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. The program described in this Advising Notes document is scheduled to proceed at this time, and UCEAP will inform campus offices if there are any updates.

Updated Nov. 2020

Ireland
Irish Parliament Internship
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 two 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.

**Placement**
To avoid placement delays or rejection, you are encouraged to put the time into developing a strong cover letter and CV with your initial application. The Parliament reserves the right not to accept a student based on the quality of their cover letter and/or CV. The Career Center offers excellent resources and support, which all students are encouraged to take advantage of. You can check this chart to see when students have been placed at your host university in the past.

**Housing**
For this program, students are placed in a homestay with an Irish family. Students will live in the small, coastal towns of Dalkey and Killiney. They are still in County Dublin - on the train it's about 30 minutes from the school and about 40 minutes from Parliament. The train system in Dublin is called the DART and is very similar to BART. You may share a homestay with another student on the same program.

Breakfast and dinner will be provided during the week, and on weekends you will receive lunch but not breakfast and dinner. Other meals are your own responsibility. Homestays are included in the UCEAP fees and the arrangements are made by the Institute of Public Administration. Homestays are integral to the program and are required for all participants.

*Student quote, “It's impossible to not make friends almost immediately especially with the homestay aspect of the program!”*

**Academics**
Class sizes are usually about 30 students and are taught by lecturers at the Institute of Public Administration (IPA) in the IPA building, which is located in an attractive, tree-lined suburb of Dublin within easy reach of the Parliament and the city center.

**How many courses/units will I take?**
Students are required to take 3 academic courses, worth 3 units each. See the UCEAP program website for more information on the courses. Students will then earn an additional 5 units for their internship for a total of 14 total units.

**Cohort**
To see how big the UCB cohorts were per university, check out this chart.

**Other Important Notes**

*Delayed Grades from Abroad*
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 with tips, example schedules and presentations from students who have participated in this program.

**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.