

Ireland

Irish Universities

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

The BSA Adviser for Ireland is Katie Weibel (weibel@berkeley.edu). Katie has spent time traveling Ireland and would be happy to help you compare universities/cities in this program. Her drop-in hours are Tuesdays 10-12, Thursdays 1-2, Fridays 2-3, or by appointment.

Katie's recommended Irish movies & music: Sing Street, Once, Glen Hansard.

Applications 2019-20

You can use the document, "Preparing for the UCEAP application" to assist you.
<http://studyabroad.berkeley.edu/uceap-how-apply>

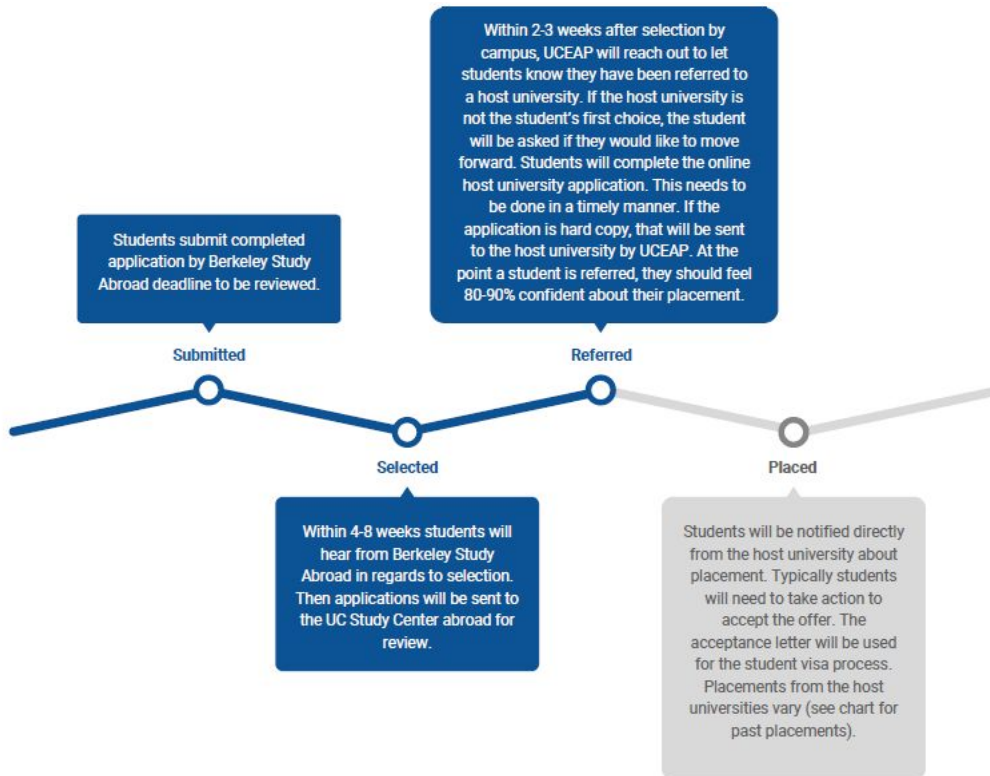
Berkeley students will start their application via the Berkeley Study Abroad website. From within this interactive application, students will be instructed to complete a secondary application in the MyEAP system. Once a student completes the MyEAP application, they will upload it to their Berkeley Study Abroad application. Later on in the process, students will also apply directly to their host university.

Host University Preference and Placement

When applying to the Irish Universities program, you apply to an exchange network as opposed to a particular university. In your application, ***you are asked to rank the Irish host universities in order of preference***. We encourage students to only rank the universities you'd actually see yourself attending and rank at least two.

Please be aware that space at your first choice host university is not guaranteed. Whereas the decision to select you for the Irish Universities program is made by the campus EAP office (i.e. Berkeley Study Abroad), the decision to place you at a particular host university is made by the UCEAP Program Officer in the UK.

Selection Timeline and Terminology



Selection into the Irish Universities program happens at the campus level. Your application is then forwarded to UCEAP and the UK for further review. The Resident Director in the UK will select your application for “referral” to a specific host university. The UCEAP office will then notify you via email to check your “referral” status on MyEAP. After students complete all necessary pre-departure paperwork and procedures, their status will be changed to “placed.” In almost all instances, your “referral” equals your “placement.” Placement at Irish Universities over the last couple years have come in September/October for spring students and May for fall students. You can check this [chart](#) to see when students have been placed at your host university in the past.

What are my chances of being placed at my first choice of host university?

The good news is that in the past, the majority of students have been placed at their first or second choice host universities. The placement decisions made by the UCEAP Resident Director in the UK are based primarily on academic fit.

Admission to a host university is contingent upon acceptance into a particular department (usually the applicant’s major department) at that university. Study within a small range of departments (one or two) is the norm. For example, if you are an Econ major at Cal, but applying to take History courses at Trinity, your application would not be as strong as a History major at Cal applying to the same courses. Some universities have you apply directly to a school or department, but then let you take a few courses in other areas.

