

Singapore UCEAP Advising Notes

Objective

This document is an advising tool written by a Berkeley Study Abroad advisor to review program specific details that may impact a student's decision to apply for an 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. The best source of detailed program information are the [UCEAP webpages for Singapore](#). If any concerns you have are not addressed on the UCEAP website or this Advising Notes document, please contact the [BSA Advisor](#) for this program.

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Quick Links

Below is a summary of the 2025-2026 UCEAP Singapore programs available to Berkeley students:

	Summer 2025	Fall 2025	Year 2025-26	Spring 2026
Immersion				
National University of Singapore		X	X	X
Singapore University of Technology and Design		X	X	X
Nanyang Technological University		X	X	X
Internship				
Summer Global Internship, Singapore	X			
Research				
STEM Research in Singapore	X			
Themed				
Biodiversity	X			

Video Resources

There are a number of videos provided by UCEAP or UC Berkeley Students to help students learn about their study abroad options. Here are some you can check out:

Videos

- 2021: [Study Abroad in Asia and Oceania | UCEAP Open House](#)
- 2020: [National University of Singapore Info Session | International Education Week](#)
- 2020: [Study Abroad in Korea, Singapore, and Thailand | UCEAP Study Abroad Fair 2020](#)

Citizenship & Passport Considerations

For all UCEAP Singapore programs, students cannot be accepted to a Singaporean university without a valid passport. Your [UCEAP application](#) will state how long your passport must be valid after the end date of the program and when a photocopy of it will be due. If you do not have a passport or need a renewal, please review the Passport Information section of the [UCEAP How to Apply Page](#), and take action immediately.

Students who are in the process of applying for U.S. citizenship or making any legal name changes are **not** eligible to apply unless the changes will be completed before application to the UCEAP program. There are no exceptions to this.

If you currently hold or have ever held Singaporean citizenship, there are important considerations for studying abroad in this program. The Singaporean government requires all male citizens and permanent residents over the age of 16 to register for military training. You may also be required to submit additional paperwork. Please email the BSA Adviser for Singapore if you currently hold or have ever held Singaporean citizenship and would like to apply to a UCEAP program in Singapore. The Singaporean Embassy can also provide more information.

Scholarship Opportunities

All UCEAP students are encouraged to apply for a [UCEAP Scholarship](#), which offers a \$1000 award for summer 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. Another scholarship to explore is the [Freeman-ASIA Scholarship](#).

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

Financial aid students can request a financial aid estimate for the program here: <http://studyabroad.berkeley.edu/finances/financial-aid-advising>

Programs That Typically Fill Before Deadline

In some academic years, we receive more applications for certain programs than we have allotted spots. We usually receive more applications than we have allotted spots on the program, and typically fill before the application deadline. Nominations are on a first come first serve basis. Students should not be discouraged from applying to their first choice; however, all applicants are encouraged to consider programs in other countries for suitable alternatives as a backup.

The selection criteria we will use for impacted programs include:

- Prerequisite or major requirements (if applicable)
- Class Standing
- GPA
- Student's coursework background and training in relevant areas
- Completeness and thoroughness of application. Incomplete applications without sufficient reason could be denied immediately.

In the event you are denied from your first choice program, the BSA Adviser will work with you to find an alternative UCEAP program or discuss other options. Review the UCEAP program page's "dates and eligibility" section for a full list of eligibility requirements. For the full list of programs that typically fill before the deadline, see the [How to Apply](#) page.

Application Note - Qualified students will be nominated on a '**first come first serve basis**' based on their UCEAP application submission date/time up until the program's application deadline or until the program has filled. On the BSA website's [Explore](#) tool, you will be able to see that application filing period for specific programs.

All students, regardless of what term they are applying for, must submit both the UCEAP and Berkeley Study Abroad applications to be considered. Please consult the [application instructions](#) and your BSA Adviser if you have questions about the application process.

Program Considerations - Summer

[STEM Research, Singapore](#)

Summer STEM Research in Singapore students will have the option to initiate their own research project and conduct their own research under the guidance of a faculty member.

