

Senegal

UCEAP Advising Notes

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 an EAP 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, and reviewed by a student in the Program Self-Assessment. The best source of detailed program information is always the [UCEAP Program Guide](#) from the prior academic cycle. If any concerns you have are not addressed on the UCEAP website, in the Program Guide 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 <http://studyabroad.berkeley.edu/advising>

Note about UCEAP's Programs in Senegal

This UCEAP program is administered by the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE). Two Tracks are available through this program.

[CIEE Language & Culture website](#)
[CIEE Development Studies website](#)

Students who wish to participate in the Development Studies track should mention this in their application statement of purpose and must indicate their interest later when completing the CIEE application. Students cannot apply for this program on site.

Additional Application Materials for CIEE

Students must complete CIEE application materials after their selection to the program by Berkeley Study Abroad. Students should note that the CIEE application will require items that may take additional time to prepare, including, but not limited to, language evaluations, letters of recommendation, official transcript, and passport-size photos. Please do not take action until you have been given detailed instructions for these items by UCEAP. Please follow the application instructions provided by UCEAP very carefully, and abide by the application deadlines set by UCEAP (not CIEE).

Curriculum

Students may notice striking differences between their home educational system and the Senegalese model, which is based on the French system. While students in the U.S. are accustomed to a very structured system, the Senegalese method generally requires students to take greater initiative and responsibility in a less structured environment. Some American students could misperceive a course as having a light workload or few assignments, but students are expected to engage in a great deal of individual study and extensive reading outside of the classroom.

Housing

All students live in a Senegalese home in a furnished room. Living with a Senegalese family enables students to have daily contact with French and/or Wolof languages and learn about family and social life in Senegal, which are crucial aspects of the culture. While French is the official language of the country, Wolof is most commonly spoken in the homes of the host families. Students will realize the challenges of living in a multiethnic and multilingual society as they learn to function in both languages.

Host families tend to view U.S. students as adopted children and expect them to eat meals and spend time with their family and friends. Homestay placements are determined on the basis of a preliminary questionnaire and confirmed on site in consultation with the housing coordinator. It is important to keep in mind that the Senegalese live simply, and such amenities as washing machines and microwaves are not commonly available. Meals tend to be considerably less varied than in the U.S.; rice and fish are considered staple foods in Senegal. A meal stipend is given to students so that they may supplement and vary their diet.

Although some students are within a 20-minute walk from campus, others should expect to commute by bus or taxi on a daily basis. A transportation stipend is given to students living in the neighborhoods that are not within walking distance of campus.

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.

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

All UCEAP students are encouraged to apply for the UCEAP Promise Award, which offers a \$2000 award for semester programs. Applications are due on March 15. For more information, visit <http://eap.ucop.edu/Scholarships/Pages/default.aspx?src=sp-nav-scholarships>

Visa and Entry Clearance

Due to the late issuance of entry clearance documents and the time required for visa application processing, travel after the UC term ends and before the official program start date is not recommended.

Important Health Note

Peanuts are the main crop of Senegal and everywhere the aroma of peanuts permeates the air. They are practically unavoidable in Senegal and the majority of dishes contain some form of peanuts. CIEE will require a doctor's note for any student with peanut allergies so that they can better understand the severity of the condition. According to CIEE, students whose allergies are severe enough to induce anaphylaxis are better suited on a different program.

Special Demands of the Program

Health and safety remain primary issues of concern for study in Senegal, particularly crime/security and motor traffic. Students must be prepared to follow all safety and security regulations and guidelines established by UCEAP, the partner institution, and the U.S. Department of State. Students should review the [US Department of State Senegal country page](#) as well as the UCEAP and CIEE Program Guides to familiarize themselves with risks associated with visiting Senegal. Students should also familiarize themselves with the role of race, gender, sexuality, and religion while studying in Senegal, and develop appropriate expectations according to personal backgrounds and self-identification. Students should be prepared for the local environment and immediate impact of different gender. LGBTIQ students are invited to reference the [UCEAP LGBTIQ Community Resource Page](#) to learn about host country laws and norms.