Be sure to review which courses Irish universities offer:

http://eap.ucop.edu/Documents/OurPrograms/Ireland/UniversityCollegeDublin/Academic%20Offerings%20of%20Irish%20Univs_modified_06132017.pdf

If placement at any institution other than your first choice host university is not acceptable to you, you can consider an [independent study abroad](#) programs or look into applying directly to the university.

Cohort

This program allows students to take courses alongside local British students, as well as international and UC system-wide students. To see how big the UCB cohorts were per university, check out this [chart](#).

Academics

Flexibility is important. Keep in mind that the courses you find in the EAP Course Catalog or on the host university's web site may not be offered the semester(s) you will be abroad. Often times you will not have concrete information about what courses will be offered until a couple months before departure or even until upon arrival in Ireland. Be prepared for the possibility that you will have to modify your plans.

How many courses/units will I take? Students are required to take a minimum of 16 (semester) units each semester. The usual course load is about four classes per semester, but this can vary by university and the specific courses selected. Check out this [chart](#) to see how many courses students took in the past and how many semester units they were.

	Trinity	UCD	Galway
Typical amount of courses students take	4-6	5-6	6
Typical semester unit per course	2.66-5.33	2.66-4	2.66
Typical total semester unit count for term	15-16	15-16	15-16

Housing

If Trinity College Dublin is of interest to you, please be advised that it is quite likely that you will need to find your own housing in Dublin, as university housing is not guaranteed to UCEAP students. A majority of international students stay in Binary Hub, a newly built housing complex that is approximately a thirty minute walk from Trinity and comes recommended by Trinity's Global Affairs Office.

Accommodation	Known for...	Room Type	Proximity to Trinity
Binary Hub	This is where you want to live. Very new, located across from the Guinness factory, this is where almost all U.S.international students stay, this is coordinated through Trinity's international office (the Global Room), really nice front desk staff, pet cat called Sebastian (adorable, if you were wondering), gym in the complex, hosts lots of events. It is worth the ~239 euro/week price in my opinion.	Single with attached bathroom, kitchen on floor. Each flat has 4-6 rooms. The heaters are amazing.	1.2 miles (25 min walk)

Kavanagh court	Secondary option. Another place where students stay, but it seems the Erasmus (European) students stay here more. They don't host events for their residents, but this is also a nice place.	Single	0.5 miles (10 min walk)
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Brexit

[Matt Beech – Brexit and its Aftershocks](#)

[Brexit: Your simple guide to the UK leaving the EU](#)

Delayed Grades from Abroad: **Important for Seniors**

Depending on the host institution, UCEAP will transmit your UCEAP courses, units, and grades to Berkeley up to 90 days after your program officially ends. You cannot be administratively graduated until your UCEAP grades are reported to Berkeley, are posted to your transcript, and a degree audit is conducted.

The Berkeley Office of the Registrar only administratively graduates students (a.k.a. degrees are “posted” to transcripts) three times per year: October for students with a summer anticipated graduation date, February for students with a Fall anticipated graduation date, and July for students with a Spring anticipated graduation date. If your EAP grades arrive after degrees are posted for your term of participation, your degree will be processed and posted to your transcript with the next term’s degree list.

You can review this [chart](#) to see when students at your host university in the past have had their EAP grades transmitted to the Berkeley Office of the Registrar. Factoring in a 1 to 4-week delay for grades to appear on your Berkeley transcript, determine when your degree is likely to be posted by the Berkeley Office of the Registrar (October, July or February).

If you determine that your grades are likely to arrive later than the term you need to graduate from Berkeley to stay eligible for your graduate program or another post-graduation opportunity, contact the program/employer you are applying to as early as possible. Ask about their policy on delayed graduation due to study abroad participation. Find out how long they can wait for UCEAP grades to be recorded on your official Berkeley transcript and for your degree to be posted by the Berkeley Office of the Registrar.

Ask your graduate program or employer if you can provide some academic information while waiting for your UCEAP grades or Berkeley diploma. If courses and grades do not yet appear on your Berkeley transcript, ask the program/employer if it will accept an official "Verification of UCEAP Coursework." This is a letter from UCEAP verifying dates of UCEAP attendance and giving the estimated dates of arrival for course titles, units, and grades. You can get this letter from your BSA Campus Adviser or from your UCEAP Academic Specialist for your program. If your UCEAP grades already appear on your Berkeley transcript but you are waiting for your degree to be posted, you can also request a Certificate of Completion. Read more about Transcripts and Diplomas on the Office of the Registrar website.

EAP Alums

EAP alumni are one of your best resources for information about the program. If you would like to be put in touch with alums, simply send the BSA Adviser an email with your list of questions and the contact information of returnees who have agreed to be contacted will be shared.

EAP Alum-Created Resources

Some of our returnees have created presentations to share with others. You can look at their work through the [Student Created Resource Google folder](#) that we will continually update. Example schedules and tips from students who’ve participated on these programs are included in this folder.