnight.
3. Take an Airporter bus for \$6 (info: 673-2432). This takes you to Taylor and Ellis in SF. It is about a

2-4 block walk to a BART station. The buses run every 15 minutes from about 5:30 a.m. to 10 p.m., and service does not end until 1:50 a.m. BART service, however, ends at midnight.

4. Take the SAMTRANS bus #3X to the Daly City BART station. It costs \$0.85 and you are allowed to carry luggage on it.
5. Rent a car from a major rental company for \$30+ a day and drop it off in Berkeley or Oakland.
6. Take a taxi—the flat rate to Berkeley is between \$40 and \$50.

Since Oakland is much closer, the priorities are somewhat different:

1. Call a friend.
2. Take an Airport Connection or Bayporter van. The preceding section contains more details and the numbers to call for reservations.
3. Catch an AIRBART shuttle bus to the Oakland Coliseum BART station. This costs \$2.00. It costs another \$1.15 to get to Berkeley on BART. Remember that BART service ends at midnight.
4. Take a taxi for \$23 to \$25.
5. Take AC Transit bus #58 to the BART station. From there, either take BART or transfer to another AC Transit bus. The latter is the cheapest way to go, but luggage is a problem.

5.4.2 Train and Bus

There are Amtrak stations in Richmond (a few cities north of Berkeley), Berkeley, and Emeryville (two cities south of Berkeley). Probably, your best bet is to get off at Richmond and get on BART; it is very close to BART (literally across the track). On the other hand the Emeryville Amtrak station is much newer and nicer, and is in a safer neighborhood. The Berkeley Amtrak station is served by AC Transit (line 51 runs into downtown Berkeley and close to the south side of campus). If you require baggage handling service, you will have to go to Emeryville and take a taxi to Berkeley.

Greyhound has terminals in the seedy districts of Oakland and SF. There is no stop in Berkeley. You can take an AC Transit bus from the Oakland depot or walk two blocks and get on BART. The SF terminal is right around the corner from a BART station.

5.5 Getting Around Berkeley

Most students live within a few kilometers or so of campus and rarely need a car. Finding parking near campus for commuters is next to impossible if you come after 9:00 a.m. without a parking permit. You can usually find a spot in the middle of the day within a 10 minute walk of Cory Hall provided that you drive around for 5 to 10 minutes. To purchase a parking permit, you must prove that you live more than 2 miles from campus and pay a \$30 transportation fee. Then you can either purchase a \$6 permit and then pay \$3 per entry, or you can pay a \$44 per month flat rate. Note that student fee-lot stickers permit the use of faculty lots after 5pm. Parking fines are incredibly easy to come by and cost \$16-\$26. Warning: Illegally parking in a handicapped parking space risks a \$250 fine any place in the Bay Area! This fine also applies to cars parked across sidewalk accesses (such as on street corners and pedestrian crossings) which are regarded as wheelchair ramps. For further questions, call Parking Services at 2535 Channing Way (phone (510) 642-4283). New parking restrictions for the areas immediately surrounding campus were enacted in Fall 1989. Other than the few metered spots, these areas are limited to 2 hour parking unless you have a resident sticker proving that you live in that particular zone.

If you wish to drive to campus at night, you can purchase a nighttime and weekend parking permit, which is much cheaper than the daytime permit (approximately \$30 for the semester).

It is not uncommon for cars parked on the streets of Berkeley and Oakland to be broken into, so it might be a good idea to invest in some kind of anti-theft device for your vehicle and also consider buying “comprehensive” auto insurance.

If you live a fair distance from campus or a food store, a bicycle is a good bet. Protect your investment by carrying a Kryptonite-like lock since Berkeley is a mecca for bike thieves, and protect your brain by wearing a helmet. You should also register your bike with the Campus Police. You may wish to avoid the main roads to campus, since cars and buses are notoriously rude to bicyclists. Side roads are nicer, but many are partly blocked by giant flowerpots known as “traffic diverters.” Several roads have bike lanes. You can ride your bike on campus, but only in certain areas. Also note that Berkeley has some steep hills, including the area around Cory and Soda.

