

# Ghana

## 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>

### UNIVERSITY OF GHANA (Semester and Year-long program)

#### Curriculum

Universities in Ghana are based on British higher education in structure and method. For some courses, this may be more lecture-based instruction requiring effective note taking of lectures and the ability to demonstrate understanding of material based solely on lectures. 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 Ghanaian students. Students should expect a reliance on oral rather than written communication in Ghana, including instructions regarding coursework.

Courses in Ghana typically carry fewer units of credit than UC courses, so students should be prepared to take more courses than they take in a semester at UC Berkeley. The majority of courses at the [University of Ghana](#) are equivalent 2.667 UC semester units (4 UC quarter units). Some UC Berkeley departments require a minimum unit level for courses to count towards major or minor requirements. Check with your UCB departmental adviser to confirm their policy on course units and degree requirements.

When reviewing courses, students should carefully note the University of Ghana course levels (100, 200, 300, 400), required prerequisites, duration (year vs. semester), and term (fall vs. spring semester). Odd-numbered courses are offered in the fall semester and even-numbered courses are offered in the spring semester. Courses labeled 100/200/300/400 (ending with an 0) are year-long and therefore not available unless you are staying a full year.

Students take courses with local and international students. Students interested in taking courses alongside Ghanaian students should note that courses with topics on Africa and Ghana are generally more popular with international students than Ghanaians. The UC Study Center in Ghana offers beginning Twi language courses. Although not required, students may also wish to consider a language course in one of the official Ghanaian languages.

### **Internships and Research**

Independent study opportunities, called EAP Special Study Projects, are available for students wishing to enrich their experience in Ghana with fieldwork, independent research, and/or an internship. Students may design a project on a topic related to West Africa, especially Ghana, which may include research or internship activities. You will submit an Internship Proposal with your University of Ghana application materials prior to departure. Instructions and additional information will be posted to your [UCEAP Pre-Departure Checklist](#). Final arrangements for your Special Study Project are made at the Study Center after arrival.

See the [UCEAP Ghana Program Page](#) for links to examples of internships and research projects that past students have done. Be sure to explore the links under the Overview, Courses & Credit and Internships tabs. Students may also pursue community service and volunteer activities independently on a non-credit basis through local organizations.

### **Housing**

Students will be able to give preferences for their housing in one of the following dormitories prior to departure: Legon Hall (male), Volta Hall (female), and International Student Hostel (co-ed). Most students will be placed in the International Student Hostel. Students can review the [housing section of Ghana Program Guide](#) for more information. There is also a video of the housing options on [YouTube](#).

### **Competitiveness of the Program**

Students who meet the minimum eligibility requirements and submit a well-prepared application with an articulate Statement of Purpose will have a good chance of being selected.

### **Additional Application Materials for the University of Ghana**

Students must complete host university application materials after their selection to the program by Berkeley Study Abroad. Students should note that the host university application will require items that may take additional time to prepare, including, but not limited to, resume/CV, official transcript, and passport-size photos, passport photocopies, statement of purpose and malaria prophylaxis participation agreement. Please do not take action until you have been given detailed instructions for these items by UCEAP.

### **Visa and Entry Clearance**

Due to the late issuance of entry clearance documents and the time required for visa application processing, travel after the UC term ends and before the official program start date is not recommended.

### **Special Demands of the Ghana Programs**

Students should be prepared to encounter physical hardships while in Ghana—for example, loss of electricity and water are common and can last for several days at a time. Students should review this document which presents some of the [Challenges of Living and Studying in Ghana](#).

Health and safety remain primary issues of concern for study in Ghana, particularly malaria, crime/security, and transportation. Students must be prepared to monitor health needs and avoid malaria exposure, parasites and meningitis. Students are required to take malaria prophylaxis while on the program. Students should review the [Program Guide](#) and [Risk Assessment](#) to familiarize themselves with risks associated with participation on the program.

Students should also familiarize themselves with the role of race, gender, sexuality, and religion while studying in Ghana, and develop appropriate expectations according to personal backgrounds and self-identification. LGBTIQ students are invited to reference the [UCEAP LGBTIQ Community Resource Page](#) to learn about host country laws and norms.

Given the special demands of the program, it is highly recommended that applicants meet with the BSA adviser prior to submitting an application.