Australia
UCEAP Advising Notes

COVID-19 Note
The COVID-19 pandemic continues to present challenges related to health concerns and international travel. UCEAP has been updating their website’s Coronavirus Notice with up-to-date information on program cancellations for the 2021-2022 cycle. Please note that certain programs listed in this Advising Notes document have been cancelled for the 2021-2022 cycle. All other programs listed are scheduled to proceed at this time, and UCEAP will inform campus offices if there are any updates.

The programs that have been cancelled are:
- University of Queensland, fall 2021 (this is separate from the Marine Biology Terrestrial Ecology program hosted at the same university)

Updated Nov. 2020

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 a UCEAP 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. If any concerns you have are not addressed on the UCEAP website or in the Advising Notes document, please contact the BSA adviser for this program.

RESOURCES

Advisor Contact Information
For BSA Adviser name, email and advising availability, 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, between 2006 and 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

Host Universities
UCEAP applicants can study at one of many prestigious partner universities in Australia. Some host universities like ANU, Univ. of Tasmania and one of the programs at the University of Queensland have a special academic focus.

- International Security @ Australia National University (Canberra)
- Marine Biology & Terrestrial Ecology @ University of Queensland (Brisbane)
- Sustainability Studies @ University of Tasmania (Hobart)
- University of Melbourne
- University of New South Wales (Sydney)
- University of Queensland (Brisbane)
- University of Sydney
- Multisite Australia & Solomon Islands: Pacific Islands Environmental and Community Health

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

You may notice that select programs appear on the UCEAP website (Sydney Summer Physics and UNSW fall quarter) but are not discussed in the Australia Advising Notes because those options are not suitable for and not available to UC Berkeley students.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Host University</th>
<th>Academic Focus</th>
<th>Term(s) Offered*</th>
<th>GPA Requirement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australia National University-International Security</td>
<td>International Security</td>
<td>Fall or Spring</td>
<td>2.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Melbourne</td>
<td>broad</td>
<td>Fall, Spring, or Calendar Year</td>
<td>2.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of New South Wales</td>
<td>broad</td>
<td>Spring (Jan-May)</td>
<td>2.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Queensland</td>
<td>broad</td>
<td>Fall, Spring, or Calendar Year</td>
<td>3.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Queensland- Marine Biology &amp; Terrestrial Ecology</td>
<td>Marine Biology &amp; Terrestrial Ecology with fixed coursework</td>
<td>Fall</td>
<td>2.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Sydney</td>
<td>broad</td>
<td>Fall, Spring, or Calendar Year</td>
<td>2.85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Tasmania- Sustainability Studies</td>
<td>Sustainability Studies</td>
<td>Fall or Spring</td>
<td>2.85</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
*Calendar*
Semester 1 runs from February to late June
Semester 2 runs from July to November

What are my chances being selected to the host university I apply to?
If the student is fully qualified, submit a complete and thoughtful application by the deadline, their chances for being selected into their UCEAP program of choice is very likely.

How do I choose between host institutions?
Choosing between the host universities in Australia will require some research. You will first want to determine what your priorities and academic focus are.
All host institutions that are listed as having a broad academic focus on the chart have a range of disciplines and academic, co-curricular and extra-curricular opportunities to choose from. Like the research you conducted when applying to the UC system, each university will also differ in size, location and campus culture.

We recommend that you carefully consider the following aspects of your host institution.

- **Academic fit**: It is important that you think about whether the host university you are interested in are a good match for your academic interests. Some programs offer a set list of classes that all students take, while others offer a narrower range or focus. The remaining programs offer a wide array of courses to choose from every term.
  
  Select host universities may have course restrictions for exchange students, so please examine those carefully choosing a university.

- **Special Opportunities**: internships, student groups, leadership programs may be unique to specific institutions

- **Non-academic concerns**: geographical preference, weather, relatives who live in a certain city, employment opportunities, etc.

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>In the U.S.…</th>
<th>In Australia…</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Major</td>
<td>Course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School / College (e.g., School of Engineering)</td>
<td>Faculty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course (e.g., History 40a)</td>
<td>Unit / topic / subject / class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professor / Faculty</td>
<td>Member Academic Staff, Lecturer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 $620 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).

Nomination Timeline and Terminology
The UCEAP application goes through multiple steps. Students are “nominated” for the program by campus. The application is also reviewed by UCEAP systemwide office in Goleta, CA and then at our UC Student Center in Melbourne, Australia before they are forwarded and “referred” to the respective host institution Australia. After students complete all necessary predeparture paperwork and procedures, their status will be changed to “placed.”

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.


Course Prerequisites
While there are no course prerequisites for the program, students are expected 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 capacity constrained. Students without knowledge in these areas may not be considered for selection. Please speak with the BSA Adviser if you have any concerns.

Space Limitations
This program is a capacity constrained option. For the fall 2021 program, Berkeley has been granted 8 spaces. It is possible that more qualified and appropriate students can be accommodated if other UC campuses do not fill all their allotted spots.

In the past years, we have been able to accommodate all qualified applicants, however you may be able to obtain permission to apply to a back-up choice.

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.

Physical and Special Demands of the Program
Field activities are a major component of the program and they are physically demanding. Students must be prepared to participate in extensive and long-distance walks over extremely rough and sometimes remote terrain.

Living with a host family is an essential component of the program while away from research stations. Students need to be flexible and tolerant to adjust to living with a host family. In addition, they should be prepared for a daily commute of one or more hours to the university on days when not in the field (approximately 25 days of the program).
Swimming Requirement: Participants must successfully demonstrate basic swimming ability and reasonable confidence in the water. Basic Swimming Skills include:

1. Ability to time breaths while swimming
2. Back motionless floating
3. Gliding through water
4. Coordination
5. Breaststroke
6. Diving

In the first week of the program students will be tested on swimming proficiency. Participants must be able to complete a swimming test consisting of, at minimum: 10 minutes of continuous swimming, demonstrating at least two strokes 1 minute of treading water 1 minute of motionless floating.

While program staff will be present during in-water activities to supervise snorkeling and demonstrate data collection techniques, they are neither able nor qualified to devote time to teaching individual students to swim. The program cannot accommodate any changes in the curriculum and/or credit-bearing activities for students who cannot swim.