

Italy

Universities of Bologna, Bocconi & Padua

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, and reviewed by a student in the Program Self-Assessment.

The best sources of detailed program information are the [UCEAP program pages](#) for the Italy options.

Advisor Contact Information

The BSA Adviser for Italy is Renee Camarena (reneecamarena@berkeley.edu).

Language Considerations for Choosing a Program

Students with – or without – Italian language will find options for them from the UCEAP offerings. For students with sufficient Italian, there will be opportunities to take courses taught in Italian.

If you will have completed at least Italian 4 before departure, I encourage you to give serious consideration to choosing to take some of your courses taught in Italian, what we call the “full immersion option,” as it will greatly enhance your Italian proficiency and cultural knowledge. Though a greater challenge, the rewards are greater as well, especially if you intend to pursue graduate studies or a career related to Italy or the European Union.

Program Options

These three programs are called “immersion programs” as you will enroll in these Universities and take classes alongside Italian students.

All three of these universities are available for one semester (Fall or Spring) or for a full academic year (Fall and Spring).

How to Choose Among the Three Immersion Universities

It is important for you to do research using the various resources on the UCEAP website to determine which host university has the best opportunities for your academic objectives. Start with the [UCEAP program pages](#) for Bocconi, Bologna, and Padua and read them thoroughly.

Click on the Academics link on each program’s webpage for an explanation of how academics work at each university, as they are quite different. Then go to the [UCEAP Course Catalog](#) to view all courses taken by all UCEAP students in the past five years at each of these universities. Not all of the courses you see in the UCEAP Course Catalog will be offered the semester you’re there, but the Catalog can give you a good sense of what offerings have been in the past so you can see if your major is well represented. This is also just a subset of what could be offered, so also check out the actual host university websites to get a sense of what else might be offered.

The UCEAP Course Catalog also shows you how those courses transferred back to a UC transcript, i.e., what department, which language of instruction, how many quarter units (multiply by 2/3 to get semester units), whether they were designated as upper or lower division, etc., which makes it easier to show your major/minor/breadth adviser when asking if a specific course will fulfill a certain requirement.

Major Considerations

If you want to study Econ or Business in English, Bocconi is the better choice because it has a wider variety of these courses on offer, but Bologna does also offer courses in these fields in English.

If you want to study Business or Econ in Italian, you can do so at both Bocconi and Bologna. Be advised, however, that Economics courses at Bologna are very challenging, even for well-prepared students from Cal. I would encourage you to investigate course offerings at Bocconi as well to see if the kinds of courses you need are typically available at that excellent institution.

If you want to study any other subject in Italian for a semester or year, look to see if Bologna offers what you need to get your academic requirements met.

Political Science majors who want to take courses only about the European Union and its policies should not choose Bologna for logistical reasons. (The courses are taught in the town of Forli, about 70 km away.) Otherwise, Bologna is very good for Poli Sci majors and offers some coursework in English in International Relations. Bocconi now allows Poli Sci, Political Economy, Legal Studies, and Public Policy students to study there in English, though course offerings are somewhat limited, so review their [courses](#) carefully.

Architecture majors: Courses related to Architecture (though probably not studios) are available at Bologna, though few may appear in the UCEAP Course Catalog. Check the host university’s website for additional information.

Art Studio/Practice majors: If you want to take art studio courses in Italy through UCEAP, you should apply for Bologna. UCEAP has an agreement with the Academy of Fine Arts there. You may take one or two art courses at Accademia di Belle Arti di Bologna for which you have the appropriate background and the rest of your non-art curriculum at the University of Bologna.

Courses at the Accademia generally begin in late October. (Students on the Fall Semester only program will not be able to take courses at the Accademia since they run through February, so these courses work only for Spring and Year students.) The second semester begins in March.

Studio art courses are intended for advanced level students only since the coursework is at the advanced level. In fact Italian students who are admitted to the Accademia for the LAUREA degree program come principally from a LICEO ARTTISTICO where they have spent 5 years preparing for the Accademia experience. Admission for Italians is based on an entrance exam and the presentation and discussion of a portfolio.

While it is true that courses at the Accademia are intended for Studio Art majors, UCEAP has had a certain degree of success also with non-Studio Art majors who have taken courses primarily in printmaking and painting. The best courses at the Accademia seem to be in the following fields: painting, printmaking, drawing, and sculpture. Photography is very problematic because the Accademia does not have its own darkroom, forcing students to use private photo labs which are generally quite expensive.

University of Bocconi

Program Capacity Limitations

The University of Bocconi program has limited spaces available and qualified applicants are accepted on a first-come, first serve basis.

The fall 2024 application opens on November 1, 2023 at 9am and the UCEAP application submission is the timestamp for consideration of admission to the program.

