

Botswana

UCEAP Advising Notes

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.

Adviser Contact Information

The Berkeley Study Abroad Adviser for this program is Michelle Ayazi (mayazi@berkeley.edu). Please feel free to email Michelle with any questions and/or concerns you have about the program or your participation. You can make an advising appointment with Michelle [here](#).

The **UCEAP Community Public Health, Gaborone** program is administered on-site by the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE) and takes place at the University of Botswana and the CIEE Study Center in Gaborone. For the most complete information, we recommend that you study the UCEAP and CIEE program pages together:

[Visit the UCEAP Community Public Health, Gaborone program page](#)

[Visit the CIEE Community Public Health program page](#)

As a UCEAP participant, you should be referring to the UCEAP Community Public Health, Gaborone program page for eligibility, academic and financial information.

Fall Semester Program

The UCEAP Community Public Health, Gaborone program is only available in the FALL semester.

Exclusivity Clause

UC students are only allowed to participate in this program via UCEAP. UC students cannot apply to this program independently.

Application Process

All UCEAP students must initiate their application through the Berkeley Study Abroad Portal to be considered for UCEAP participation: <http://studyabroad.berkeley.edu/uceap-how-apply>. Please take care to follow the provided instructions!

Competitiveness of the Program

Students who meet and maintain the minimum eligibility requirements and submit a complete and well-prepared application with an articulate Statement of Purpose by the Berkeley Study Abroad application deadline will have a very good chance of being selected.

University of Botswana

Students often notice striking differences between their home educational system and that of the University of Botswana. The University's academic environment is part of the challenge of studying abroad in Botswana. Following the British model of education, this system offers a less structured environment that requires students to take greater responsibility and initiative. Professors expect a great deal of individual study.

Learning by rote is the model most often used in classes. This entails professors reading from notes or books, with the expectation that students copy word for word their recitation. Most University classes are very large, thus making classroom interaction with the professor very rare. For example, lectures may involve as many as 100 students, while tutorials and seminars have smaller class sizes, ranging from 15 to 25 students. The system is geared toward the serious student who is motivated and self-sufficient.

Students must be prepared to assume more responsibility and independence in completing readings, be assessed for a course through a single paper or exam, and be able to seek out assistance from instructors and Botswana students.

Students interested in taking courses alongside Botswana students should note that courses with topics on Africa and Botswana are generally more popular with international students than Botswana. Although not required, students may wish to consider a formal language course in one of the official Botswana languages (e.g. Setswana).

Housing

Most students live in residence halls on the University of Botswana campus. Students typically share double rooms with local undergraduate students. Restrooms and shower facilities are shared. A limited number of study abroad homestays are also available. Students are placed with carefully selected families in the greater Gaborone area.

For students living on campus in the University residence hall, meals are not included in the program fee (except during the one-week rural family stay) and are the responsibility of the student. Students eat at two dining halls on campus and can purchase a meal plan or purchase individual meals. Additional meals can be purchased at local restaurants and cafés. Students living with homestay families receive two meals per day and should budget for daily lunches.

Passport and Visas (Entry Clearance)

Your passport must be valid for at least 6 months after your projected return from abroad. If you do not currently have a valid passport, apply immediately. It will be due to CIEE on April 1.

US citizens do not require a student visa for Botswana. Students must bring a copy of their birth certificate with them to Botswana as it will be needed to apply for a residence permit on site. Although U.S. citizens are not required to have a visa while in Botswana, it is likely that they will need a visa to visit bordering African nations. Non-U.S. citizens should contact the nearest Botswana embassy to inquire about visa requirements for their citizenship.

Scholarships

CIEE offers scholarships and grants based on merit and financial need. Students will have access to the CIEE online scholarship application once they begin their CIEE online application.

All UCEAP students are encouraged to apply for a UCEAP Scholarship, which offers a \$2000 award for semester programs. For more information, visit the [UCEAP Scholarships](#) page.

US Citizen Pell Grant recipients are encouraged to apply for the Gilman Scholarship, which offers a possible award of up to \$5000. For more information, visit gilmanscholarship.org

More information on financial aid and scholarships can be found on our website: <https://studyabroad.berkeley.edu/finances>

Financial aid students can request a financial aid estimate for the program here: <https://studyabroad.berkeley.edu/finances/financial-aid-advising>

Special Demands of the Program

Health and safety remain primary issues of concern for study in Botswana, particularly crime/security, motor traffic, and HIV. Students must be prepared to follow all safety and security regulations and guidelines established by UCEAP, the partner institution, and the U.S. Department of State. Students should review the [US Department of State Botswana country page](#) as well as the UCEAP and CIEE Program Guides to familiarize themselves with risks associated with visiting Botswana. Students should also familiarize themselves with the role of race, gender, sexuality, and religion while studying in Botswana, and develop appropriate expectations according to personal backgrounds and self-identification.