Some people prefer to commute on a motorcycle or moped. There are lots of places to park motorcycles and, unlike bicycles, they seem to be respected somewhat by local motorists. The climate, terrain, and distances here make the motorcycle an attractive form of

transport. During the rainy season in winter it can be quite soggy. Mopeds may not have enough power to get up some of the Berkeley hills. To park a moped in campus lots, you need a permit.

Contrary to what you may have gathered while reading this, many students walk. To reduce the time you spend walking, if you have a choice, choose a place to live near a grocery store, a bus stop, and a BART station.

6 Health Services and Insurance

Most colleges and Universities offer some form of medical care to their students. At Berkeley, the University Health Service (UHS) provides access to doctors and a fair array of laboratory and other services. What cannot be handled by UHS is referred to doctors and hospitals in the area. UHS is located in the Tang Center, a new building just south of the South-West corner of campus. They have outpatient care, and inpatient care for noncritical illnesses and injuries. It is generally the first place to go when medical attention is required.

There is some debate over the quality of the care provided by UHS. Most people do not have problems, some people do. Since this is true of medicine in general, it is hard to say whether the care is any different from what one receives elsewhere.

6.1 Medical Insurance

All graduate students at UCB are required to purchase a mandatory health insurance plan. As with most health insurance, the cost of the Graduate Student Health Insurance Plan, (GSHIP) is on the rise. For the Spring semester 1996, the cost was \$219. But, beginning in 1990, the university has paid this fee for research and teaching assistants. It is possible to get exemption from this plan if you can show comparable existing coverage. In case of specific questions you can call the GSHIP information line at (510) 642-5700 weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

UHS acts as the “gatekeeper,” providing primary care and referring students to outside specialists when necessary. Emergency care at any facility is covered.

7 A Note for the International Student

If you will be coming to Berkeley from outside of the United States, you probably have some additional things to take care of.

7.1 Getting your Visa

Getting your visa is something that needs to be done. The process is slightly long and best started early. The normal flow of events should be something like this: The AFSS (Advisers to the Foreign Students and Scholars Office, International House, Berkeley, CA 94720, (510) 642-2818), will be sending you a form to verify that you have enough money to support yourself for the first year. This is the Confirmation of Financial Resources Form (CFR). (If you haven't got it by now, write to them with a copy of your admission offer). The department has nothing to do with your visa and I-20 and won't be able to help you in this regard. You need to show about \$16,000 for the first year. The AFSS is not aware of any support offer made to you by the department (typical of Berkeley bureaucracy, the left hand doesn't know what the right hand is doing, and generally doesn't want to). Attach a copy of the support letters when you fill out this form. The deficit between your support and the \$16,000 needed is to be completed by showing them personal funds or sponsorships from relatives at home or abroad. (Usually a statement to this effect from your sponsor and a bank statement of the sponsor is enough.) The AFSS will ponder over your CFR for some time and then mail you an I-20 (for an F-1 visa) or an IAP-66 (for a J-1). So far so good. Armed with an I-20 (or IAP-66) and the documents for financial support for your first year, visit your friendly(!) U.S. Embassy. Usually a short interview gets you your visa; the process at the Embassy takes only a day. In case of any problems, it would be appropriate (and efficient) to contact the AFSS, rather than the department.

7.2 Initial Finances

The initial period may seem to be rather expensive to you especially if you come from a country with a currency not as high as the dollar. Don't count on being paid before October if you are a TA or an RA. However don't despair, if you are employed by the department, it is trivially easy for you to get a loan from Sproul Hall to pay fees (contact AFSS). Bring enough to last you a month and some initial expenses. (\$1500-\$2000 would be a reasonable figure). Get your money in travelers checks. International checks will take forever to come through. Most bank drafts are convenient too, but all in all travelers checks are a better bet.

It is interesting to note that textbooks over here are worth their weight in gold, almost literally. In many countries they are cheaper, sometimes by factors of ten (India and Taiwan, for example). You might therefore consider purchasing and bringing with you a number of fundamental texts from your country of origin.

