

# China

## 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 an EAP 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, and reviewed by a student in the Program Self-Assessment. The best source of detailed program information is always the [UCEAP Program Guide](#) from the prior academic cycle. If any concerns you have are not addressed on the UCEAP website, in the Program Guide 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 <http://studyabroad.berkeley.edu/advising>

### Newer UCEAP China programs

The *Summer Global Internship, Shanghai* program was offered for the first time last cycle. This program allows students to intern in one of a variety of fields in China. The UCEAP Global Summer Internship program is different than Berkeley Global Internships, although the programs are very similar. Please note that Global Internships does not offer a program in China. If you are unsure about which program to apply to, feel free to reach out to the UCEAP adviser for select Summer Global Internship programs (Marie Bartz) or the Global Internships coordinator (Breanne Tcheng). Contact information is available in our [advising schedule](#).

### See what EAP Alumni Say About Studying Abroad in China

A UC Berkeley student on the Global Studies, China program hosted by Fudan University in Fall 2013 blogged about her experience in China! Check it out [here](#).

Watch videos created by UCEAP students in [Beijing](#) and [Shanghai](#).

### Citizenship and Passport Considerations

*Tsinghua University* will not accept students who only have a PRC, Hong Kong, Macau or Taiwan citizenship. Dual passport holders may apply. This applies to the Spring [Tsinghua University](#) program.

*Peking University* will not accept students who have only PRC, Hong Kong, Macau or Taiwan citizenship. Dual passport holders may apply. This applies to the Summer/Fall [Chinese in Beijing](#) and the Spring/Year [Peking University](#) programs.

*Fudan University* accepts students with PRC, Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan citizenship; however, those students cannot stay in university dormitories and should be prepared to live off campus. Assistance with these arrangements will be provided. Students with Hong Kong, Macau, or Taiwan passports must obtain “home visit permits” to enter China and do not need to apply for a visa. Dual passport holders should apply to Fudan University programs with their US passport. This applies to the Spring [Fudan University](#), the Fall [Global Studies, China](#), and the [Shanghai Summer](#) programs.

**For all EAP China programs**, students cannot be accepted to a Chinese university without a valid passport at the time of application to the program. A passport is *not valid* if it expires within six months of the projected end of the EAP program. US permanent residence and a green card are not sufficient documentation for admittance to a Chinese university and do not substitute for a passport. Stateless or refugee citizens cannot apply to EAP China programs. If you do not have a passport or need a renewal, apply immediately to make the EAP application deadline.

Students who are in the process of applying for US citizenship or making any legal name changes are not eligible to apply unless the changes will be completed before application to the EAP program.

Chinese universities do not allow UC students to live in Chinese student dormitories.

## Preparing for your program in China

It is highly recommended that all students intending to study abroad in China complete a course at Berkeley related to Chinese culture or history prior to departure.

## Scholarship Opportunities

Students with US citizenship may be nominated for the Credit Student Scholarship for China-US Humanities Exchange at *Tsinghua University*. Students can receive up to 2500 RMB per month. Awardees will need to open a local account at Chinese bank after they arrive and the money will be transferred to their account directly.

Host university and government scholarships have been offered in recent terms for programs hosted by the following institutions: *Fudan University*, *Peking University*, *Tsinghua University*. Information about these scholarships is typically shared on your UCEAP Pre-Departure Checklist, after program selection.

## Academic Considerations for Summer Programs

Courses on the *Chinese in Beijing* program may not be taken P/NP, and there is no option to reduce the number of units a course is worth. Students must take 2 courses worth 5 semester units each, for total of 10 semester units. This program offers beginning to advanced Chinese language coursework, and students may earn up to one year of language study.

Students on the *Shanghai Summer* program can take content courses related to Chinese history, culture, politics, business, and economics, international and intercultural studies, and Chinese language. To be eligible for summer financial aid, students must enroll in three courses worth 2.7 semester units each. Three courses are possible only if you take a Chinese language course (two content courses + one Chinese language course).

## Academic Considerations, Semester & Year Programs

### Fudan University & Global Studies, China

*Fudan University* offers semester programs with coursework taught in English. Some of the curriculum of the Fall *Global Studies, China* program is taught jointly by UC and Fudan faculty, while the Spring *Fudan University* curriculum is taught entirely by Fudan faculty. The focus of the Fall program is “Global Studies” with interdisciplinary course work in Political Science, Economics, Business, History, Chinese Studies and more. Students must take two UCEAP program-specific courses and will choose two or three other courses, depending on the number of units of each course. The Spring program offers a majority of courses in Business, Economics, Journalism, Communications, and Media & Communications. On both the Fall and Spring programs, students are highly encouraged to enroll in a Chinese language class, but it is not mandatory to do so. Students with advanced Chinese skills may also be able to enroll in regular university coursework in Chinese after arrival at Fudan (permission of the instructor is required for enrollment).

All students applying to *Fudan University* are advised that *confirmed* course information is announced very close to departure for the program (mid to late July for the Fall program and mid-January for the Spring program). Students will conduct academic planning with their major advisers based on the prior year’s course offerings during the semester prior to departure for the program, but they need to be prepared to communicate via email with their advisers and reconfirm their course choices (and the implication on making progress toward their major) once coursework is announced.