The spring 2025 application opens on April 15, 2024 and the UCEAP application submission is the timestamp for consideration of admission to the program.

Students may review the UCEAP application instructions and start preparing any required documents for upload prior to the opening date, but cannot start the application until it opens on Nov 1st at 9am. Be sure to submit the UCEAP application first, immediately followed by the submission of the BSA application (within 24 hours) for all programs. Students may work on their BSA application in advance, but cannot submit until it opens.

No prior Italian is required. The short Intensive Language Program (ILP) at Bocconi is required of all participants just before the beginning of the semester. Students may continue studying elementary to intermediate Italian during the semester though an extra fee is charged by Bocconi.

Most courses at Bocconi are still taught in Italian so only a subset of ~60 (mostly Business and Econ, plus some Poli Sci/Poli Econ/Legal Studies/Public Policy) undergraduate courses in English per year will be available (another ~90 grad level courses for grad students, should they apply.)

Minimum eligibility requirements

You must be a Business Administration or Economics major to be eligible for Bocconi.

Econ majors and Business majors wanting to take Econ courses at Bocconi:

- One Calculus course (this can be lower division)
- BOTH the upper div Micro and Macro Economics courses MUST be completed before departure.
- At least one of them must be completed (preferable) or at least in progress at the time of application.
- Econ majors are expected to take some Econ courses at Bocconi.

Business majors and Econ majors wanting to take Business related courses in Bocconi's Accounting, Decision Sciences, Finance, Marketing, or Management departments:

- One course in Calculus (this can be lower division)
- Business majors are expected to take some Business courses at Bocconi.

Course Offerings and Major Considerations

The [Bocconi Course Offerings page](#) gives access to lists of courses offered in Fall/Spring 2020-21 in either Italian or English. Undergraduate courses begin with 30. Courses for 2021-22 will not be posted before you must apply, so use the current list to get a sense of what might be offered, then plan to be flexible in choosing your courses after consultation with your major adviser.

Students with considerable coursework completed in their field of study at Bocconi by departure are the best fit for Bocconi, as it is a competitive and rigorous school, so be prepared to work hard there. It will be well worth the effort.

Course Units

Each course at Bocconi is worth 4 UC semester units. Students are required to take 3-4 courses for a total of 12-16 semester UC units.

! Bocconi Spring Final Exams

In previous years, finals were held into late June which impacted some students returning to the US in time for a summer internship. This has been less of a concern more recently, but students should continue to be mindful of final exam periods when considering Bocconi.

University of Bologna

UCEAP students have been studying at Bologna for over 25 years. Bologna is one of the highest ranked comprehensive universities in Italy, usually ranked #1. Central Bologna is largely a medieval city with a high energy level and a lot of nightlife. Internships for academic credit are available and the study center can assist you.

Program Capacity Limitations

The University of Bologna program has limited spaces available and qualified applicants are accepted on a first-come, first serve basis.

The fall 2024 application opens on November 1, 2023 at 9am and the UCEAP application submission is the timestamp for consideration of admission to the program.

The spring 2025 application opens on April 15, 2024 and the UCEAP application submission is the timestamp for consideration of admission to the program.

Students may review the UCEAP application instructions and start preparing any required documents for upload prior to the opening date, but cannot start the application until it opens on Nov 1st at 9am. Be sure to submit the UCEAP application first, immediately followed by the submission of the BSA application (within 24 hours) for all programs. Students may work on their BSA application in advance, but cannot submit until it opens.

Bologna students must find their own housing for the entire period they are there, with guidance from the study center. Homestays are not arranged. Almost all UCEAP students in Bologna choose to live in apartments shared with Italian students. You may choose to stay in a hotel or hostel when you first arrive in Bologna, so that you can have a look around before deciding where to live. UCEAP students successfully find housing in Bologna every year – it's a little intimidating, but ultimately gratifying when you've accomplished it. Plus, you get to choose your apartment, and the people you'll share it with!

UCEAP students who are finishing their stay in Bologna actively seek out new UCEAP students to fill their rooms if they think their roommates and location are positive, so you could end up taking over a room from a departing UCEAP student, which makes it easy, too.

Course Offerings and Considerations

For detailed information about courses, see the [Academics](#) page on the UCEAP program page.

Also, please note that most courses taught in English are at the advanced level so you should have a strong academic background in the fields you wish to study in Bologna, preferably at least a year's worth of upper division courses in that subject. To find lists of courses that are usually taught in English at Bologna, go to:

[University of Bologna Courses](#): Browse the courses offered by clicking on a Scuola and looking at the different Laurea Triennale and Laurea Magistrale offered. Clicking on these links will take you to a list of courses. Usually periodo 1 refers to fall and periodo 2 refers to spring. You can also browse by clicking Insegnamenti and searching for courses using key phrases in Italian.

