

China

UCEAP Advising Notes

Objective

This document is an advising tool written by a Berkeley Study Abroad advisor 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. The best source of detailed program information are the [UCEAP webpages for China](#). If any concerns you have are not addressed on the UCEAP website or this Advising Notes document, please contact the [BSA Advisor](#) for this program.

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Quick Links

Below is a summary of the 2025-2026 UCEAP China programs available to Berkeley students:

	Summer 2025	Fall 2025	Year 2025-26	Spring 2026
Immersion				
Fudan University		X		X
Peking University			X	X
Tsinghua University				X
International				
Shanghai Summer	X			
Internship				
Summer Global Internship, Shanghai	X			
Language				
Chinese in Beijing (NOTE - See Program Considerations Summer section for details)	X			

Video & Blog Resources

There are a number of videos provided by UCEAP or UC Berkeley Students to help students learn about their study abroad options. Here are some you can check out:



[UCEAP Study Abroad Fair 2021](#)



[Study Abroad in Asia | UCEAP Open House](#)



[Study Abroad in Shanghai, China](#)



[Study Abroad in Beijing](#)



[Beijing Photo Story - Anna Lai](#)



[3-Minute Travel Guide: Beijing, China-Anna Lai](#)

Citizenship and Passport Considerations

For all UCEAP China programs, students cannot be accepted to a Chinese university without a valid passport. Your [UCEAP application](#) will state how long your passport must be valid after the end date of the program (typically 6 months after return) and when a photocopy of it will be due. U.S. permanent residence and a green card are not sufficient documentation for admittance to a Chinese university, and they do not substitute for a passport. Stateless or refugee citizens cannot apply to UCEAP China programs. If you do not have a passport or need a renewal, please review the Passport Information section of the [UCEAP How to Apply Page](#), and take action immediately.

Students who are in the process of applying for U.S. citizenship or making any legal name changes are **not** eligible to apply unless the changes will be completed **before** application to the UCEAP program. There are no exceptions to this.

Programs located in Beijing, which include Chinese in Beijing, Peking University, and Tsinghua University, will **not** accept students who *only* have PRC, Hong Kong, Macau, or Taiwan citizenship. There are no exceptions to this.

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. This applies to the Fudan University and Shanghai Summer programs.

Please note that China does not recognize dual citizenship. A Chinese citizen who gains citizenship of another country automatically loses Chinese citizenship under Chinese law ([Nationality Law of the People's Republic of China, Article 9](#)). If you are a dual citizen of the United States and China, the Chinese government will usually not permit the U.S. Embassy to provide consular assistance to you unless you entered China on a U.S. passport with a valid Chinese visa. Regardless of your travel documents, if you are a dual citizen, or otherwise have ethnic or historical ties to China, it is possible that Chinese authorities will assert that you are a Chinese citizen and deny your access to U.S. consular representatives if you are detained.

If you are a naturalized U.S. citizen or have a possible claim to Chinese citizenship and are traveling to China, inform yourself about Chinese law and practices relating to determination and loss of Chinese citizenship. Chinese authorities generally consider a child born in China to at least one Chinese parent to be a Chinese citizen, even if the child was issued a U.S. passport at the time of birth. Please consult directly with the [Chinese Consulate](#) for further information.

Scholarship Opportunities

Host university and government scholarships have been offered in recent terms for programs hosted by Fudan University, Peking University, and Tsinghua University. Information about these scholarships is typically shared on your UCEAP Pre-Departure Requirements Checklist, after program nomination. In the interim, please review the [scholarship](#) information on our website.

All UCEAP students are encouraged to apply for a [UCEAP Scholarship](#), which offers a \$1000 award for summer 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](#). Another scholarship to explore is the [Freeman-ASIA Scholarship](#).

More information on financial aid, and scholarships can be found on our website: <http://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>

Program Considerations – Summer

Application Note - Qualified students will be nominated on a ‘**first come first serve basis**’ based on their UCEAP application submission date/time up until the program’s application deadline or until the program has filled. On the BSA website’s [Explore](#) tool, you will be able to see that application filing period for specific programs.

All students, regardless of what term they are applying for, must submit both the UCEAP and Berkeley Study Abroad applications to be considered. Please consult the [application instructions](#) and your BSA Adviser if you have questions about the application process.

