

Russia

UCEAP Advising Notes

UCEAP Russia programs are cancelled for 2022-2023 and 2023-2024.

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.

Adviser 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 [here](#).

The UCEAP Russia programs are administered on-site by the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE). For the most complete information, we recommend that you study the UCEAP and CIEE program pages together:

[UCEAP Russian Area Studies program page](#) (Fall and Spring Semesters Only)

[UCEAP Russian Language program page](#) (Summer, Fall, Spring and Year)

[CIEE Russia Programs landing page](#)

As a UCEAP participant, you should be referring to the UCEAP program pages for eligibility, academic policies and program cost information.

Exclusivity Clause

Please note that CIEE has an "exclusivity agreement" with UCEAP for its "Russian Language" and "Russian Area Studies" programs such that UC students must participate in them via UCEAP; they are not allowed to participate in them directly via CIEE. If CIEE offers program options other than the UCEAP programs in Russia, then UC students may participate independently of UCEAP and apply directly to CIEE for those. Students who choose to study abroad independently are advised to read our Independent Study Abroad Guide for important details before applying: <https://myapp.berkeley.edu/independent.pdf>

Application Process

All UCEAP students must initiate their application through the Berkeley Study Abroad Portal to be considered for UCEAP participation: <http://studyabroad.berkeley.edu/uceap-how-apply>. Please take care to follow the provided instructions! You will be required to submit a language evaluation form completed by a professor of Russian to CIEE at a later date if you have studied Russian.

Note for Transfer Students: Students must complete at least one semester at UC Berkeley before departure.

Students who meet and maintain the minimum eligibility requirements and submit a complete and well-prepared application with an articulate Statement of Purpose will have a very good chance of being selected.

Scholarships

CIEE offers scholarships and grants based on merit and financial need. Students will have access to the CIEE online scholarship application once they begin their CIEE online application.

All UCEAP students are encouraged to apply for a UCEAP Scholarship, which offers a \$2000 award for semester programs. For more information, visit the [UCEAP Scholarships](#) page.

US Citizen Pell Grant recipients are encouraged to apply for the Gilman Scholarship, which offers a possible award of up to \$5000. For more information, visit gilmanscholarship.org

More information on financial aid and scholarships can be found on our website:
<http://studyabroad.berkeley.edu/finances>

IMPORTANT NOTE re: Russian language levels and instruction

The Summer Russian Language (SRL) program includes beginning, intermediate, and advanced language levels. No prior Russian is required. The semester-length Russian Language Program (RLP) requires through Slavic 4; the Russian Area Studies semester program (RAS) has a maximum of Russian 3. See the Academics section of the UCEAP Russia program webpages for further details (linked to above). Consult with Professor Anna Muza in the Slavic Dept regarding placement in the appropriate level of Russian course when you return to Cal, as it will vary depending on how much Russian you knew before you left, which program you participate in abroad, and how hard you work on your language acquisition while you're in Russia.

If you are a heritage speaker of Russian and have never taken a Russian course at Cal, you must ask Prof. Anna Muza to complete a language evaluation of your Russian proficiency. The form and instructions can be found in your Berkeley Study Abroad application.

Consider majoring or double-majoring in Russian. See their Major Advising Page - click on the study abroad options link at the bottom of this webpage: <http://slavic.berkeley.edu/undergraduate/>

Taking Russian Language Classes at Cal P/NP

Russian classes you take at Cal may be taken P/NP, *but with your application you must provide a written note from your instructor or the Slavic Department stating what your letter grade would have been. It is your responsibility to make arrangements for this without prompting from the Russia adviser or BSA office.* This is required even for the options that have no minimum language requirement or minimum Language GPA. A Language GPA must still be calculated and provided to UCEAP by our office.

Passports, Visas and International Travel Prior To the Program

Your passport must be valid for *6 months beyond the end date of the UCEAP program in Russia.* Check the UCEAP Russia webpage to see the tentative end dates. If you don't have a valid passport, apply right away so that you have it in your possession by March 1 for Fall, or by September 1 for Spring.

Due to lengthy Russian visa processing times, travel after the UC term ends and before this EAP program is highly discouraged. Please discuss any potential pre-program travel plans with your BSA Adviser.

Instructions on travel and Visa/Entry Clearance will be provided in your UCEAP Pre-Departure Portal, which will be available to you after you have been selected for the program.

Student who were born in Russia, have Russian Citizenship and/or have Russian parents

Male students who have Russian citizenship or were born in Russia and did not formally renounce their Russian citizenship can be conscripted into the Russian military if they are 18-27 years old and have not satisfied their Russian military service requirement. Check with the U.S. State Department or the Russian Government for more information.

Students (male and female) who have both Russian and American citizenship, or who have American citizenship but were born in Russia, should also contact the U.S. State Department or the Russian Government regarding their ability to obtain a Russian visa with an American passport.

Students (male and female) who were born in the U.S. but whose parents are Russian Nationals are generally considered Russian citizens and may not be able to obtain a Russian visa with an American passport. Check with the U.S. State Department or the Russian Government for more information.

Applicants who fall into any of these categories should notify the UCEAP Russia Program Specialist at kgeorgieva@uceap.universityofcalifornia.edu.

HIV Test

The Russian consulate will require a *negative* HIV test result with your name on it in order to grant a student visa. More information will be available in your UCEAP Portal after selection. The HIV test result is not a requirement of the Health Clearance required by UCEAP; it is only for the student visa.

Special Demands of the Program

Students are responsible for reviewing all informational materials and resources provided by UCEAP and CIEE and are expected to do independent research on Russia, the city of St. Petersburg and the surrounding area. Students should also familiarize themselves with the role of race, gender, sexuality, and religion while studying in Russia, and develop appropriate expectations according to personal backgrounds and self-identification. Students should familiarize themselves [U.S. Department of State Country Page for Russia](#). Please also read this helpful page on [Diversity in St. Petersburg](#) by CIEE.

LGBTQIA+ Travelers

Be sure to carefully read the “Local Laws & Special Circumstances” section of the [U.S. Department of State Country Page for Russia](#) where it addresses LGBTI Travelers, and the [U.S. Department of State LGBTI Travel Information page](#). While LGBTI students should exercise caution in discussing their sexual orientation or gender identity with people they do not know well, students on the program report feeling safe and comfortable in general.