Mexico
UCEAP Advising Notes

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.

Last updated Nov. 2020

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. If any concerns you have are not addressed on the UCEAP website or the Advising Notes document, please contact the BSA adviser for this program.

Advisor Contact Information
For BSA Adviser name, email and drop-in advising hours, visit our website.

All Mexico Programs:
U.S. Citizens: All U.S. citizens need a passport to study abroad in Mexico.

Mexican Citizens: Students who are Mexican citizens have no restrictions on applying to UCEAP-Mexico programs. They do not need visas to study in Mexico.

Non-U.S. Citizens: UCEAP supplies visa forms and information only to U.S. citizens applying to study in Mexico. International students should contact the Mexican consulate to inquire how to apply for a visa to study in Mexico. The UCEAP Office will not supply special assistance to non-U.S. citizens applying for visas.

Verification of Language Prerequisites: All students must have academic verification of language acquisition at the college level (grades on college transcripts, AP, IB, or SAT test scores) at the time of application for a program with a Spanish language requirement. Students who do not have academic verification, but believe they have equivalent knowledge, will have to take a language test under the auspices of the Spanish Department at UCB. For general information about the different ways that you can fulfill Spanish language prerequisites, please see the UCEAP Language Prerequisite Guide: Spanish & Portuguese.

Finishing Language Prerequisites before departure: You can take prerequisite language courses the semester or summer before departure for the program, if the timing works out with the start date of the program—you must begin on time. However, you won’t be cleared for participation on the program until the language courses are completed, and their completion is verified to the Mexico adviser by an email or postcard from your instructor or proof of the grade on an official transcript.
Contemporary Mexico, UC Center Mexico City (Summer)  
This program is for students with any level of Spanish language who wish to study Spanish, history & culture. Students take similar courses as the Field Research, UNAM and Leadership & Social Justice students. Three sections of Spanish are offered for beginners, intermediate and advanced/native speakers. Students participate in excursions to the Pyramids, the Xochimilco floating gardens and to the Bellas Artes Concert Hall.

Field Research, UC Center Mexico City, (Fall)  
Pay careful attention to the start date of the program: the program starts during the summer. It is not possible to arrive late to the program because of a job, internship or other summer school coursework commitments. This program offers a set menu of courses. It is not possible to take any additional courses or substitute any other coursework. The first three courses, Intensive Spanish, Contemporary Mexico and Research Methodology, are offered in the first five weeks of the program while the students are in Mexico City. The fourth course, the Field Research Project, is offered during the last 9 weeks of the program while students are at the field research sites. It is possible to do a field research project in almost any field of study. Students are assigned a mentor to provide support for their research project.

Extension to Spring UNAM Program: Fall FRP students can extend to the Spring UNAM semester if they have a 2.85 or higher cumulative GPA.

National Autonomous Univ. of Mexico (UNAM) (Fall, Spring, Year)  
Pay careful attention to the start date of the program: the fall and year programs start during the summer. It is not possible to arrive late to the program because of a job, internship or other summer school coursework commitments. There is a mandatory Intensive Language Program for the first five weeks of the program for students with all levels of Spanish (including heritage speakers). Students will be tested when the program starts and placed into an appropriate level of Spanish. UNAM is a very large university with a history grounded in student activism. Berkeley students have reported an interactive and dynamic learning style in the classroom and lively student life/activism that occurs outside the classroom. Please note that student strikes occur regularly which may lead to changes in course availability throughout the semester and in these cases, Casa de California staff work closely with students to make alternative academic arrangements. Students interested in an internship work with the Casa de California staff to identify an internship placement. Fall semester students can extend to stay for the following Spring Semester.

Leadership in Social Justice and Public Policy in Mexico City and Sacramento - Year Program is a combination of a the UNAM Fall Semester and a Spring Semester in Sacramento, CA at the UC Sacramento Center, where students do an internship and take courses. This leadership program has a focus on Latinx and US/Mexico bi-national issues, starting with coursework at the top University in Mexico and a bridging Leadership course, followed by a semester of political science coursework and an internship experience in the U.S. In Spring semester internship placements are tailored to students’ backgrounds, skills and career goals. Students take the Calif. Policy Seminar, an independent study course in political science theory, during the spring term. Students also meet with a mentor who will supervise the preparation of an extensive paper relating the internship and experiences in Mexico to the concepts, literature and theory of political science. This is an excellent program for students interested in pursuing public policy, social change work, and growing their professional skill set and network.

Global Health in Mexico (Summer)  
This is a relatively new program offered by UCEAP. Students must have completed 4 semesters of college-level Spanish or the equivalent prior to departure. This program allows you to interact with communities to better understand social conditions that affect local health. It operates in Puerto Escondido, Oaxaca and is run by Child Family Health International and the Oasis Language School. The program includes a Spanish Language for Health course, a practicum in the health field, a homestay, cultural activities and site visits. The practicum experiences take place at a public health center and are focused on child and maternal health. This is a great option for students seeking practical global health experience on a local-level and to increase their medical Spanish language skills.