

Italy

Berkeley Study
Abroad



UCEAP Advising Notes

UC Center programs in Rome, Florence, Procida & Syracuse:

- Art, Food and Society
- Communication Studies in Rome
- Crossroads of Culture in the Mediterranean
- Volcanology Studies, Sicily
- Italian in Florence
- Made in Italy, Florence
- Made in Italy, Rome
- Sociology in Rome

Multi-Site Program: Sustainable Food Systems in the Mediterranean

If you're looking to study at the University of Bologna, Bocconi or Padua click [here](#) to view the advising note for those programs.

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.

Please note there are two "Advising Notes" documents for Italy. The other is for the "immersion" options at regular Italian universities (Bologna, Bocconi and Padua) where UCEAP students take the same courses that the Italian students take. If you would like to attend one of these universities, please review the [advising note](#). I encourage students to consider one of these options if they'd like to get as immersed into Italian culture as possible.

Advisor Contact Information

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

Program Options

These programs were created by UC just for UC students from all ten UC campuses. No local students participate in these programs. They are taught in English, so no prior Italian (or Spanish) is expected. They are not connected to any university abroad, but are administered by a UCEAP Study Center in each city. For these reasons, it can be more challenging to meet local college students and to get immersed in the local culture without intentional effort.

Click the links below to view minimum requirements, language minimums/maximums and other program specifics.

UC Center Florence

[Italian in Florence](#) - Mainly a language program plus one subject course taught in English.

[Made in Italy, Florence](#) - Crash course in Italian language plus subject courses related to Florence and Italy taught in English.

The Made in Italy, Florence program has limited spaces available and qualified applicants are accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis.

The summer and 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.

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.

Students may study on these programs in Fall or Spring semester or during the Summer. Winter quarter is not an option for Berkeley students.

The amount of language and area studies courses varies among the summer, fall, and spring options, so please read the UCEAP program pages carefully for details about courses in each program as you must choose a program when you apply.

Check out the [UCEAP Florence video](#).

UC Center Rome

[Art, Food and Society](#) - Spring semester only. Winter quarter is not an option for Berkeley students.

[Communication Studies in Rome](#) - Fall semester only.

[Sociology in Rome](#) - Fall semester only. Both [Sociology courses](#) have been approved for major credit (as of Nov 2021).

[Made in Italy, Rome](#) - crash course in Italian language plus subject courses related to Rome and Italy taught in English.

Check out the [UCEAP Rome video](#).

UC Center Syracuse (Sicily)

[Volcanology Studies, Sicily](#) - New for 2021. Summer only. Taught by researchers from the National Institute of Volcanology and Geophysics. Courses offered in this program pre-approved by Geology, Geophysics for major elective credit (and likely Environmental Earth Science as well).

Multi-site - Florence, Syracuse, and Istanbul, Turkey

[Sustainable Food Systems in the Mediterranean](#) - this program was previously known as the Mediterranean Politics, Food and Culture.

Effective Fall 2023 – The program will no longer have a segment in Barcelona, Spain. We are looking forward to this new segment opportunity in Turkey. Students will have the chance to experience a local Turkish university setting and to visit political, commercial, and cultural institutions. Classes will be held in one of Istanbul's top universities with a local professor, guest speakers, and site visits will enhance students' learning. Students will be housed in a hotel in the Kadikoy area of Istanbul, a neighborhood filled with local shops and restaurants. There will be double rooms with breakfast included. The area is well served for public transport to the rest of the city.

Advice on How to Choose from Among These Options

A.) Academics

Before beginning your research on these options, please read our [Academic Planning webpage](#) that explains the process to find out if courses abroad might fulfill requirements for your degree. Check out the [Major Advising page](#) as well.

If you want to fulfill breadth requirements, Rome and Florence offer quite a few courses that have been pre-approved by L&S, CED, and CNR. See our [College Advising page](#) for further information about the process to ask for an evaluation of other courses that you'd like to take for breadth requirements, plus a link to the list of courses pre-approved by L&S, CED, and CNR for breadth requirements. For other colleges, contact the college adviser directly.

Your academic needs and wishes will determine whether an option makes sense for you. Each program offers a different, relatively limited "set menu" of courses, so if a program's course offerings cannot fulfill the major/minor/breadth requirements that you must fulfill while abroad (if any), then you can cross that program off your list of possibilities.

Please read carefully the "Academics" section on each program's UCEAP webpage so you understand clearly what is and is not offered by each option. Programs offered in the past will have a link to the [UCEAP Course Catalog](#) showing how courses have transferred back to UC. New programs will not have such a catalog yet, so you'll need to base your decision on the course information that is or will be posted once courses have been finalized.

Generally speaking, the language courses will be lower division and must be taken for a letter grade; the subject courses will be upper division and were designed to fulfill breadth requirements and possibly major requirements in the corresponding department. Consult with your college and major/minor advisers about specific courses.

