

Kaplan Aspect School Berkeley

Situated in the heart of downtown Berkeley, only 30 minutes from San Francisco, the Berkeley Kaplan Aspect school has provided countless international students with an unforgettable experience learning English in the United States. Our courses include General English, TOEFL, GRE and GMAT preparation for international students. So 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 centre that includes some of the finest universities in the country. In San Francisco students can visit Fisherman's Wharf and Alcatraz Island or take a day trip to the beautiful redwood forests or California's wine country. For those who enjoy the outdoors, there are many nearby biking and hiking trails, lakes, and beaches. Just East of San Francisco, Berkeley is world-renowned for its colourful mixture of people and lifestyles with many museums, restaurants, coffee shops and bookstores for students to enjoy. Within the city of Berkeley, a visitor can listen to a symphony or jazz quartet, shop for Tibetan jewellery or grab an espresso at one of the many cafes. World-class golf is nearby at Tilden Park and yoga studios abound.

Kaplan Aspect Educational Programmes in the USA are accredited by the Accrediting Council for Continuing Education and Training.

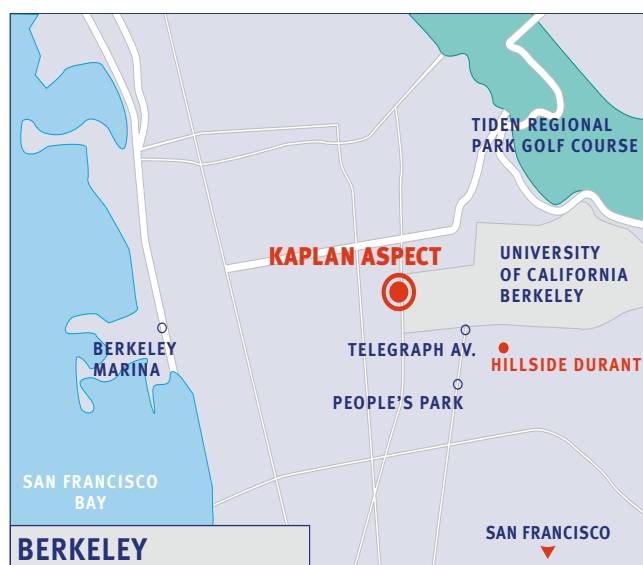


ACCREDITING COUNCIL FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION & TRAINING
600 East Main Street • Suite 1425 • Richmond, Virginia 23219

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



Berkeley School



Kaplan Aspect Berkeley
150 Berkeley Sq.
Berkeley, CA 94704
USA

School Facilities

Classrooms

There are ten classrooms that range in size, all having access to TVs and projectors. Classrooms have recently been renovated and have new chairs, podiums and white boards.

Multimedia and IT centre

There is a computer lab, audio-visual room and study room with individual cubicles, some of which contain televisions, VCRs and headphones, free wireless internet access and 10 computer terminals. The multimedia centre is an integral part of your learning. Lessons are frequently taught in the lab using the latest software.

Library

We are currently working on adding a library, which will include not only study guides but also fiction. Kaplan Aspect Berkeley 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. We are currently working on a major architectural project that will add space to the lounge and allow for a casual, fun place for students to commune.

Cafeteria

Kaplan Aspect Berkeley 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

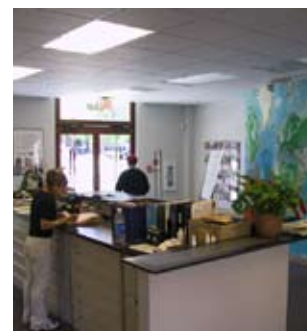
There are no gym facilities at Kaplan Aspect Berkeley, but students can join a local gym such as the YMCA or 24-hour fitness located nearby.

Activities/Social Programme

There is a wide choice of activities available to students in Berkeley. Kaplan Aspect Berkeley also provides 2 organised social activities per week. 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, Muir woods hiking, Yosemite camping, a visit to the Great America theme park, movies or going to watch an Oakland A's/Giants Baseball Game.



Kaplan Aspect classroom



Front reception

Your first day

On the first day of your course you need to report to Kaplan Aspect Berkeley at 10am. There will be a Welcome Breakfast for the students. 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:

- A welcome breakfast
- A fun speaking activity
- A placement test to determine the level of the course you require
- A break
- Presentation: Student Visa - policies and procedures
- Lunch and homestay/apartment information
- Berkeley Tour
- Presentation: Student Activities

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 Aspect's health insurance)
- Photocopies of passport/I-94 Immigration

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 is a Wells Fargo, Bank of America, and a Washington Mutual all within one-block of the Kaplan Aspect school. The post office is a 5-minute walk away on Shattuck Avenue.

Department stores and supermarkets

There are several department stores within walking distance including Ross, Best Buy (electronics), Bancroft clothing, not to mention the many in the San Francisco area.

Berkeley is world renown 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 school.

Berkeley is a lively marketplace with an atmosphere wonderfully conducive to the art of shopping. Here, shopping is not a passive, enclosed-mall experience - instead it's an interactive, outdoor-oriented activity where window-shopping and walking complement the excitement of discovery.

Telephone and Internet Café

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

Church / Mosque

There are several churches within walking distance of the school including Catholic and Protestant, and there are two mosques in nearby Oakland.

Cost of Living

Approximate prices in USD

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

Tickets:

Movie	\$6-10
Weekly MUNI pass	\$20

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)



Berkeley view



Fishermans wharf



Visit Alcatraz

Sample Activities Schedule

Please note that this is a sample programme and activities may change. Some activities are organised by the school and some activities are independent. See a current activities schedule at: www.kaplanaspect.com

Week one

Monday	Orientation
Wednesday	International Pot luck
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

The Team

Kaplan Aspect - Berkeley



International Programs Manager:

Paul Suhr

Paul is responsible for INS issues - any problems with immigration officials that may arise, including I-20 issues. He is also in charge of Attendance, Payments, and Housing. Paul is the person to speak about Activities.



Academic Coordinator:

Lisa Holsworth

Lisa is responsible for Classes, Academics, Activities, INS Issues. She is also responsible for both Attendance and Payments.



International Student Advisor:

Anita Vazifdar

Anita is in charge of INS Issues, Attendance, and Payments.



University Placement Advisor:

Amy Cameron

Amy assists students in choosing and applying to the American university or college of their choice.



International Student Guide:

Inwon Lee

Inwon is responsible for Housing, Activities, Payments, and Airport Transfer.

Course Information

Courses

- Vacation English
- General English
- Intensive English
- TOEFL iBT and Academic English
- iGMAT/iGRE
- General Academic Year
- Intensive Academic Year
- General Academic Semester
- Intensive Academic Semester

Services

- University Placement
- Internship

Transfer Information

Kaplan Aspect transfers

Our airport transfer service for both independent and agent students is Roger Kang, who picks students up at San Francisco International Airport or Oakland and has a badge (proof of ID).

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 Aspect School is a block away. The ride time is approximately 40-45 minutes.



Front lobby

Valid from January 2008. Details may change. Published August 2007.