Belgium
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 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.

COVID-19 Information

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. Please check this website for the most up to date information about which programs are running in the 2022-23 academic year.

Table of Contents

- Media
- Language Requirement
- Academics
- Internships
- Life in Brussels
Media

UC Berkeley Alumna’s Fall 2019 Semester in Belgium. View full slideshow

Language Requirement

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). UCEAP honors the Berkeley French Department’s language placement guidelines. Students who do not have documentation of the background coursework or tests listed in these guidelines may request to take a French language placement test by emailing frendept@berkeley.edu.

Academics

The first five weeks of the program involve intensive coursework. 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 Institute for Field Education (IFE) website and cover the sociology, history and cultures of Belgium and an introduction to Dutch language. All participants write a
research paper in French during the latter part of the program. The internship and research projects may or may not be related.

Internships

Internship placements vary based on student interest and skill-set and are catered to each student, so there are no lists of internships available. Internships placements occur after students are admitted to the program and students will meet with an IFE representative during this process to learn more. 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.

Life in Brussels

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.