France

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.

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Berkeley Stories: Julia M, Spring in Bordeaux

UCEAP Field Research & Internship Info Session | 2021

Study Abroad in France | UCEAP Study Abroad Fair 2020

UCEAP in Paris | 2020

3 Minute Travel Guide: Bordeaux, France

A Gilman Scholar Abroad | University of Bordeaux | 2019
Visas

Visa for Summer Programs

U.S. passport holders are not required to obtain a visa for summer programs that last under 90 days. Summer students considering extending to a fall study abroad program in France will need a visa.

Visa for Fall, Spring, Year Programs

All non-French and/or non European Union citizens studying abroad for more than 90 days are required to apply for a visa through Campus France in order to study abroad in France. Students will be provided detailed instructions by UCEAP after they are admitted to the program.

European Union and French Citizens

Students who are French citizens have no restrictions on applying to UCEAP France programs. French citizens and/or EU citizens do not need visas to study in France and do not have to apply to Campus France.
International Students From Outside the European Union

UCEAP supplies visa forms and information only to U.S. passport holders applying to study in France. International students should contact the French consulate in San Francisco to inquire how to apply for a visa to study in France.

Language

Verification of Language Prerequisites

Not all programs require a French language background. However, if the program you are applying to has a language requirement, then you must have documented verification of language acquisition at the time of application. Please refer to the UC Berkeley French Department’s Placement Guidelines for ways you can demonstrate this requirement.

Students who do not have academic verification, but believe they have equivalent knowledge, may request a language placement exam by emailing Prof. Daniel Hoffman at dhoffmann@berkeley.edu.

You can take prerequisite language courses the semester or summer before departure for the program if the timing works out with the start date of the program—you must begin your UCEAP Program on time. However, you will not be cleared for participation on the program until the language courses are verified as completed by a grade from your instructor. Some programs may have French language GPA requirements.

Program Extensions (Fall to Year)

UC Study Center (Paris) to University of Bordeaux

A student who completes the fall French in Paris or Food, History and Culture in Paris fall program may extend to the spring semester at the University of Bordeaux in English or French, depending on the student’s language level at the time of transition to the Bordeaux program.

University of Bordeaux, University of Lyon, & Sciences Po

Students studying during the fall semester at University of Lyon, University of Bordeaux, Sciences Po Paris or Sciences Po Reims may extend to the spring semester at the same university. Filling out the Departmental Approval to Extend Form at the time you submit your original UCEAP application indicates your interest in extending. You'll be asked to make the final decision whether to extend or not during the fall semester.
Carol Dolcini Study Abroad Flight Fund

Thanks to the generosity of alumni donors, Berkeley’s French Department is pleased to offer two or more annual scholarships to students planning to study abroad in full immersion French-speaking programs. The purpose of this scholarship is to help defray travel costs. It is named in honor of our longtime and recently retired Undergraduate Student Affairs Officer Carol Dolcini, who made it her mission to bring the experience of study abroad to as many undergraduates as possible. Learn more here.

Immersion Programs

University Bordeaux

Bordeaux is a small city that is very student friendly. The University of Bordeaux immersion program offers a French or English track for students at varying language abilities. Six Bordeaux universities participate in the exchange. A wide variety of fields of study are offered except for the French in Bordeaux program in which the courses are fixed. On site the Bordeaux in French and Bordeaux in English tracks are considered one big program; students share cultural activities and have the same housing options. All students, regardless of whether they chose the French or English track, will interact with local and international students and professors. University of Bordeaux program participants choose their classes once they arrive at the program.

Click here to view the University of Bordeaux Information Session video that took place in January 2021.

University of Lyon

Lyon is a bigger city that is sometimes referred to as “Little Paris.” University of Lyon is an immersion program. Courses are only instructed in French and students must have completed a minimum of 4 semesters of French to participate in this program. Students applying to the University of Lyon program will be able to take courses at the Sciences Po, Lyon in French. Students will also be able to take courses in French in other university departments in other fields of study. Students enroll in courses after arriving in Lyon.

Click here to view the University of Lyon Information Session video that took place in January 2021.