7.3 Teaching Assistant English Requirements

International graduate students with Bachelor's degrees from the U.S. or from a country in which the language of instruction is English are exempt from the English oral proficiency testing requirement. Obtain the list of countries that are considered English speaking from the College Writing Programs (CWP) Office at 216 Dwinelle Annex (510-642-5975).

All other international students who plan to TA for the first time at UCB are required to take either the Test of Spoken English (TSE) or the Speaking Proficiency English Assessment Kit (SPEAK). The TSE is administered by the Educational Testing Service (ETS). The SPEAK test is administered on campus by CWP.

You should contact either Ruth or Mary immediately once arriving in the US to register for the exam, as seating is limited. Copies of the SPEAK Test Examinee Handbook are available at the CWP Office.

A prospective International Graduate Student Instructor (IGSI) must obtain a passing test score before an appointment is made. It is important to note that students who have not been tested before the semester begins cannot be guaranteed their appointments for that semester. TSE and SPEAK scores are valid for two years. The SPEAK test is an hour-long and involves talking into a tape recorder while answering questions posed by the examiner(s). The tape is reviewed and scored on a scale of 1-300 points; a score of 230 or above is a pass.

Students with scores between 190-229 may:

- opt to take the Oral Proficiency Test, and upon passing are eligible to assume GSI positions, or
- with the consent of the instructor, enroll in the one-semester International GSI Workshop or the International IGSI Tutorial course offered by College Writing and demonstrate oral proficiency by passing the OPT. The SPEAK test may be retaken after six months.

In the OPT, a twenty-five minute exam involving a five-minute presentation, one is videotaped in front of a panel of examiners. After registering, you should go to the CWP Office to pick up the test orientation materials and the presentation topic.

Since one may need to wait a week or longer between the SPEAK and OPT, it is best to schedule an exam time as soon as possible.

7.4 Some Health Care Advice

You will be covered by the mandatory GSHIP (look up the section on Health Services and Insurance). It covers most aspects of your health care *except dental and eye care*. It would definitely be cheaper to get a complete dental and eye checkup in your home country before you come here. Also, in case you use corrective eye glasses or lenses, it may be a good idea to get a spare set.

8 The EECS Department

Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, formerly separate departments, merged in 1973, though some distinction remains. This is partly geographical (most EE students and faculty have offices in Cory Hall, whereas CS personnel are based in Soda Hall) and partly academic (the two areas have different degree requirements). CS students and faculty retain academic autonomy within the Computer Science Division, an academic subunit of the department with its own associate head. There is no “EE Division.” At present, the department has about 500 graduate students, with some 35% of these in the CS Division.

The unified EECS structure fosters some major research efforts across the division boundary, such as those in computer-aided design, integrated circuits, computer communications, and robotics. You may find valuable opportunities or expertise in the “other part” of the department from the one that defines your degree – don’t be misled by the geographical separation. Advertised seminars are a good opportunity to learn about research activities throughout the department.

8.1 Office Space

Having an office means fuller participation in the community: interesting technical discussions in the halls, suggestions on where to eat lunch, and other fringe benefits. Unfortunately the department lacks enough space to provide every student with office space. First-year students in CS will be allotted space in large offices in Soda Hall. These offices are interspersed with the offices of more senior graduate students who belong to research groups, so this will give you the opportunity to find out what these groups work on. Teaching assistants in EE usually receive at least a temporary office, and many professors provide offices for their research students. This is further incentive for becoming actively involved in research.

8.2 Department-wide Computer Network

The computing environment at Berkeley is excellent. There is no shortage of computing resources (though you may have trouble simulating the Big Bang without some specialized hardware), with literally hundreds of workstations (SparcStations, DECstation 5000’s and Alphas, HP 9000/700 series, etc.), file servers, and compute servers (including a Thinking Machines CM-5) all interconnected by Ethernet and FDDI. Most of these computers are associated with specific research efforts, and their number is growing steadily. Besides their research functions, these machines — each of which has its own community of users — provide a network-wide bulletin board service and person-to-person or person-to-group mail service.