Expected courses taught in English: [Fall Semester](#)

Expected courses taught in English: [Spring Semester](#)

The choice of courses taught in English at Unibo is more limited than the choice of courses taught in Italian. Most courses taught in English at Unibo are at the Laurea Magistrale or masters level, UCEAP catalogs these courses as advanced UC undergraduate upper-division courses. These advanced courses have prerequisite requirements, so you will need to have a strong background in the fields you wish to

study in Bologna. If you are planning on taking courses in English, then you will need to do a self-evaluation to ensure you have the necessary background knowledge to be successful in these courses. Bologna does not offer English-taught courses in psychology, and there are limited courses in some fields such as communication and biology.

Students who have two years of university-level Italian will be encouraged to enroll in courses taught in Italian. It may also be possible for students who have 3 semesters of Italian to take a course or two in Italian, depending on the type of course and their proficiency. The UCEAP Study Center will evaluate and advise during the ILP.

Accademia di Belle Arti (Academy of Fine Arts)

Italian language requirement for Studio Art students to enroll in courses at the Academy of Fine Arts has been lowered to one year of Italian language study. Courses at the Academy may be taught in either Italian or English, depending on the course and the instructor. Due to the Academy of Fine Arts' calendar, only students on the year and spring packages are able to enroll in courses at the Academy. The one exception is the English-taught Introduction to Mosaics course, which does not require a language prerequisite or a background in art, and is available in both the fall and spring terms. This remains a very popular course among students!

Course Units

Each course at Bologna has a specific credit associated to it. You can use the "Previous Courses in English" documents linked on the [Bologna Academics page of the UCEAP website](#) (under Catalogs and Resources). Note the UC quarter and semester units for each listed course, so be sure to look at the semester units.

Bologna Video Resources

These videos were recently made by UCEAP students in Bologna.

[University of Bologna](#)

[Student life in Bologna](#)

[Living in Bologna](#)

[Bologna Internships](#)

[Bologna Housing](#)

[UCEAP Bologna Study Center](#)

Additional Resources

[A Day in Bologna](#)

[University of Bologna](#)

[New York Times 36 hours in Bologna](#)

[The Guardian's Bologna City Guide](#)

[Melissa's Blog](#)

[Lily's and Shelby's blog](#)

! Bologna Fall Calendar

In Bologna, some Fall Semester courses are taught in "modules" that end in late January, but many others end in December. The study center says that students have been able to find many professors who were willing to allow them to take early exams in mid-December so they can depart before Winter Break to return to California, but not every professor will be so inclined. Students will need to negotiate with professors at the beginning of the Fall Semester to see if they will be willing to accommodate their wish for early exams. The UCEAP study center staff in Bologna can assist you in finding courses that can work. If you have any concerns about this, please email the BSA Italy adviser. The calendar is not an issue in Spring, though early departures (for jobs, internships, etc.) are not permitted.

Psychology and Cognitive Science at University of Padua

This program is available for the following terms: year long or spring semester (not fall).

Minimum requirements for this program include:

- Applicants must be majoring in Psychology, Cognitive Science, Neuroscience and must be declared at time of application
- Must have completed two years of university coursework including 2 upper division courses prior to departure
- A minimum 3.0 GPA is required.

Most psychology and cognitive science courses are taught in English. If you have two or more years of Italian language study and enough background knowledge in the subject area, you may be able to enroll in Italian-taught psychology and cognitive science courses as well as elective courses. Select from a curated course list that includes social psychology, genes and behavior, cognitive science, neurology and more. Elective courses are also available during the year and spring if you have a strong academic background in the subject. For more information, see the [UCEAP program page](#) and review the [Academics](#) section for details about courses.

- Students will take both Bachelor and first year Master's courses so need to have a solid foundation in their major.
- This program begins with a two-week intensive language program (ILP) from beginning to intermediate levels to help you get familiar with the Italian language at your knowledge level.
- Throughout the term, you may be able to continue Italian language study by enrolling in a Biannual Italian course. This course comes with an additional fee and does not offer UC credit. The course results in a certificate of participation for attending at least 70% of the classes and passing the final test.

Since Padua is a new option, the best source of information is the [UCEAP website](#).

A great opportunity at Padua UCEAP students can participate in is the ESN (Erasmus Student Network). (Erasmus is a European study abroad consortium). The ESN is a European network created by students in the 90s at first for Erasmus mobility, but they now welcome all international and exchange students, despite their name. They are all volunteers and believe in the principle "students helping students". Our local section here in Padua is very active and motivated. They provide incoming students with advice on practical matters and organize plenty of events: parties, workshops, dinners and also trips.