Chinese in Beijing

Students must take 2 courses worth 5 semester units each, for a total of 10 semester units. There is no option to reduce the number of units a course is worth. Courses must be taken for a letter grade. This program offers beginning to advanced Chinese language coursework, and students may earn up to one year of language study. This program does **not** have coursework for native or heritage speakers. There is no minimum prerequisite coursework required but there is an eligibility requirement of maximum 6 semesters university-level Chinese at the time of departure. This program is hosted by [Peking University](#). Peking University does not accept students who have passports solely from the following: Hong Kong, Macau, the People's Republic of China, or Taiwan. Students holding dual citizenship must apply with their other passport.

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 with approval from the UC Study Center.

NOTE for continuing students - The timeframe for the Chinese in Beijing Summer program has changed beginning summer 2024 and will now run from early July to late August (formerly from mid-June to mid-August). This timeline will likely conflict with the UC Berkeley fall academic calendar. Discuss with your Major and/or College advisor whether they support your study abroad plans and whether it is feasible for late arrival in the fall. If you will be graduating in summer 24 or have received support from your advisors and would like to apply, please contact the [Berkeley Study Abroad Advisor](#).

Shanghai Summer

Students can take courses related to history, culture, politics, business, economics, international and intercultural studies, and Chinese language. 3 courses are possible only if you take a Chinese language course (2 content courses + one Chinese language course). To be eligible for summer financial aid, students must enroll in *3 courses worth 2.7 semester units each*. This program is hosted by [Fudan University](#).

Students live with UC and international students in foreign student dorm on campus or in a shared apartment near the Fudan University campus.

Summer Global Internship, Shanghai

This program allows students to intern in one of a variety of fields in China. The UCEAP Summer Global Internship program is hosted in collaboration with [CIEE](#) and is **different** from the [UC Berkeley Global Internships](#), although the programs are very similar. If you are unsure about which program to apply to, reach out to the Berkeley Study Abroad adviser for the relevant UCEAP program.

Applicants to Asia locations can expect traditional business hours for internships, which can run upwards of 45 hours/week. In addition to the internship, students will be taking one course online, "Academic Internship in the Global Workplace."

It is recommended that students applying for this program have at least 3 areas of interest with regards to their internship placement. You may read more about the placement process on [CIEE's website](#). **Common** industry sectors for internships include, but are not limited to:

Business
Finance
Communications
Computer Science
Education and Sports

Entrepreneurship, Innovation, Startups
Hospitality & Tourism
NGOs/NPOs
Media (no Film or TV)

Some **challenging** internship fields to place in Shanghai are:

Health Sciences, Healthcare, Public Health
Law

Politics & Government
Psychology

Please note that CIEE (which sponsors the Summer Global Internship, Shanghai program) has an “exclusivity agreement” with UCEAP. This means that UC students must participate via UCEAP on any CIEE programs that are offered through UCEAP; they are not allowed to participate in such programs directly via CIEE. If CIEE offers program options other than the UCEAP program in a particular city or country, then UC students may participate in those options independently apply directly to CIEE. Students who choose to study abroad independently are advised to read our [Independent Study Abroad Guide](#) for important details before applying.

Program Considerations – Semester & Year

Application Note - Qualified students will be nominated on a **‘first come first serve basis’** based on their UCEAP application submission date/time up until the program’s application deadline or until the program has filled. On the BSA website’s [Explore](#) tool, you will be able to see that application filing period for specific programs.

All students, regardless of what term they are applying for, must submit both the UCEAP and Berkeley Study Abroad applications to be considered. Please consult the [application instructions](#) and your BSA Adviser if you have questions about the application process.

[Tsinghua University](#)

This [program](#) primarily offers coursework taught in English in the fields of Engineering, Social Science, Economics, and Business. 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 (permission of the instructor is required for enrollment). Please note that Chinese-taught courses are typically much more difficult than English-taught courses. The level of difficulty varies from department to department, but students should be cautious and ensure they have the requisite knowledge & language ability and understand the course expectations in order to succeed in the course. Students have the option of doing an [internship](#) or [research](#) while on the program. Contact the BSA advisor for more details.

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.

Students with U.S. 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 a Chinese bank after they arrive and the money will be transferred to their account directly.