Sciences Po, Paris & Sciences Po, Reims

The Institut d'Etudes Politiques in Paris or Reims, nicknamed “Sciences Po,” are popular programs, but they are not the typical study abroad programs. It is definitely more challenging on the academic and personal level at either Sciences Po. However, students who are
ambitious and want to do serious academic work abroad should consider applying to the Sciences Po programs. Sciences Po students must adapt to the French university system and an elite school within that system. There are different academic demands for writing and analysis than in U.S. universities.

Selection Timeline

Berkeley Study Abroad reviews applications and lets students know 6-8 weeks after the program deadline about nomination decisions. UCEAP then reviews applications that have been nominated by Berkeley Study Abroad. Finally, UCEAP nominates applications to Sciences Po for final selection which takes place by mid April-May for the fall/year applicants and by mid-November to December for spring applicants.

Academic Eligibility

Substantial background coursework and enrollment in an eligible major by departure is required for admission to the program. UCEAP is looking for well-prepared students at the upper-division level in their field of study. Students must have completed all lower division requirements for the major and in addition, have completed at least one upper-division course in the major by departure. Students from majors that are not listed in the eligibility section of the UCEAP website should contact the France Adviser before applying. Business majors, for instance, are eligible to apply for Sciences Po, Reims but not Sciences Po, Paris.

Sciences Po, Reims

Sciences Po, Reims is the largest of all Sciences Po campuses with around 1,300 undergraduate students. 94 nationalities are represented in the student population. Its special focus is North American and Europe and Africa and Europe. Most courses are taught in English in the North America and Europe focus area. Students must know French to take Africa & Europe courses. The Reims campus has small classes, many student clubs, newer facilities and a dining hall for students. Students also have access to student services staff who speak English. This is a great option for those looking for a tighter community in a more structured, and beautiful, setting. Housing is arranged by the program.

Sciences Po, Paris

Sciences Po, Paris is one large, expensive metropolitan area. Students must be independent and comfortable problem solving on their own. Campus is spread out and almost all students live in neighborhoods off-campus. Students are responsible for arranging their own housing in Paris, which can take time. Online course enrollment at Sciences Po, Paris occurs only a few days before the start of the UCEAP program and there is no way to know before then which exact courses you will take. Popular courses may not have open spaces after the first day. For this reason it is important that students remain flexible and pre-select a range of possible courses and then choose what is available (similar to enrolling in Berkeley courses). Unlike the Reims campus, staff at Sciences Po, Paris are not guaranteed to speak English.
UC Study Center Paris Programs

The UC Study Center in Paris hosts several program options. Every student in these programs is a UC student so these are not immersion programs like the ones described above that take place at a French university. The limited course menu tends not to be major-specific. Students take courses together at the UC Study Center and instructors are encouraged to utilize Paris as the classroom which makes for an interactive learning experience.

Students may choose to live in apartments or homestays. If they choose apartments, they will live with other UC students and have the option to indicate roommate preference after being admitted to the program. Apartments vary in terms of layout, age of the building and location in Paris. Similarly, host families live in a variety of neighborhoods in Paris and can consist of anywhere from a single host parent to a large multi-generational family.

The programs below are very similar and mostly differ in the type of coursework offered.

**French in Paris, Summer (Intensive or Semi-Intensive)**

This program’s coursework focuses on French language acquisition and cultural immersion. Students apply for either semi-intensive track or the intensive track based on their experience with French language prior to the program start.

**French in Paris, Fall**

This program’s coursework focuses on three consecutive French language courses and one upper division elective course.

**Food, History, and Culture in Paris, Fall**

This program’s coursework is less-language intensive though it does require students to take one French language course. It was formerly called the Only in Paris program.

**Social Justice and Activism, Spring**

This is a relatively new program and more details are to come!
Internship Programs

Field Research & Internships in Paris and Strasbourg (also Brussels in Belgium)

The program will provide five weeks of intensive coursework followed by a 12 week long internship that provides hands-on experience in the field. All participants also write a research paper in French during the latter part of the program. Instruction is in French and courses are set by the program. Only U.S. based students are enrolled in the courses. You can find more information about the program on the Paris and Strasbourg pages of the Institute for Field Education (IFE) website.

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.