Students can reach them via mail or social media or by joining their facebook group even before their arrival to get some useful tips in advance and start getting to know other students.

[Check out their website.](#)

Course Units

The University of Padua uses the European ECTS system. A rough estimate of the conversion rate for this system is:

- 6 ECTS = 3.3 semester units
- 9 ECTS = 4.7 semester units
- 12 ECTS = 6.5 semester units

More information can be found in the Padua Fall Courses and Padua Year and Spring courses documents linked on the [Padua Academics page of the UCEAP website](#) (under Catalogs and Resources).

Other Important Notes

Financial Aid and Scholarships for Study Abroad

- View UCB financial aid details and many scholarship opportunities on our [webpage](#). Deadlines to apply for scholarships are earlier than you may think, so do your research now!
- Some scholarships that are good for students going to Italy:
 - [Duttenhaver Scholarships for UCEAP year-long programs](#)
 - [UC Berkeley's Institute of International Studies Merit Scholarships](#) - non-need-based scholarships of up to \$2,000 each to support undergraduate research (can be done abroad) in any area of international studies (deadline is usually in November)

- Some specific scholarships for students studying in Italy are:
 - The [National Italian-American Foundation \(NIAF\)](#) offers \$2,500-\$12,000 grants. Deadline = March 1.
 - The [UCB Classics Department offers various prizes and awards](#) for travel and study in Italy and certain other appropriate countries.
 - A UCEAP scholarship has been established for Berkeley students by the Lucheta family, creator of Torani syrups. There is no application to fill out. Recipients will be chosen based on financial aid criteria and notified of selection.

Grad Students

Some UCEAP programs are open to graduate students. Since this varies from program to program, please check out the individual program page you are interested in on the UCEAP website. Check out our [Graduate Students webpage](#) for some information to help you get started.

DSP Students

If you receive accommodations at Cal and would like to know if they are also available in the program abroad that interests you, it is a good idea to email your BSA adviser to inquire about your specific needs. That way, if your needs cannot be accommodated in that program, you can investigate other programs that might.

UCEAP Alumni/ae and Reciprocal Exchange Students as Resources

UCEAP alums and students studying at Cal from our partner universities in Italy are some of your best resources for information about the program. If you would like to be put in touch with alums or reciprocity students, simply send the BSA Adviser an email addressed to the alums or reciprocity students (e.g., "Dear alums, or Dear Reciprocity Students, I have some questions about the program or your university...") and the message will be forwarded to them.

Critical Passport Details

Your passport must be valid for 3 months beyond the end date of the UCEAP program.

Also, your UCEAP application name and your passport name must be identical (not just similar). If there is a discrepancy of even one letter, hyphen, middle initial vs. full middle name, Jr., etc, the Italian consulate will not issue you a visa. Please check your passport name and use precisely that name on your UCEAP application, even if it doesn't match the name you use at UC Berkeley. If your passport name has an error, either get your passport fixed before you apply for UCEAP, or simply use the incorrect name on your UCEAP application in order to avoid a challenge later on.

Italian Universities vs US Universities

It is a reality to be taken seriously before you decide to apply to study in Italy, as you will be operating under Italian norms while there. Sometimes students ask me how strict the grading is in Italy. It is impossible to generalize. Most students fare about as well in Italy as they do in Berkeley, if they study diligently. There is no guarantee, however, that all grades will be perfect A's, even with diligent study (just as there isn't at Cal). Much depends on what the individual professors are like and what they expect from American students. Occasionally, students are upset because they receive, for example, a B+ instead of the A- they think they deserve. Just as at Cal, it is most unlikely that grades will be altered, unless clerical error can be shown. Studying in another country entails some degree of risk, but in the end, the vast majority of study abroad alums would insist that the long-term rewards far outweigh the risks.

Media Resources

In order to aid with your study abroad process, the Study Abroad team has compiled media resources from UCEAP and Universities. These resources include YouTube videos that provide an overview of a location or university, and student blog posts and more. These resources can be used to give you a better understanding of what your study abroad experience may be like!

UCEAP Resources

[Study Abroad in the Mediterranean \(Italy and Spain\) | UCEAP Virtual Study Abroad Fair 2021](#)

[Study Abroad in Italy | UCEAP Study Abroad Fair 2020](#)

[15 signs you studied abroad in Italy](#)

[3-minute travel guide: Bologna,](#)

[Italy 3-minute travel guide: Rome,](#)

[Italy](#) Bocconi University

[#BocconiLife - Discovering the Campus](#) (YouTube)

[#BocconiLife - How to survive life in Italian](#) (YouTube)

[Bocconi Campus VR](#)

Mille grazie! Buona
fortuna!