

Australia

UCEAP Advising Notes

Objective of the Advising Notes Document

This document is an advising tool written by a Berkeley Study Abroad adviser to review program specific details that may impact a student's *decision to apply* for an EAP program. The document is *not* a summary of eligibility requirements, academic, housing, application and other logistical details freely available to students on the [UCEAP](#) and [BSA](#) websites. The best source of detailed program information is always the [UCEAP Program Guide](#) from the prior academic cycle. If any concerns you have are not addressed on the UCEAP website, in the Program Guide or the Advising Notes document, please contact the BSA adviser for this program.

Applications 2019-20

Berkeley Study Abroad uses a portal called myapp.berkeley.edu (often referred to as "Slate") UCEAP applications. The portal opens in October, which is when you will be able to start an application to see specific requirements relevant to your program of interest. The link below will provide detailed information about preparing for submitting a UCEAP application.
<http://studyabroad.berkeley.edu/uceap-how-apply>

RESOURCES

Advisor Contact Information

For BSA Adviser name, email and drop-in advising hours, visit <http://studyabroad.berkeley.edu/advising>

EAP Alums & Reciprocal Exchange Students

EAP alumni are one of your best resources for information about the program. If you would like to be put in touch with alums, simply send the BSA Adviser an email with your list of questions and the contact information of returnees who have agreed to be contacted will be shared.

EAP Alum-Created Resources

Some of our returnees have created presentations to share with others. You can look at their work through the [Student Created Resource](#) Google folder that we will continually update.

Faculty Contact

UC Berkeley Plant Biology Professor [Russell L. Jones](#) was Director of the UC Study Center in Australia for two years, up until December 2008. As the former Study Center Director, Professor Jones is an excellent resource for information about everything from housing, to the Australian higher education system, to what feedback students have given about each university. He is an especially good source of information about doing research with faculty in Australia, something he strongly encouraged students to do while he was Study Center Director. You can email him your questions or request an appointment with him via email (rjones@nature.berkeley.edu).

PROGRAMS

AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITIES- FALL, SPRING, YEAR

Host Universities

UCEAP applicants can study at one of the following partner university campuses in Australia when they apply to the Australian Universities program. Other institutions (Univ. of Tasmania, Australia National University and Univ. of Queensland) are available as separate applications to those options with a specific study focus.

In the Australian Universities application, you will be asked to rank institutions in order of preference in your MyEAP application.

Partner Institutions

- University of Melbourne
- University of Sydney
- University of New South Wales (Sydney)
- University of Queensland (Brisbane)

Host University Preference and Placement

When applying to the Australia Universities program, you apply to an exchange network as opposed to a particular university. In your application, you are asked to rank the four of the Australian host universities in order of preference. Please be aware that space at your first choice host university is not guaranteed.

Whereas the decision to select you for the Australia Universities program is made by the campus EAP office (i.e. Berkeley Study Abroad), the decision to place you at a particular host university is made by the UCEAP Program Officer in Australia.

GPA Requirement

While the minimum GPA requirement for the UCEAP Australian Universities program is 2.85, University of Sydney and University of Queensland has a higher 3.0 GPA minimum that must be met at the time of application and maintained throughout the pre-departure period. If you do not meet the requirement, please list only the remaining host institutions as options. The 3.0 GPA requirement for University of Queensland is specific to those applying for the UCEAP Australian Universities program. Those who are considering the Marine Biology & Terrestrial Ecology program in the fall at the University of Queensland may apply with a 2.85 or above GPA.

What are my chances of being placed at my first choice of host university?

The good news is that in the past, the majority of students have been placed at their first or second choice host universities. The placement decisions made by the UCEAP Resident Director in Australia are primarily based on academic fit. Additional information on the factors that can play a role are:

- **Academic fit:** because your academic focus is the main criterion host university placement decisions are based on, it's important that you think about whether the host universities you are interested in are a good academic match for you.
- **Non-academic concerns:** geographical preference, relatives who live in a certain city, employment opportunities, etc. are also taken into consideration, but to a lesser extent.
- **Popularity of host university:** roughly half of the applicants to the program rank the University of Sydney, University of New South Wales, University of Queensland or the University of Melbourne as their first or second choice. It is recommended that you seriously consider all of the universities available and we encourage you to take the time to research all of your options before applying for the program.

If placement at any institution other than your first choice host university is not acceptable to you, you can consider an [independent study abroad](#) programs or look into applying directly to the university.

