Belgium
UCEAP Advising Notes

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. The program described in this Advising Notes document is scheduled to proceed at this time, and UCEAP will inform campus offices if there are any updates.

Last 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 website. 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.

Advisor Contact Information
For BSA Adviser name, email and drop-in advising hours, visit our website.

Field Research & Internship, Brussels is a relatively new program for UCEAP but has been in existence for many years on its own. Students need fluency in French language and must have taken 5 semesters of college-level French (French 1-4 at Berkeley or the equivalent plus one upper-division course).

The program will provide five weeks of intensive coursework followed by a 12 week long internship that provides hands-on experience in the field. All participants also write a research paper in French during the latter part of the program. The internship and research projects may or may not be related. You can find more information about the program on the Institute for Field Education (IFE) website.

Instruction is in French and courses are set by the program. Only students from US universities are enrolled in the courses. Courses are listed on the website and cover the sociology, history and cultures of Belgium and an introduction to Dutch language.

Brussels is the center of government for the European Union. According to the IFE Brussels brochure the city “teems with activists and advocates for agendas from healthcare access to urban farming.” Internships offer the opportunity to work on issues impacting modern Europe. Here is a slideshow of photos from a UC Berkeley student’s fall 2019 experiences in the program.

Internship placements vary based on student interest and skill-set. Please note the research and internship program is offered in three locations: Brussels, Paris, and Strasbourg. Although you will apply initially to one of these locations through UCEAP, in your application to the internship provider you will rank two locations in order of preference. You will be assigned to one of these two choices based on the best internship placement for you.