Mexico
UCEAP Advising Notes

Objective

This document is an advising tool written by a Berkeley Study Abroad (BSA) 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.

COVID-19 Information

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. Please check this website for the most up to date information about which programs are running in the 2022-23 academic year.

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U.S. Passport Holders
U.S. citizens must have a passport to study abroad in Mexico.

Mexican Passport Holders
Students who are Mexican citizens have no restrictions on applying to UCEAP-Mexico programs and do not need a visa to study in Mexico.

Non-U.S. and Non-Mexican Passport Holders
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.

Language Prerequisites
All students must have documented 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, may request a language placement exam by emailing the Mexico Adviser. For general information about the different ways that you can fulfill Spanish language prerequisites, please refer to the UC Berkeley Spanish Department’s Placement Guidelines.

You can take prerequisite language courses the semester before your program starts. However, you won’t be cleared for participation on the program until grades are posted.

Field Research in Mexico (Fall)

Early Start Date
This program starts during the summer and it is not possible to arrive late to the program because of a job, internship or other summer school coursework commitments.
Academics

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.

Research Projects

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 University of Mexico - UNAM (Fall, Spring, Year)

Early Start Date

This program starts during the summer and 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.

Application

Students must submit a letter of recommendation in the UCEAP application that is on UC Berkeley letterhead and is signed by the writer. Please request this well in advance of the program deadline.

Students must write a statement of purpose in Spanish for the UCEAP application and a statement of purpose in English for the Berkeley Study Abroad application.

Academics

Students may only apply to one facultad (department) and take courses within that facultad. If you are a double major and need to take courses in more than one facultad, you must request this very early after being selected for the program. It may be too late to accommodate this if
you wait until the program starts. All courses are instructed in Spanish, and all coursework is in 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.

Internships

Students interested in an internship work with the Casa de California staff to identify an internship placement after they arrive in Mexico City.

Leadership in Social Justice and Public Policy in Mexico City and Sacramento (Year)

This 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.

Early Start Date (Fall & Year)

This program starts during the summer and 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.

Application

As part of the UCEAP application for this program, students must upload a completed UC Sacramento application as well. This application has many steps and requires you to work with multiple offices on campus. It takes time to complete so be sure to start early.

Students must submit a letter of recommendation in the UCEAP application that is on UC Berkeley letterhead and is signed by the writer. Please request this well in advance of the program deadline.

Students must write a statement of purpose in Spanish for the UCEAP application and a statement of purpose in English for the Berkeley Study Abroad application.
Academics

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, 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.

Internships

In the Spring semester, students are placed in an internship with the assistance of the UC Sacramento staff that is tailored to students’ backgrounds, skills and career goals.

Contemporary Mexico (Summer)

This program is for students with any level of Spanish language who wish to study Spanish, history & culture. Three sections of Spanish are offered for beginners, intermediate and advanced/native speakers. Students participate in excursions to places like the Pyramids, the Xochimilco floating gardens and to the Bellas Artes Concert Hall.

Global Health in Mexico (Summer)

This program allows you to interact with communities to better understand social conditions that affect local health. It operates in Puerto Escondido, Oaxaca, a sleepy beach town. It 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.