The STEM Research in Singapore program is hosted by [Singapore University of Technology and Design \(SUTD\)](#). Prior study of engineering and/or science foundation courses is recommended. Beginning in Summer 2025, the program will no longer be open to sophomores.

Biodiversity

Students with prior study of Biology and/or Ecology will be given priority for nomination to the program. However, all applicants will be considered.

Beginning in Summer 2025, the program will no longer be open to sophomores and will no longer offer language courses.

Please note that the [National University of Singapore](#) (which sponsors the Biodiversity program) has an “exclusivity agreement” with UCEAP such that UC students are only allowed to participate in the Biodiversity program via UCEAP. UC students cannot apply to these programs independently.

Summer Global Internship, Singapore

This program allows students to intern in one of a variety of fields in Singapore. The UCEAP Global Summer Internship program is different than [Berkeley Global Internships](#), although the programs are very similar. If you are unsure about which program to apply to, reach out to BSA Advisor for Singapore programs. Contact information is available in our [virtual advising guide](#).

Applicants to Singapore can expect traditional business hours for internships, which can run upwards of 50 hours/week. In addition to the internship, students will be taking one course hybrid online/in-person course, Academic Internship in the Global Workplace.

It is recommended that students applying for this program have at least 3 areas of interest with regards to their internship placement. You may read more about the placement process on [CIEE's website](#). **Common** industry sectors for internships include, but are not limited to:

Business	Data Science
Business Analytics	Computer Science
Marketing	Graphic Design
Advertising	NGOs/NPOs

Some **challenging** internship fields to place in Singapore are:

Arts	Healthcare/Public Health
Economics	Media, Film, Publishing
Finance & Banking	Politics & Government (not available at all)
Education	International Affairs
Engineering	Psychology
	Urban Planning

To receive the appropriate visa for the program, students must be between the age of 18 and 25. Those who will turn 26 in the same calendar year as the program are not eligible. Additionally, internships with political organizations or those within the public sector are not possible, however political science students are still welcomed to apply to the program.

Please note that [CIEE](#) (which sponsors the Summer Global Internship, Singapore program) has an “exclusivity agreement” with UCEAP. This means that UC students must participate via UCEAP on any CIEE programs that are offered through UCEAP; they are not allowed to participate in such programs directly via CIEE. If CIEE offers program options other than the UCEAP program in a particular city or country, then UC students may participate in those options independently of UCEAP and apply directly to CIEE. Students who choose to study abroad independently are advised to read our [Independent Study Abroad Guide](#) for important details before applying.

Program Considerations – Semester & Year

[Singapore University of Technology and Design](#)

[SUTD](#) is considered a program that typically fills before the deadline.

[National University of Singapore](#)

This program offers top quality academics at a world-renowned university, plus incredible access to travel destinations throughout Asia. Courses are available in virtually all fields of study, so it's a great program for staying on track with progress toward your major.

NUS is now offering a new Global Studies major in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. The courses in this major, which are available to UCEAP students, will take an interdisciplinary approach using Political Science, Economics, Sociology, History, Geography, and Communications to think about International Affairs.

After you've been nominated for participation by UCEAP, the final admission decision is made by NUS. After nomination by UCEAP, students complete an online NUS application and are asked to list ten courses they are interested in taking for the semester of their participation. Student admission to NUS is dependent on those courses *being available for enrollment*, therefore it is critical for students to be aware of the courses (called “modules” at NUS) that are impacted for exchange students. Please go to the following webpages to review course information at NUS:

[Courses open to exchange students](#)

NUS recommends that students take courses primarily in their major or field of study. However, you may take courses outside your major provided that the courses were requested and approved in the NUS application. Students may be asked for documentation proving they have satisfied the prerequisites for a course. NUS recommends that students take courses in only one to two departments to get a more cohesive academic and social experience.

Business courses through the Business School at NUS are **not** open to exchange (UCEAP) students. Economics/finance courses that are offered by the NUS Faculty of Arts and Social

Sciences and that appear on the aforementioned “Courses open to exchange students” list will still be offered to exchange students. Courses in business may also be offered in the other departments. For example, [Marketing and Consumer Culture in Japan](#) (JS2225) is offered through Japanese Studies.