All courses at *Fudan University* are subject to a strict grading curve. University policy mandates that only 30% of students in a course can receive an A or A-, regardless of class size. Historically the grades for Berkeley students have been very good, but inevitably there are students who receive a B or B+ who feel their actual performance warranted a better grade. Grades are not negotiable, so students will need to work hard for their A’s given the competition with the curve.

### Peking University & China in Beijing

The Fall *Chinese in Beijing* program focuses on language and culture courses only. Beginning to advanced Chinese language study is available with limited coursework taught in English. Coursework taught in Chinese is not an option. The Spring and Year programs are primarily for language training, with regular university coursework available to students on the Spring and Year programs with native or near-native language ability. A successful EAP applicant to the Year *Peking University* program will be serious about their studies, have a strong language background, and have personal attributes that will enable them to thrive in a bureaucratic institution with little hand-holding. The list of courses available in English will not be available until arrival in China, and selection varies from year-to-year (see exceptions below). In prior terms, the courses in English have focused on Chinese society & culture, politics, economics, or international relations. Courses taught in English in the area of Chinese Studies will be offered through the [On China Series](#) and the [Yenching Academy](#) at *Peking University*.

Fall *Chinese in Beijing* and Spring/Year *Peking University* participants without a strong background in Chinese (3 or more years of university-level Chinese) are unlikely to have access to courses outside of Chinese language instruction (with the exception of the On China Series and Yenching Academy at *Peking University*). This is because students without sufficient language background will find it difficult to follow lectures and complete assignments in Chinese. Students who wish to take regular university courses (all of which are taught in Chinese) must pass a language test administered upon arrival at the host university.

### Tsinghua University

The Spring *Tsinghua University* program has no language prerequisite and primarily offers coursework taught in English in the fields of Economics, Business, and Engineering. Additionally, students will have access to Chinese language instruction. Students with advanced Chinese skills may also be able to enroll in regular university coursework in Chinese after arrival at *Tsinghua University* (permission of the instructor is required for enrollment).

## Housing Options for UCEAP Programs in China

The information below provides a brief description of housing options for each program:

- **Fudan University** (Spring *Fudan University*, Fall *Global Studies, China*, and *Shanghai Summer*): Students live with UC and international students in a foreign student dorm on campus or in a shared apartment near the Fudan University campus.
- **Peking University** (Summer/Fall *Chinese in Beijing* and Spring/Year *Peking University*): Students live with UC and international students in a foreign student dorm next to the Peking University campus; students may apply for a homestay with a local Chinese family (Summer) or off-campus (Fall, Spring, Year) with approval from the UC Study Center.
- **Tsinghua University**: Students live with UC or international students in a single or shared room on campus in a foreign student dorm; students may live off-campus with UC Study Center approval
- **Summer Global Internship, Shanghai**: Students live with another UC student or with a local Chinese Student in a form hosted by East China Normal University; Students may also stay with a Chinese host family.

## Calendar Considerations

*For all EAP China programs*, do not make plans to be out of the country between the end of the semester at Berkeley and the start of your EAP program in China. Students will not be able to apply for a visa without an official acceptance letter from the host university in China; these are not issued until 3 to 5 weeks prior to departure for EAP. You will not be able to enter China without a visa. Contact the BSA Adviser for China if you have already made plans to be outside of the country after the end of your term at Berkeley and the beginning of your term in China to see if the visa processing timeline will be possible for you.

The spring semester in China (for students on Year or Spring programs) ends in late-June to early-July depending on the program. Students are not permitted to depart China earlier than the date listed on the EAP program calendar.

*Fudan University* has historically been unable to *confirm* program arrival and departure dates for the Fall Global Studies, China program until late May or early June. Confirmed program dates for the Spring Fudan University program are typically announced in late November or early December. Students should not purchase a plane ticket until program dates are confirmed, which means students on these programs buy their plane ticket relatively close to departure. Students who buy plane tickets before program dates are confirmed run the risk of having to pay costly airline change fees if they guess incorrectly on the arrival dates. Students cannot arrive after the official EAP arrival date for an EAP program.

## Internships and Volunteering

Internships are possible for students on semester or year-long program options in Beijing and Shanghai. The EAP Study Centers in Beijing and Shanghai maintain lists of internships held by prior program participants and you will find this information on the Internship tab of the UCEAP program pages. All internships are unpaid (due to visa restrictions) and are arranged after arrival. Students on summer programs (aside from *Summer Global Internship, Shanghai*) should not anticipate having enough time to pursue an internship.

## Letters of Recommendation

Letters of Recommendation are not currently required at the time of application for EAP China programs. However, two letters of recommendation are required **after selection** to *Peking University* Programs during the school year. This applies to the Fall *Chinese in Beijing* and the Spring/Year *Peking University* programs. The letters are sometimes requested with little turnaround time, so you may find it easier to make arrangements for your letters of recommendation in advance of when you will be asked for them. Letters must be from UC Berkeley faculty or GSIs and printed on official UC letterhead. The letter can be addressed to the host university (ex. Dear Peking University Admissions Committee) and enclosed in a signed and sealed envelope.