[Fudan University](#)

This [program](#) offers *limited* coursework in English for exchange students, and the curriculum is taught entirely by Fudan faculty. This program offers a majority of courses in Business, Economics, Journalism, Communications, and Media & Communications. Students are 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 (permission of the instructor is required for enrollment). Please note that Chinese-taught courses are typically much more difficult than English-taught courses. The level of difficulty varies from department to department, but students should be cautious and ensure they have the requisite knowledge & language ability and understand the course expectations in order to succeed in the course. Students have the option of doing an [internship](#) while on the program. Contact the BSA advisor for more details.

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 advisors 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 advisors and reconfirm their course choices (and the implication on making progress toward their major) once coursework is announced.

All courses 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.

Students live with UC and international students in foreign student dorm on campus or in a shared apartment near the Fudan University campus.

[Peking University](#)

Because this [program](#) has limited coursework taught in English, it tends to be a better fit for students who have a strong background in Chinese (3 or more years of university-level Chinese). A successful UCEAP applicant to the Year-long offering 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 offerings vary from year-to-year. 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](#) (updated link coming soon) at Peking University.

Applicants without a strong background in Chinese are unlikely to have access to courses outside of Chinese language instruction and the On China Series. 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.

For students taking courses taught in Chinese, please note that Chinese-taught courses are typically much more difficult than English-taught courses. The level of difficulty varies from department to department, but students should be cautious and ensure they have the requisite knowledge & language ability and understand the course expectations in order to succeed in the course.

Students live with UC and international students in a foreign student dorm next to the Peking University campus; students may apply to live off-campus approval from the UC Study Center.

Calendar Considerations

For all UCEAP 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 UCEAP 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 UCEAP. 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 must remain on their nominated program for the entirety of its duration. Late arrival and early departure from the program dates listed on the UCEAP program calendar are **not** permitted. Fudan University has historically been unable to confirm program arrival and departure dates for the Fall 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. All courses taken abroad on UCEAP will report back to students' Berkeley transcript. However, whether this fulfills graduation requirements such as major, minor, or breadth should be discussed with College and/or Major advisors as each department is different. A petition process may be required in order to fulfill graduation requirements abroad. The standard processing time for UCEAP grades to post back to a students' CalCentral is around 3 months (subject to change). Grades are posted from the host institution abroad to UCEAP for processing and then to each UC. If students are planning to pursue graduate school, an internship, or job immediately after a UCEAP program ends, please coordinate with the graduate school or job prospect directly to discuss whether an updated transcript can be provided at a later date. More information can be found on the [BSA Academics page](#).

Internships

Internships are possible for students on semester or year-long program options in Beijing and Shanghai. The UCEAP 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 the Shanghai Summer program should **not** anticipate having enough time to pursue an internship.

Letters of Recommendation

Letters of Recommendation are **not required at the time of application** for UCEAP China programs. However, two letters of recommendation are required **after** nomination during the pre-departure process for programs hosted by Peking University during the school year. This applies to the Spring & Year Peking University programs. The letters are sometimes requested with little turnaround time, so it may be 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. Further instructions about this letter will be provided on the UCEAP Pre-Departure Requirements Checklist after nomination.

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 extremely understaffed. 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. If nominated for a UCEAP program, students abroad will have access to Lyra Global and if needed, participate in mental health counseling sessions for no additional fee.

Air Quality

While many students have reported that the pollution in Beijing and Shanghai 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, 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 Transfer Students

Transfer students should review BSA's [I am a Transfer Student webpage](#) for an overview of considerations. As a general rule, transfer students are eligible to apply for study abroad programs that take place after the student has completed one term at UC Berkeley (one semester residency requirement). For example, if a student's first term at Berkeley is Fall 2024, the earliest cycle to apply is either Spring 25 or Summer 25. This is dependent on application deadlines and the program eligibility requirements. Students should consult with their academic department to confirm College and/or Major study abroad requirements and to confirm when study abroad can fit into their academic plan.

Considerations for LGBTQ+ Students

China is **not** included on UCEAP's [list of LGBTIQ-tolerant countries](#), which was compiled using information from the [Spartacus Gay Travel Index](#). For additional information, review BSA's [I am a LGBTQIA+ Identifying Student webpage](#) for an overview of considerations. Sentiments are changing, please review the "[Positive Attitudes Toward LGBTQ People in Mainland China](#)" published by the UCLA Williams Institute.

