

# Ghana (Semester)

## 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 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](#) websites. If any concerns you have are not addressed on the UCEAP website or in the Advising Notes document, please contact the BSA adviser for this program.

### Adviser Contact Information

The Berkeley Study Abroad Adviser for this program is Michelle Ayazi ([mayazi@berkeley.edu](mailto:mayazi@berkeley.edu)). Please feel free to email Michelle with any questions and/or concerns you have about the program or your participation. You can make an advising appointment with Michelle [here](#).

**The UCEAP University of Ghana** program takes place at the University of Ghana, Legon in Accra. To learn more about the program, study these links:

[Visit the UCEAP University of Ghana website](#)

[Visit the University of Ghana, Legon website](#)

### Application Process

All UCEAP students must initiate their application through the Berkeley Study Abroad Portal to be considered for UCEAP participation: <http://studyabroad.berkeley.edu/uceap-how-apply>. Please take care to follow the provided instructions!

### Competitiveness of the Program

Students who meet and maintain the minimum eligibility requirements and submit a complete and well-prepared application with an articulate Statement of Purpose by the Berkeley Study Abroad application deadline will have a very good chance of being selected.

### Scholarships

All UCEAP students are encouraged to apply for the UCEAP Promise Award, which offers a \$2000 award for semester 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](http://gilmanscholarship.org)

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>

### **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. Additional information and instructions will be posted to your UCEAP Portal after nomination.

### **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 UCEAP 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. If interested, you will submit an Internship Proposal with your University of Ghana application materials prior to departure. Additional information and instructions will be posted to your UCEAP Pre-Departure Portal after nomination. Final arrangements for your Special Study Project are made at the Study Center after arrival.

### **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 (“ISH”). There is a video of the housing options on [YouTube](#).

### **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 are required to take a malaria prophylaxis while on the program, and take measures to avoid malaria exposure and parasites. 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. Given the special demands of the program, it is highly recommended that applicants meet with the BSA adviser prior to submitting an application.

**Additional Resources**

[UCEAP Ghana Information Session](#) (UCEAP Video)

[3-minute Travel Guide Accra Ghana](#) (UCEAP Student Blog)

[Signs you Studied Abroad in Ghana](#) (UCEAP Student Blog)