

Australia

UCEAP Advising Notes

Update: University of Sydney is at capacity for spring 25. Applications are closed.

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.

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PROGRAM SUMMARY

	Fall	Spring
Themed		
International Security	X	X
Marine Biology & Terrestrial Ecology	X	X
Pacific Islands Environments & Community Health		X
Immersion		
University of Melbourne	X	X
University of New South Wales	X	X
University of Queensland	X	X
University of Sydney	X	X

You may notice that select programs appear on the UCEAP website (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.

RESOURCES

Advisor Contact Information

The Berkeley Study Abroad Adviser for this program is Renée Camarena. To schedule an appointment, click [here](#).

UCEAP Alums & Reciprocal Exchange Students

UCEAP 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.

UCEAP 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.

PROGRAMS

Immersion Programs at Univ. of Melbourne, Sydney, UNSW, Queensland, Australia National Univ.

Calendar

Immersion Programs at Univ. of Melbourne, Sydney, UNSW, Queensland, Australia National Univ.

Semester 1 (UC spring) runs from February to late June. UNSW runs from January to mid-May.
Semester 2 (UC fall) runs from July to November

Marine Biology & Terrestrial Ecology

Fall runs from mid-August to mid-November
Spring semester runs from late March to mid-June

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 what academic coursework you would like to have access to.

All host institutions that are listed as an immersion program in the Program Summary above have a range of disciplines and academic, co-curricular and extra-curricular opportunities to choose from. Programs listed as a Themed have a more defined list of classes and narrower area of academic focus. Like the research you conducted when applying to the UC system, each university will also differ in size, location and campus culture.

UCEAP has an [Australian Universities Comparison Chart](#) on the programs' Academic pages to help you differentiate between program options.

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 UCEAP 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

UNSW Space Limitations

The UNSW spring program has a capacity limitation of 10 spaces for the UC system. Qualified students who apply for the program will be nominated on a first-come, first-served basis. It’s recommended that students complete the UCEAP application first, then complete the Berkeley Study Abroad application.

Internship Opportunities

The following host institutions offer internship opportunities through enrollment in a course. See course links for more information.

University of Melbourne:

- Arts Internship ([MULT20010](#) or [MULT30019](#))
- Community Volunteering ([MULT20012](#) or [MULT30020](#))
- [Science and Technology Internship \(SCIE30002\)](#)

University of Sydney:

- [ARTS2600](#)

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 \$425 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 the Integrative Biology website for the latest information.

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 we receive more applications than we have spaces. Students without knowledge in these areas may not be considered for selection. Please speak with the BSA Adviser if you have any concerns.

Limited Capacity

The Marine Biology and Terrestrial Ecology for **fall/spring** has a capacity limitation. Qualified students who apply for the program will be nominated on a first-come, first-served basis based on their UCEAP application submission date/time. It's recommended that students complete the UCEAP application first, then complete the Berkeley Study Abroad application.

Curriculum

Students only take two classes worth 14 units on this program. If you wish for more course flexibility, we recommend considering other Australian immersion programs where you are directly enrolled in host university classes.

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.

The housing arrangements change during different periods of the program. Students may be staying in tents or research stations while out in the field or they may be living with a host family during the regular coursework portion. 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.