

Multi Site: Australia & Solomon Islands

UCEAP Advising Notes

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to present challenges related to health concerns and international travel. Please check UCEAP's [Pandemic Updates](#) page for the most up-to-date information about UCEAP program cancelations for the 2023-24 academic year. *Updated 09/2022*

The Pacific Islands Environmental & Community health spring 2024 program will not be offered due to COVID. Please consider the Australia Marine Biology & Terrestrial Ecology program as an alternative.

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.

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PROGRAM SUMMARY

	Fall	Spring
Pacific Islands Environmental & Community Health		X

RESOURCES

Advisor Contact Information

The Berkeley Study Abroad Adviser for this program is Michelle Ayazi (mayazi@berkeley.edu). Please feel free to email Michelle with any questions and/or concerns you have about the program or your participation. You can make an [advising appointment](#) with Michelle.

UCEAP 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/>

UCEAP 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, Pacific Islands 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. 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 week duration 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 accustomed 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 prerequisite is to have at least one lower division class from one of the following fields: biology, ecology, environmental studies, or environmental science. Previous coursework in anthropology or sociology is highly recommended.

Space Limitations

The spring 2024 program has been canceled due to COVID concerns. When offered, this program has a capacity limitation of 40 across the UC system. 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 has capacity constraints, 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.

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