University of Copenhagen
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 our website.

Non-US Citizens
Non-US Citizens may need a visa in addition to a residence permit to study in Denmark.

Program Capacity Constraints
UCEAP has a limited number of placements at Univ. of Copenhagen. There is more capacity for Berkeley students in spring semester than in fall semester.

Extending your program in Denmark
Because UCEAP has restricted capacity at Univ. of Copenhagen it is not possible to extend from one semester to another. If you are serious about studying abroad for a year you must apply for the year abroad.

Eligible Applicants Must Be Juniors
Because of space constraints UCEAP will not accept sophomores on this program. Students must have junior standing in terms of number of college semesters taken after high school graduation. Advanced Placement units will not be allowed to count toward class standing.

Students Must Meet the GPA Requirement of 3.00 cumulative GPA at time of application
Applicants who need GPA Waivers will not be considered.

Mandatory Intensive Language Program
All students participate in a mandatory 3-week introductory course in Danish Language & Culture during the beginning of the program. Language instruction in the morning is followed by social and cultural activities in the afternoon. After this part of the program, students will have the option to take semester-long Danish language courses open to exchange students.
Housing
Students will apply for housing when they fill out the University of Copenhagen application, either in April or October, depending on the term of study.

The housing market in Copenhagen is extremely tight. You will be assigned a room in a residence hall, a rented room or an apartment, depending on your preference as well as housing availability. Within these options you may live with Danish students, UCEAP students or international students. **Students do not always get their first choice of housing**, so try to remain as flexible as possible. Your housing may or may not be close to where you take class. The University of Copenhagen is in an urban setting, the departments and faculties are spread out around the city, and you will have to travel by either bicycle or metro to get to class and back to where you live. Traveling times can be from 20-30 minutes between home & class.

Some students want to wait until they arrive to find housing, maybe by living with a friend or in a hostel for a while. Since housing in Copenhagen is both scarce and expensive and the less expensive housing tends to be far from the city center be aware that finding inexpensive housing isn’t easy. You will spend the first couple of months looking before you find something and if you live outside the city center you will also have to spend money on traveling longer distances from home to school. You should decide whether this situation is really worth the extra energy and expense.

There is a **sizeable up-front cost for the housing deposit + one month’s rent, currently from $3,000 to $6,000, that is required in May/early June or November/early December**, before departure for the program, and before financial aid is disbursed. Students should plan to have a way to pay this: credit card, loan from parents, etc. Students living in kollegiums will be required to pay the remaining total housing cost two weeks after the program starts.

**Filling out the Host University Application**
After UCEAP selection Univ. of Copenhagen (KU) will ask you to fill out the host university application. In deciding which faculty (department) to apply to, choose the field of study you have substantial background in. If you apply for more than one faculty or department you will slow down the process of final admittance by KU, because each department will have to scrutinize your academic record to make sure you have enough background preparation to take courses in that department. As an international exchange student, once you are admitted to any faculty, if you want to take one or more courses in another faculty you will be able to contact the department and get admittance.

Scandinavian Culture courses just for international students are not tied to any department. You don’t have to apply to a particular department to take one or more of those courses (Danish culture, the Vikings, etc.). The Faculty of Social Science also has courses about Danish Society, such as the Danish Welfare Model, Denmark in the EU, and the Danish Economic System, that you don’t need to be admitted to the Faculty of Social Science to enroll in.

**Mentor or Buddy**
There will be a question on the KU host university application about whether you would like to be assigned a Danish student as a mentor or buddy. If you answer ‘yes’ you will be assigned a mentor group from the faculty you’ve been admitted to. A mentor or buddy may not be available right when you arrive in Denmark for the start of the program because school starts three weeks later for regular KU students. Mentors will assist with your transition and invite you on outings during the semester with your mentor/buddy group.

If you don’t request a mentor on the KU application you can always write later to KU Admissions and ask to be assigned one.

**KU Course Database**
KU has one data base that lists all courses offered for the academic year. It is available for the upcoming academic year on May 1st. It is accessible from the ‘Courses & Credit’ tab on the UCEAP program webpage.
**Language of Instruction**
The course description for any course will always specify whether the course is going to be taught in Danish or English. For undergraduate courses taught in English the professor may ask on the first day of class if the students have a preference for either language. You’ll need to speak up if you need the course to be taught in English, especially if you’re the only international student in the course. This statement appears in course descriptions for the Science department: “The course will be taught in English unless there are no international students, otherwise it will be taught in Danish.” If the course is listed as taught in Danish the language of instruction cannot be changed.