Selection Timeline and Terminology

Selection into the Australian Universities program happens at the campus level. Your application is then forwarded to UCEAP and Australia for further review. The Resident Director in Australia will select your

application for “referral” to a specific host university. The UCEAP office will then notify you via email to check your “referral” status on MyEAP. After students complete all necessary predeparture paperwork and procedures, their status will be changed to “placed.” In almost all instances, your “referral” equals your “placement.”

UCEAP provides a guide about what to expect after your application has been referred. Please review the information below for a preview of additional information you will need to submit about 3 months after the initial application period.

http://eap.ucop.edu/Documents/_forms/1819/Australia/application/auapplication_materials_18-19.pdf

Academics

- **Flexibility is important.** Keep in mind that the courses you find in the EAP Course Catalog or on the host university’s web site may not be offered the semester(s) you will be abroad. Often times you will not have concrete information about what courses will be offered until a couple months before departure or even until upon arrival in Australia. Be prepared for the possibility that you will have to modify your plans.
- **How many courses/units will I take?** Students are required to take a minimum of 16 (semester) units each semester. The usual course load is about four classes per semester, but this can vary by university and the specific courses selected.
- **Do Australian universities have “Fall” and “Spring” semesters?** When researching courses on the host university web sites, be aware that “Semester 1” is the equivalent of Berkeley’s Spring semester and “Semester 2” is equivalent to Fall.
- **Which courses will transfer as upper/lower division?** First year Australian courses are considered lower-division by UC, while second and third year courses will translate as upper-division. Third year courses can be considered similar to first-year graduate coursework in the US.

Use the following Glossary of Academic Terms to make your course search on the host university web sites easier.

In the U.S....	In Australia...
Major	Course
School / College (e.g., School of Engineering)	Faculty
Course (e.g., History 40a)	Unit / topic / subject / class
Professor / Faculty	Member Academic Staff, Lecturer
Grades	Marks
College / School/University	Uni

Cost of the Australian Visa

Before departure you will receive instructions from UCEAP on how to apply for your student visa. The Australian visa is expensive. At the time of writing, the visa application fee is \$560 Australian dollars (AUD). You can pay this fee by credit card (and since you will apply for your visa online, this is also the easiest way to pay the application fee).

MARINE BIOLOGY & TERRESTRIAL ECOLOGY, UNIV. OF QUEENSLAND- FALL

Course Articulation

Courses on this program have been articulated by the Integrative Biology department for satisfying certain requirements in the major.

Integrative Biology: Biol 106 Human & Terrestrial Ecology, 5.3 units counts towards Group B & Field Lab. Biol 160 Marine Biology, 8.7 units counts towards Group B & Field Lab. Please check site for latest information

Course Prerequisites

While there are no course prerequisites for the program, students should have basic knowledge in biology. Additional coursework in biological sciences, ecology, statistics, lab experience and scientific writing is recommended and will be taken into consideration during selection, especially if the program becomes impacted. Students without knowledge in these areas may not be considered for selection. Please speak with the BSA Adviser if you have any concerns.

Curriculum

Students only take two classes worth 14 units on this program. If you wish for more course flexibility, we recommend considering the Australian Universities option. The program culminates with an independent research project and research symposium.

Special Demands of the Program

Many days of the MBTE program are spent on field trips, which include long, often strenuous, hikes. Students should be prepared for the physical challenges of the program.

NEW! INTERNATIONAL SECURITY, AUSTRALIA NATIONAL UNIV. - FALL, SPRING

Please see the UCEAP page for the most up-to-date information on this new option.

NEW! SUSTAINABILITY, UNIV. OF TASMANIA - FALL, SPRING, YEAR

Please see the UCEAP page for the most up-to-date information on this new option.

NEW! SUMMER PHYSICS, UNIV. OF SYDNEY-SUMMER

For Advising Notes about the New Summer Physics program at the Univ. of Sydney, please go to the Physics Advising Notes by going to the link below.

<https://myapp.berkeley.edu/uceap/advisingnotes/physics.pdf>

MULTISITE: PACIFIC ISLAND ENVIRONMENTAL & COMMUNITY HEALTH, AUSTRALIA & SOLOMON ISLANDS- SPRING

For Advising Notes about the Multisite Australia & Solomon Islands PIECH program, please go to the specific page for this program.

https://myapp.berkeley.edu/uceap/advisingnotes/multisite_australia_si.pdf