It is very hard for exchange students majoring in Computer Science to secure more than one or two CS courses. If these students are able to take 1-2 CS modules and round out their schedules with minor or elective coursework, this would be ideal given the current crunch for CS courses. Students who are not majoring in computer science should not expect to get into any computer science courses.

Students should explore courses listed in all available departments at NUS, because courses are not cross-listed like they are at UC Berkeley. You may be able to find courses in your desired subject area (including Economics and Business) in a less obvious faculty, such as the Department of Southeast Asian Studies, which is less impacted.

Student flexibility is a very desirable attribute for this UCEAP program. NUS cannot guarantee that students will get the modules they request in their application, but employing the strategies above will increase the success of getting modules that you desire.

The Spring package has historically ended in time for graduating seniors to return to UC Berkeley to walk in their graduation ceremonies! Students spending their final semester at UC on UCEAP are encouraged to review the [I am a Senior page of the BSA website](#) to understand how participating in UCEAP can impact the graduation timeframe.

[Nanyang Technological University](#)

Nanyang Technological University will be running for the first time in fall 2024. More information will be added as it becomes available.

Considerations for Transfer Students

Transfer students should review BSA's [I am a Transfer Student webpage](#) for an overview of considerations. As a general rule, transfer students are eligible to apply for study abroad programs that take place after the student has completed one term at UC Berkeley (one semester residency requirement). For example, if a student's first term at Berkeley is Fall 2024, the earliest cycle to apply is either Spring 25 or Summer 25. This is dependent on application deadlines and the program eligibility requirements. Students should consult with their academic department to confirm College and/or Major study abroad requirements and to confirm when study abroad can fit into their academic plan.

Considerations for Students with Disabilities

Students seeking accommodations should review BSA's [I am a Student With Disabilities webpage](#) for an overview of considerations. If you receive accommodations at UC Berkeley and would like to know if they are also available in the program abroad that interests you, it is a good idea to email your BSA adviser to inquire about your specific needs. That way, if your needs cannot be accommodated in that program, you can investigate other programs that might.

Students with emotional support animals or service animals will need to request accommodations from their UCEAP Program Specialist prior to departure on their UCEAP program. Emotional support animal accommodation requests are not guaranteed. Below are additional resources to consider:

Traveling Internationally with a Guide Dog or Service Animal

Pros and cons, legal and health considerations for going abroad with your service animal

<http://www.miusa.org/resource/tipsheet/serviceanimal>

10 Steps to Bring Your Service Animal or Guide Dog to Another Country

Start planning early and consider international quarantine and vaccination laws

<http://www.miusa.org/resource/tipsheet/10steps>

Should I Take My Guide Dog or Service Animal?

<http://www.miusa.org/resource/tipsheet/guidedogdecisions>

Caring for Your Guide Dog or Service Animal Abroad

Learn tips for supplies to take along, climate preparations, and animal health while traveling internationally

<http://www.miusa.org/resource/tipsheet/preparingyouranimal>

Considerations for LGBTQ+ Students

Singapore is **not** included on UCEAP's [list of LGBTIQ-tolerant countries](#), which was compiled using information from the [Spartacus Gay Travel Index](#). For additional information, review BSA's [I am a LGBTQIA+ Identifying Student webpage](#) for an overview of considerations.

Information from the U.S. Department of State's [2020 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices](#) is as follows:

Section 377A of the penal code criminalizes consensual male-to-male sexual relations, subject to up to two years' imprisonment. Authorities have not enforced this since 2010 and have stated since then that they do not intend to do so. There were no indications

the provision was used intentionally to intimidate or coerce. Its existence, however, intimidates some gay men, particularly those who are victims of sexual assault but who will not report it to the police for fear of being charged with violating Section 377A.