**Required Units**
Students are required to take a normal load of 30 ECTS credits each semester in the Danish system. A 4-semester unit course at UCB would be equivalent to a 7.5 ECTS-credit course in Denmark; four 7.5 ECTS courses amount to 30 ECTS credits. Some courses are offered for 10 or 15 ECTS credits, depending on the work involved in the course. Students should plan to take 3 or 4 courses per semester to do the required number of ECTS credits.

**Block Courses & the “Quarter” System**
In the Science Faculty courses are taught in block periods. The semester is divided into two 8-week periods; each is called a “block.” The first 7 weeks of the block are for instruction and the last week is for the final. Students typically enroll in 2 courses per block. One block is also considered a “quarter” in the Danish system. In the Science Faculty or departments the Danish academic year consists of 4 quarters or four blocks. Blocks 1 & 2 are in Fall Semester and Blocks 3 & 4 are in Spring Semester.

At KU in the Fall semester block 2 lasts from the third week in November until the end of January. Because UCB students who need to return to the U.S. for the holiday period and the start of spring semester at UCB would miss the last 3 weeks of the course, including the finals period, it is recommended that students not take Science courses in Block 2, but rather take a semester course that would permit an early final exam. Year or Spring students don’t have worries about Science courses in the 2nd block of the semester because they can remain to the end of the course.

**Semester Courses**
All other KU faculties have semester-long courses, with a few possible exceptions. It’s possible for a student to take one or two semester courses simultaneously with one or two block courses. All instruction for semester courses ends at or by the end of December, sometimes even as early as November. It is possible for a semester course to have a final in January. Students who have January finals should request an early exam from the Exam Coordinator and inform the Instructor.

**Fall semester, Early Departure before Winter Holidays**
When choosing courses for fall semester the student should pay close attention to the exam dates listed in the course description. It may be possible to arrange an early exam if the exam format is a final paper but it’s important to check on the course description and with the Exam Coordinator whether the paper can be handed in electronically or if a printed copy must be handed in personally.

**Academic System: Undergraduates can take 1st Year Masters level courses**
The Danish academic system consists of three years of undergraduate study followed by 2 years of graduate study. Almost all KU faculties/departments, including Science, offer courses in English at the Masters level and courses in Danish at the Bachelor level, although there are some exceptions. Undergraduates can take first-year Masters courses or “400” courses which are similar to upper-division courses at UC Berkeley.

In addition to Masters courses in English, the Science faculty has quite a few “300” or third-year courses in English for mixed Bachelor & Master-level students for 7.5 ECTS credits. There will be a few of these mixed courses in most other faculties, too.

The recommendation is to take only one Masters course at a time, and especially if the student is taking science courses, to take only one Masters course per block.
Grades, Professor Accessibility and Courses
In Denmark the final exam is often the sole determination for your grade in the course. This may seem intimidating, but if you are ever uncertain about what to study or how to prepare just approach your professor. Professors at KU are informal (first-name basis) and very accessible and will be happy to answer any of your questions. Classes are small by UCB standards. A course with 50 students is considered a large course and most have from between 15-30 students. Danish grades are evaluated by the Study Center Coordinator according to a pre-announced grading scale that you will be informed of during the orientation. The grading scale interprets the grade in the Danish system in order to give you a “fair” grade in the UC system.

Psychology Department Does Not Issue Letter Grades
All psychology courses must be taken for P/NP, except for the course “Social Psychological Theory” which can be taken for a letter grade.

Final Exams
The final is created & the date for the exam is set by the person or persons teaching the course. There may be a variety of final exam types offered such as a written exam, a final paper, an oral exam, etc. The options will be listed in the course description on the KU website. The student has the option of choosing a preferred method for the final exam, but the rule is that the dates set for the final exam in the course description cannot be changed, so the student cannot necessarily negotiate an exception to the rules. The course description will also say whether the course will be taught in Danish or English; the final

Research
Students can do research in lieu of taking courses. Research can be combined with course work to obtain 30 ECTS credits. To find a research group or a project you’d like to work with you can email the professor of any course you think might be related to your research interests to find out if there are any projects being conducted by Masters, Ph.D. or postdoctoral students that you could work with. The UCEAP Program Coordinator will also be available to refer you to someone in the department to see if it might be possible for you to work with a current research team. The Program Coordinator and the department will help you work out the number of units that the research will count for. Normally a paper is required at the end of the research project, in lieu of a final exam.