The impact of this network is remarkable. All EECS faculty and all graduate students have accounts on one or more of the machines. The resulting ease of communication helps people stay in touch, exchange text and research results, arrange meetings, get answers to questions, and announce events, seminars and parties. Users who otherwise have little need for computers often obtain accounts just to read announcements and mail. Electronic mail is almost always the quickest and most reliable way to communicate with faculty, staff, and students.

As a first-year graduate student, you’ll automatically get a computer account. After your first year, it’s generally best to get your computing resources from a research group (yet another good reason to find an advisor).

8.3 Classes, Seminars and Research

You will be assigned a Major Field Advisor from the faculty who is supposed to help you decide on your course of studies. Advisors vary in their devotion to this task; some give advice, but some just sign forms. Becoming familiar with the department requirements and course descriptions before you meet with your advisor will make your sessions much more productive for both of you. In particular, be prepared for a stream of three digit numbers to be flung at you by anyone discussing courses.

Warning: Some professors have unrealistic expectations of how much work a grad student can handle in a semester. It is always wise to run your proposed schedule by a more senior grad student to get a second opinion. Do not blindly trust your Major Field Advisor.

The primary source of academic information in the department is the document *EECS Graduate Informa-*

tion, available, like many other department publications, at the Purchasing Office, 299 Cory. A copy will be mailed to all incoming grad students before the start of the school year. This covers degree requirements, areas of research, and some course information. Other students are eager to give advice as well. We are, of course, biased, but generally worth listening to. Up-to-date course and seminar information and announcements are posted on the second floor of Cory Hall and on the third and fourth floors of Soda Hall.

Weekly seminars are offered in the various topical areas within the department. These feature speakers from outside the university, or advanced students presenting results from their research. You can enroll officially and receive a token amount of academic credit, or just informally attend the ones that interest you. These seminars are a rich academic resource, especially for first-year students: they can show you what sort of research is going on, and give you ideas for your own work.

Research is the lifeblood of the department. Beginning graduate students are usually most concerned with course work; still, a little research early on — even if not a formal thesis project — can pay rich dividends. Any research can lead to a thesis, or give you a better feel for the area; it will also put you into closer contact with the faculty and their resources.

UC Berkeley's reputation for excellence in academics is not limited to electrical engineering and computer sciences, a point which is all too often ignored by graduate students in the department. If your course load allows it you should consider taking courses in other areas as well. Many people in the department enjoy courses in the humanities and sciences. For courses more likely to be useful toward your degree you might consider other departments in the College of Engineering, or perhaps mathematics. Try not to turn exclusively to the EECS pages in the general catalog.

8.4 EEGSA and CSGSA

The EE and CS Graduate Student Associations perform major orientation efforts in the fall and arrange social activities throughout the year. We also represent student interests to the faculty, and attempt to keep students informed. The dual organizations reflect the particular needs of students in the two parts of the department, although we often collaborate.

EEGSA sponsors a weekly social hour (coffee and donuts) which is currently held Wednesdays at 4:40 in the Cory Hall courtyard. We also hold occasional wine-and-cheese parties, picnics, and other events. CSGSA arranges semesterly department picnics and weekly donut hours (Wednesdays at 3:30). At the beginning

of the year, CSGSA provides a Big Sibling Program for new CS graduate students, pairing them with senior students to help them adjust. The EE students also receive a list of senior student “peer advisors” who can be invaluable in helping you choose classes or shop for an advisor. These sheets are available in 211 Cory, if you don't already have them.

There is also a group for women that spans both halves of the department. WICSE (Women In Computer Science and Engineering) holds weekly lunches and occasionally invites guest speakers. The lunches provide a good time to share the concerns and problems that women experience in this unfortunately male-dominated field.

The EEGSA and CSGSA in partnership are responsible for this fine piece of literature. Any constructive criticism or suggestions concerning its present form may be directed to: eegsa@cory.eecs.Berkeley.edu.

A parting sentiment: if you feel that you have heard more than enough about Berkeley, you are probably right. We love talking about it and hope that it will be the same for you some time later. If you have any questions about life at Berkeley, find a name and number in the stack of papers in front of you and dial! After all, we can't study all the time...