The programs' courses are rigorous - including the language courses - as this is a UC program offering UC-quality courses. You will learn a lot, but you will indeed have to study, and all these programs have a strict attendance policy.

B.) Internships

Internships for academic credit can often be arranged in some semester programs, but not on any of the summer programs. See the Academics section of the specific program site for further details. An internship in Rome or Florence is over and above the other required course work. In addition to the summer programs, an internship is not possible in the Sustainable Food Systems in the Mediterranean fall program.

C.) Language Study

These programs have no language prerequisite, but differ in how much language is offered/required during the program. Some programs offer no language courses, while others offer intensive Italian language options. Some programs require about one semester's worth of language coursework during the program. Before choosing any of these programs, please be sure you understand how much language you will be studying by reviewing the individual UCEAP program pages.

D.) Housing

All programs have unique housing options available that range from program arranged apartment, dorm or homestay. Check out the UCEAP program pages to review what types of housing are available for each specific program. Homestays (where available) are recommended for students who wish to immerse themselves as much as possible in Italian culture.

E.) One city or more?

Some students are attracted to the idea of experiencing more than one city during their semester abroad. Please think carefully before choosing a multi-site program primarily for this reason. Some multi-site alums have said that it was discombobulating to uproot themselves from each city after such a short time when they were just getting comfortable there, in order to move on to the next city. They said that in retrospect, they wish they had stayed in one city and simply visited the other cities at some point or after the program was over. If you're contemplating choosing the multi-site program as a way of spending time in a Spanish-speaking country in addition to Italy, please also investigate the many options in Spain, Mexico, Argentina, and Chile as alternatives before making a final decision.

F.) Competitiveness of these Options

Rome and Florence have not been impacted recently. Most students who meet the minimum eligibility requirements and submit a well-prepared application with an articulate Statement of Purpose have a good chance of being selected.

The Sustainable Food Systems in the Mediterranean program has been impacted previously. Each campus has been allocated a certain number of spaces for this program. If more applications are received for the spaces we have been allotted by UCEAP, the selection criteria that will be used include

GPA and academic record; whether applicants intend to take courses related to their major; class standing. Priority will be given to students who successfully convey an understanding of the program and can articulate thoughtfully why this program in particular is a good fit for them and how the program will benefit them academically, professionally, and personally.

G.) Type of city

Florence is a beautiful medium-sized city (population ~400,000) famous for its history and great art treasures. Despite its moderate size, what it offers is so vast and remarkable that boredom is unlikely to occur. It can be somewhat difficult to interact with the locals, however, as many Florentines prefer to speak English because of the crowds of tourists who visit almost year-round. The UC study center is not affiliated with any Italian university in Florence so meeting Italian college students can be challenging. Volunteer opportunities can get students engaged with local Italians, if they wish. Meeting other study abroad students is inevitable, however, as Florence is one of the most popular study abroad destinations in Italy, if not all of Europe. It is possible to escape the foreign influx, but it will require intention and effort on your part. Please consider whether a medium-sized city often full of tourists and study abroad students is the appropriate locale for you to fulfill your study abroad goals. [Here](#) is an article from the Los Angeles Times about Florence for you to review.

Rome is a vast cosmopolitan city (population ~3,000,000) that also has huge numbers of tourists and study abroad students, but it is more able to absorb them due to its size. Because of heavy traffic, Rome is not a quiet, cozy city, but it offers millenia of eye-opening art and architecture. The UC study center is not affiliated with any Italian university in Rome so meeting Italian college students can be challenging. Volunteer and internship opportunities can get students engaged with local Italians, if they wish. Please consider whether a large, heavily-touristed metropolis is the appropriate locale for you to fulfill your study abroad goals. [Here](#) is a link to an article from the New York Times about Rome for you to review.

Procida is a beautiful, but tiny island (2 square miles) so I would encourage you not to choose this option unless the courses are truly of interest.

Syracuse is a 2,700-year-old city on the island of Sicily with a population of 125,000. While located on an island, you can still reach the mainland of Italy by car, train or ferry.

Other Important Notes

Financial Aid and Scholarships for Study Abroad

View Berkeley 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 to support undergraduate research (can be done abroad) in any area of international studies
- Some specific scholarships for students studying in Italy are:
 - The [National Italian-American Foundation \(NIAF\)](#) offers grants.
 - 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.

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.

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.

Graduating Seniors Spending their Last UC Term Abroad in any UCEAP Program

Graduating seniors must enroll in a full course load while abroad, even if they do not need the courses or units for graduation. (Requests by DSP students who provide documentation may be considered for a reduced course load.) Only one-third of units taken abroad may be on a P/NP basis (typically about one course); the rest must be letter-graded. Each program's policy is a bit different, so consult the Academics section of each program page for details.

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: Rome, Italy](#)

Mille grazie! Buona fortuna!