Information from the U.S. Department of State's [2020 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices](#) is as follows:

No laws criminalize private consensual same-sex conduct between adults. Individuals and organizations working on lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) issues continued to report discrimination and harassment from authorities similar to that experienced by other organizations that accept funding from overseas.

LGBTI individuals reported incidents of violence, including domestic violence; however, they encountered difficulties in seeking legal redress, since regulations on domestic violence do not include recognition of same-sex relations. Accessing redress was further limited by societal discrimination and traditional norms, resulting in most LGBTI persons refraining from publicly discussing their sexual orientation or gender identity. Nonetheless, the May 28 civil code includes a provision that protects certain tenancy rights for designated partners of deceased property owners without officially defined family relationships.

NGOs working on LGBTI issues reported that although public advocacy work became more difficult for them due to laws governing charities and foreign NGOs, they made some progress in advocating for LGBTI rights through specific anti discrimination cases.

Considerations for Students with Disabilities

Students seeking DSP accommodations should review BSA's [I am a Student With Disabilities webpage](#) for an overview of considerations. Chinese universities typically do not provide academic accommodations for students who have disabilities. Reduced course load is typically

not allowed and is at the discretion of the host university. If you receive accommodations at UC Berkeley and would like to know if they are also available in the program abroad that interests you, it is highly recommended to email your BSA adviser to inquire about your specific needs. That way, if your needs cannot be accommodated in that program, you can investigate other programs that might have better suited accommodations.

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 with a visual impairment 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 at 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.

Students with emotional support animals or service animals will need to request accommodations from their UCEAP Program Specialist *prior* to departure on their UCEAP program. Emotional support animal accommodation requests are not guaranteed. Below are additional resources to consider:

Traveling Internationally with a Guide Dog or Service Animal
Pros and cons, legal and health considerations for going abroad with your service animal
<http://www.miusa.org/resource/tipsheet/serviceanimal>

10 Steps to Bring Your Service Animal or Guide Dog to Another Country
Start planning early and consider international quarantine and vaccination laws
<http://www.miusa.org/resource/tipsheet/10steps>

Should I Take My Guide Dog or Service Animal?
<http://www.miusa.org/resource/tipsheet/guidedogdecisions>

Caring for Your Guide Dog or Service Animal Abroad
Learn tips for supplies to take along, climate preparations, and animal health while traveling internationally
<http://www.miusa.org/resource/tipsheet/preparingyouranimal>

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 late June or mid-July. Returning to Berkeley to walk in a commencement ceremony is an unrealistic expectation for year and spring participants. If walking in a commencement ceremony is very important to you, we recommend that you apply to a program that aligns with the UC Berkeley academic calendar (ex - [National](#)

[University Singapore](#)), as there is a better chance that the 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. For further information, please contact your College advisor.

Graduating seniors participating in a spring semester program should ensure that they are on the Spring degree list. If you are not yet on this degree list, you should contact your UC Berkeley College Adviser to petition to move your expected graduation term. 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 UCEAP 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.

More information can be found in the [I am a Senior page](#).

Considerations for Undocumented Students

Berkeley Study Abroad is committed to supporting undocumented students in their pursuit of study abroad programs. The BSA Office collaborates with the [Undocumented Student Program](#) and the [East Bay Community Law Center \(EBCLC\)](#) to support undocumented or DACA students interested in studying abroad. We also partner with the Financial Aid & Scholarships Office to support students on this journey. We have sent undocumented students on Berkeley Study Abroad programs internationally and domestically since DACA's inception in 2011. Please note, the Advance Parole processing timeline can take anywhere from 10 - 13.5 months to process and it is highly encouraged that students interested in studying abroad reach out to the BSA office as soon as possible to discuss the next steps to submit an early application. For more information, review the [I am an...Undocumented Student](#) page.

Diversity Abroad Resources

BSA recognizes that there are many nuances to exploring your identities abroad, and these articles may not be representative of all identities and experiences. Diversity Abroad resources, however, are a great starting place for your exploration. You can find a variety of [articles](#) to help you prepare for your study abroad experience as well as a [China Destination Guide](#).