## Mental Healthcare in China

The prevalence of mental illness is rising in China, but treatment facilities remain underdeveloped. China's mental health care trails behind many countries around the world. There is lack of trained mental health professionals, low investment in mental health, high stigma among the population, and lack of an effective public mental health systems of care. Official policy does not permit primary health care professionals to independently diagnose and treat mental disorders within the primary care system. There is a reluctance to address mental illness and psychiatry due to the limited extent to which health care professionals and public health officials are involved with the issue. The country's public health system is struggling to keep up with the demand in mental health care. In most regions of China, few good options exist even for local families that try to find professional help. China's mental health hospitals are too few and grossly understaffed. China has a severe undersupply of trained mental health staff. Students with pre-existing conditions will need a treatment plan in place indicating when and to whom they will be reaching out for help. Please discuss a treatment plan with your mental health provider if you will need to seek mental healthcare while abroad.

## Air Quality

While many students have reported that the pollution in Beijing and Shanghai are is not as bad as is often reported, air quality is often poor. The UCEAP Study Center monitors the air quality regularly and provides resources and information for students in country, but students with respiratory issues (such as asthma) may want to discuss with a health care provider how to prepare for time abroad in either city. If you wear contact lenses, you may need to take the prescription and a pair of glasses with you in case the heat or the city environment makes contacts uncomfortable.

## Considerations for LGBTIQ+ Students

China is included on UCEAP's list of destinations where extra caution is advised for LGBTIQ+ students. This list includes locations where (1) the rights of LGBTIQ+ persons are less definitive or (2) there are restrictions on the freedom of expression and association of LGBTIQ+ individuals. As in many countries, tolerance levels vary by region; major cities may be more accepting of the LGBTIQ+ community than rural areas. You can review the [Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2018](#) from the U.S. Department of State for more information.

Urban Chinese tend to be accepting of homosexuality, but in deeply conservative rural areas, homosexuality is neither discussed nor socially accepted. The result is a complex risk environment that has few clear social guidelines but little overt threat of violence or abuse.

According to the United Nations Development Program UNDP report, discrimination against LGBTIQ+ people is still rampant in China, where many people hold negative attitudes toward diversity of sexual orientation, particularly in schools and workplaces. Discrimination against openly gay people in Chinese workplaces is common, and there are no laws protecting LGBTIQ+ individuals.

In 2001, China removed homosexuality and bisexuality from the list of mental disorders and in 2012 changed its blood donation policy from banning homosexual donors to only "men who have sex with men" in line with international practice. Socially, homosexuality is seldom discussed. Large generational, educational, and societal gaps persist, with older generations tending to be less accepting toward same-sex relationships.

## Considerations for Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities will find accessibility and accommodation very different from what they find in the United States. Standards adopted for making roads and buildings accessible to persons with disabilities are subject to the Law on the Handicapped, which calls for their "gradual" implementation; however, compliance with the law is lax. Even in newer areas of large cities, sidewalks often do not have curb cuts, making wheelchair or stroller use difficult. Many large streets can be crossed only via overhead pedestrian bridges not accessible except by staircase. Although some sidewalks have special raised "buttons" or strips to help those who are blind or have restricted sight to follow the pavement, they are unreliable. While most public buildings have elevators, they are often locked, and a responsible official with the key must be located before they can be used. In major cities, public restrooms in places visited by tourists usually have a least one handicap-accessible toilet. International signage is used to identify handicap-accessible facilities. Free or reduced-entry fares on public transportation are sometimes provided for a handicapped person and a companion, although this is usually stated only in Chinese and is often restricted to residents with special identification cards.

## Considerations for Graduating Seniors

If you are a graduating senior who is applying to a year or spring semester program, please be advised that the finals period may stretch into June or July. Returning to Berkeley to walk in a commencement ceremony is an unrealistic expectation for year and spring participants. If walking in graduation is very important to you, we recommend that you apply to NUS in Singapore, as there is a better chance that program will end before commencement. As an alternative to walking in a spring ceremony, there is also a UC Berkeley "December Graduates Convocation" if you would like to have the experience of walking in graduation (not department-specific). Similarly, you can wait and walk in the following spring departmental ceremony.

Graduating seniors participating on a spring semesters program should ensure that they are on the Spring degree list. If they are not yet on this degree list, students should petition to move their graduation term with their UC Berkeley college. However, spring program grades are often not reported to UCEAP until mid-August, so your grades will not arrive in time for your degree to be processed with the spring degree list (which occurs in mid-July). You will be automatically removed from the spring degree list and placed onto the summer degree list, which is processed in October. Thus, your diploma would display a summer graduation date rather than a spring graduation date. *This policy is subject to change.* For all students, after your EAP grades arrive and you are waiting for the next degree list to be processed, you can request a "Certificate of Completion" from the Berkeley Registrar that can serve as "proof" of graduation.