UCEAP Singapore 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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COVID-19 Information

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 (which ranged from Summer 2021 to Spring 2022). All programs for the 2022-23 cycle (which ranges from Summer 2022 to Spring 2023) are scheduled to proceed at this time.

Last updated August 4, 2021

Quick Links

Below is a summary of the 2022-2023 UCEAP Singapore programs available to Berkeley students:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Summer 2022</th>
<th>Fall 2022</th>
<th>Year 2022-23</th>
<th>Spring 2023</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Immersion</strong></td>
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<td>National University of Singapore</td>
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<td>Singapore University of Technology and Design</td>
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<td><strong>Internship</strong></td>
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<td>Summer Global Internship, Singapore</td>
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<td><strong>Research</strong></td>
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<td>STEM Research in Singapore</td>
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<td><strong>Themed</strong></td>
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<td>Biodiversity</td>
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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 COVID-19 Information for Berkeley Study Abroad Students 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.

Impacted Programs

In some academic years, we receive more applications for certain programs than we have allotted Berkeley spots on the program. Students should not be discouraged from applying to their first choice; however, all applicants are encouraged to consider other programs for suitable alternatives.
The nomination criteria we will use for impacted programs include:
- Previous nominations (displaced due to COVID-19)
- Class Standing
- GPA
- Statement of Purpose: priority will be given to students who successfully convey why the host university 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.

The following programs are considered impacted:
- Biodiversity
- National University of Singapore (Fall MBA students only)
- Singapore University of Technology and Design
- STEM Research in Singapore

If your first choice is an impacted program, contact the adviser for this program to discuss if you may obtain permission to apply to a back-up choice. If you are seeking an application to a back-up program, you will need to choose a non-competitive program as your back-up option (which means you cannot apply to two programs listed above for the same term). Contact the BSA Adviser for the relevant program of interest to inquire if it is considered competitive or not.

Program Considerations - Summer

**STEM Research, Singapore**
STEM Research in Singapore, hosted by Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD), will be running for the first time in Summer 2022. Since this is a new program, some details are still unknown, but all currently available information is on the UCEAP website.

**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.

This program has a set curriculum of two courses: Field Study in Biodiversity and Language Study (choose between Beginning Chinese or Bahasa Indonesian Language). Please note that students with prior exposure to Chinese language will not have access to a more advanced Mandarin course, so they will need to take Bahasa Indonesian.

The biodiversity course includes a week-long field trip to Pulau Tioman, an island in the East China Sea off the coast of Malaysia. The fieldwork component requires extensive outdoor activities that often require hiking, swimming, and working around a large variety of plants.

Please note that NUS (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 this 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 the UCEAP adviser for select Summer Global Internship programs or the Global Internships coordinator. 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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Business</th>
<th>Data Science</th>
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<tr>
<td>Business Analytics</td>
<td>Computer Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marketing</td>
<td>Graphic Design</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advertising</td>
<td>NGOs/NPOs</td>
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Some challenging internship fields to place in Singapore are:

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<th>Arts</th>
<th>Healthcare/Public Health</th>
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<tr>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>Media, Film, Publishing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finance &amp; Banking</td>
<td>Politics &amp; Government (not available at all)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>International Affairs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
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<td>Urban Planning</td>
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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, due to visa restrictions, political science majors are not permitted to participate in this 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**
The Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD) program is scheduled to run for the first time in Spring 2022. Since this is a new program, some details are still unknown, but all currently available information is on the UCEAP website.

**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
- Module restrictions

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.

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 (i.e., if their first term at Berkeley is Spring 2022, the earliest they could study abroad is Summer 2022. If their first term at Berkeley is Fall 2022, the earliest they could study abroad is Spring 2023). This applies for all UCEAP Programs in Singapore.

Considerations for Students with Disabilities

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.

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. 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.).

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.