

Barbados

UCEAP Advising Notes

Objective

This document is an advising tool written by a Berkeley Study Abroad (BSA) 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 the Advising Notes document, please contact the BSA Adviser for this program.

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[Study Abroad in Barbados | UCEAP](#)



[Barbados Study Abroad in 120 Seconds](#)



[Study Abroad in Barbados, Canada and Oceania | UCEAP](#)

University of the West Indies (Fall, Spring, Year)

Enrolling in Classes

Upon completion of the on-site orientation (held after arrival), you will finalize your study plans and register for classes. Although you are assigned to one faculty, you can select courses from any faculty at UWI if you meet the course prerequisites.

Flexibility and Independence

Prepare yourself for the challenges of life in a Caribbean country and learn to be flexible as you adjust to academic conditions different from those found at UC. A few UCEAP participants have considered UWI to be disorganized compared to UC. UWI has suffered from the funding issues that have plagued other universities in the region. As a result of scarce financial resources, some instructors hold down multiple jobs, some outside UWI, and these outside commitments may lead to evening classes or faculty absenteeism.

While studying at UWI, you can expect to work more independently than you may previously have been accustomed to at UC. There is rarely immediate accountability for the material presented in lectures as students typically demonstrate their mastery of material in exams at the end of the term. With fewer or no regular tests and assignments other than papers to provide feedback, you may not know where you stand academically until completion of final exams at the end of the semester.

The advantage of such a system is you can set the agenda of your own education and tailor it to your interests. Students who generally succeed in UWI classes are those who keep up with their work, seek immediate help balancing their workload if they start to fall behind, and go beyond the required readings to explore suggested resources.

Housing



[On Campus Housing Tour](#)

You can choose to live in a UWI residence hall or seek accommodation off-campus in private apartments or shared rental houses. Living on campus is strongly recommended. Whether living on or off campus, you must make your own arrangements and payments for housing. Review [UWI Cave Hill Campus' Accommodation website](#) for details about the Residence Halls, Off-Campus Housing, and more. One aspect of "island life" is that produce and other groceries as well as restaurants are much more expensive than you might expect them to be, coming from California.

Students with Disabilities

You may find accessibility and accommodation very different from what you experience in the US. Sidewalks, if present, are uneven, and most lack ramps at intersections. Pedestrian crossings are infrequent. Many restaurants, hotels, and residential buildings have stairs at the entrance without wheelchair ramps. Major hotels and retail areas may be more accessible. Buses and taxis are not accessible.

Review how to request disability-related accommodations on the [I am a Student with a Disability page](#).

LGBTQIA+ Students

Threat to safety as a member of the LGBTQIA+ community is high. Societal tolerance ranges from highly intolerant to intolerant. The law criminalizes consensual same-sex sexual activity between adults and does not prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation. While stigma against LGBTQIA+ individuals continues to exist, the overall threat trend is improving. Exercise caution.

Review [tips and resources for LGBTQIA+ Identifying Students](#).

Working Abroad

Under the Barbados student visa laws, students are not permitted to work.

Resources

UC Berkeley Alum Slidedeck

[View a slideshow](#) created by a UC Berkeley alum who participated in the University of the West Indies program that includes info on classes, public transportation, housing, nightlife, weather, packing, and travel tips.

Readings & Recommended Coursework

Being informed about the history and current affairs of Barbados and the Caribbean can lead to a more fulfilling study abroad experience. Coursework in Caribbean, African American or Development Studies by the time of departure is strongly recommended. Such classes will allow you to become familiar with the context in which Bajan issues are discussed and will help you to understand the unique relationships that Caribbean nations have with the rest of the world.

Please see the [UC Berkeley Library guide](#) on readings and resources.