A constitutional challenge to section 377A which combined three separate cases was dismissed by the high court in March. Justice See Kee Oon rejected arguments that the law was unconstitutional and stated the law still served “the purpose of safeguarding public morality by showing societal moral disapproval of male homosexual acts” even if it was not enforced. Justice See declared that a 2014 decision by the Court of Appeal, the highest court in the country, retaining section 377A remained binding. All three plaintiffs filed appeals in the Court of Appeal and hearings were scheduled for early 2021.

No laws explicitly protect the LGBTI community from discrimination based on sexual orientation. Moreover, since single persons are prevented from purchasing government housing reserved for married couples until age 35 and same-sex marriage is not permitted, LGBTI persons were unable to receive certain government services and benefits available to other citizens before reaching 35.

As of January same-sex partners were covered under the amended Protection from Harassment Act and enjoyed access to legal protections such as expedited protection orders in cases of harassment or violence, including by close and intimate partners.

LGBTI persons experienced discrimination in the military, which classifies individuals by sexual orientation and evaluates them on a scale of “effeminacy” to determine fitness for combat training and other assignments. Openly gay servicemen faced threats and harassment from their peers and were often ostracized.

Individuals were prohibited from updating their gender on official documents unless they underwent sex reassignment surgery.

Media censorship of LGBTI individuals resulted in underrepresentation and negative stereotypes of the LGBTI community. In July national public broadcaster Mediacorp came under public scrutiny after it portrayed a gay character in one of its television shows as a pedophile with a sexually transmitted disease. Mediacorp released an apology for the portrayal. The IMDA censored films and television shows with LGBTI themes. According to the IMDA website, authorities allow the broadcast of LGBTI themes on television “as long as the presentation does not justify, promote, or glamorize such a lifestyle” (see section 2.a.).

Considerations for Graduating Seniors

Graduating seniors participating in a spring semester program should ensure that they are on the Spring degree list. If you are not yet on this degree list, you should contact your UC

Berkeley College Adviser to petition to move your expected graduation term. However, spring program grades are often not reported to UCEAP until mid-August, so your grades will not arrive in time for your degree to be processed with the spring degree list (which occurs in mid-July). You will be automatically removed from the spring degree list and placed onto the summer degree list, which is processed in October. Thus, your diploma would display a summer graduation date rather than a spring graduation date. **This policy is subject to change.** For all students, after your UCEAP grades arrive and you are waiting for the next degree list to be processed, you can request a "Certificate of Completion" from the Berkeley Registrar that can serve as "proof" of graduation.

More information can be found in the [I am a Senior page](#).

All courses taken abroad on UCEAP will report back to students' Berkeley transcript. However, whether this fulfills graduation requirements such as major, minor, or breadth should be discussed with College and/or Major advisors as each department is different. A petition process may be required in order to fulfill graduation requirements abroad. The standard processing time for UCEAP grades to post back to a students' CalCentral is around 3 months (subject to change). Grades are posted from the host institution abroad to UCEAP for processing and then to each UC. If students are planning to pursue graduate school, an internship, or job immediately after a UCEAP program ends, please coordinate with the graduate school or job prospect directly to discuss whether an updated transcript can be provided at a later date. More information can be found on the [BSA Academics page](#).

Considerations for Undocumented Students

Berkeley Study Abroad is committed to supporting undocumented students in their pursuit of study abroad programs. The BSA Office collaborates with the [Undocumented Student Program](#) and the [East Bay Community Law Center \(EBCLC\)](#) to support undocumented or DACA students interested in studying abroad. We also partner with the Financial Aid & Scholarships Office to support students on this journey. We have sent undocumented students on Berkeley Study Abroad programs internationally and domestically since DACA's inception in 2011. The Advance Parole processing timeline can take anywhere from 10-13.5 months to process and it is highly encouraged that students interested in studying abroad reach out to the BSA office as soon as possible to discuss the next steps to submit an early application. For more information, review the [I am an...Undocumented Student](#) page.

Diversity Abroad Resources

BSA recognizes that there are many nuances to exploring your identities abroad, and these articles may not be representative of all identities and experiences. Diversity Abroad's resources, however, are a great starting place for your exploration. You can find a variety of [articles](#) to help you prepare for your study abroad experience as well as a [Singapore Destination Guide](#).