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 on program cancellations for the 2021-2022 cycle. All programs listed in this Advising Notes document are scheduled to proceed at this time, and UCEAP will inform campus offices if there are any updates.

Updated Nov. 2020

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 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, and reviewed by a student in the Program Self-Assessment. 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 Amy Veramay (averamay@berkeley.edu). Amy studied abroad in Ireland and would be happy to help you compare universities/cities in this program.

Application
You can use this website “Preparing for the UCEAP application” to assist you.

There are three applications for this program:
1) Berkeley students will start their application via the Berkeley Study Abroad website.
2) Students will then complete a second application in the UCEAP Portal.
3) Later on in the process, not at the time of your initial applications, students will also apply directly to their host university. You will be prompted for this application, so don't worry!

Host University Preference and Placement
When applying to the Irish Universities program, you apply to an exchange network as opposed to a specific university. In your application, you will be 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.

Be sure to review which courses Irish universities offer via UCEAP’s academic guide to determine which university is the best academic fit for you.

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 History department at Trinity. Some universities have you apply directly to a school or department, but then let you take a few courses in other areas.

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.

Selection Timeline and Terminology
Nomination to the Irish Universities program happens at the campus level. Your application is then forwarded to UCEAP and then finally on to the Study Center in the UK for further review (Note: UCEAP’s Study Center for Ireland is located in Edinburgh, Scotland.) The Program Officer 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 in your UCEAP Portal.

After students complete all necessary pre-departure paperwork and procedures, their status will be changed to “accepted.” In almost all instances, your “referral” equals your “acceptance.” Acceptance at Irish Universities

UCEAP Advising Notes – Ireland
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.

Cohort
This program allows students to take courses alongside local Irish 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 UCEAP 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 14-16 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 the chart below to see how many courses students took in the past and how many semester units they were.
Housing
Trinity College Dublin
If Trinity 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Accommodation</th>
<th>Known for...</th>
<th>Room Type</th>
<th>Proximity to Trinity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Binary Hub</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Single with attached bathroom, kitchen on floor. Each flat has 4-6 rooms. The heaters are amazing.</td>
<td>1.2 miles (25 min walk)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kavanagh court</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Single</td>
<td>0.5 miles (10 min walk)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For University College Cork, University College Dublin or National University of Ireland, Galway, click the links to read about Housing options from the UCEAP webpages.

Other Important Notes
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 UCEAP 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.

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Irish Universities
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.

**UCEAP Alums**
UCEAP 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 Amy an email (averamay@berkeley.edu) with your list of questions and the contact information of returnees who have agreed to be contacted will be shared.

**UCEAP 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, photos of housing and tips from students who’ve participated on these programs are included in this folder.

**Making friends with locals**
When students are able to make friends with locals while studying abroad, their experience is enriched. The recent post How to Make Friends with Locals While Abroad by UCEAP student Elizabeth Lemerand (UCLA) offers advice for students to make meaningful connections while they travel.