COVID-19 Note
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

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

RESOURCES

Advisor Contact Information
For BSA Adviser name, email and advising availability, visit http://studyabroad.berkeley.edu/advising

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. One of the first cycle’s participants and Gilman Scholarship recipient, Natalie Myren also created a blog about her experiences: https://natsgilmanfiles.wordpress.com/

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.

Readings & Recommended Coursework
Being more informed about the history and current affairs of Australia, the Solomon Islands, and Oceania in general, can lead to a more fulfilling study abroad experience. Coursework in Oceania, Indigenous Peoples studies, Environmental Sciences and Development Studies by the time of departure is strongly recommended in addition to the required coursework. Such classes will allow you to become familiar with the context in which issues are discussed, and will help you to understand the unique relationships that Pacific Island nations have with the rest of the world.
Please see the some suggested resources below:
https://cgph.globalhealth.berkeley.edu/category/research/oceaniaresearch/
https://guides.lib.berkeley.edu/criticalpistudies

PROGRAM
PACIFIC ISLAND ENVIRONMENTAL & COMMUNITY HEALTH- SPRING
The 12-week multisite program in Pacific Island Environmental & Community Health is a relatively new program offered in Brisbane, Australia and Honiara, Solomon Islands since spring 2017. Students spend six weeks at the University of Queensland before moving to the Solomon Islands. In Brisbane, students will be studying at the University of Queensland and in Honiara, students will be studying with scholars from the Solomon Islands National University. During the five weeks’ time in the Solomon Islands, students will be conducting field studies in additional locations outside of the capital.

In addition to time in Honiara, students on the program will be traveling to remote communities where there may not be many modern facilities students are used to.

Please keep in mind the additional cautions UCEAP states about the program:
“As field activities are a major component of the program and are very physically demanding, participants must be physically fit, able to swim, and free of serious medical conditions that would require on-going medical supervision. There is little development of infrastructure in the Solomon Islands and access to many of the field sites is via hiking/climbing. Students must be prepared to participate in long-distance walks over extremely rough, remote terrain and bush land. Students must be prepared to swim and snorkel and will be using boats to gain access to field sites. Students must be willing to abide by the water safety regulations presented and enforced by the program supervisors. In addition, students must be flexible, open to the local culture, and tolerant of local religious practices.”

The program will focus on areas of marine science, environmental studies, sustainability, community health and cultural studies. The perquisite is to have at least lower division class from one of the following: biology, ecology, environmental studies, or environmental science. Previous coursework in anthropology or sociology is highly recommended.

Space Limitations
This program is an impacted option. For the spring 2022 program, Berkeley was granted 10 spaces.

Students interested in this option are highly encouraged to speak with the adviser prior to applying. You may be able to obtain permission to apply to a back-up choice.

Because this program is impacted, applicants need to think very carefully whether this program is the right fit.

The selection criteria we will use for this program include:
- Student’s coursework background and training in relevant areas
- Student’s completion of at least one lower division class from one of the following: biology, ecology, environmental studies, or environmental science. Previous coursework in anthropology or sociology is highly recommended.
- Whether the courses abroad are relevant for major related requirements
- GPA
- Class Standing
- Statement of Purpose: priority will be given to students who successfully convey why the Environmental & Community Health program in particular is a good fit for them and how the program will benefit them academically, professionally, and/or personally
- Completeness and thoroughness of application. Incomplete applications without sufficient reason could be denied immediately.

Please check UCEAP’s Program Page for the most up-to-date information.