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. Please note that certain programs listed in this Advising Notes document have been cancelled for the 2021-2022 cycle. All other programs listed are scheduled to proceed at this time, and UCEAP will inform campus offices if there are any updates.

The programs that have been cancelled are:

Biodiversity (Summer 2021)
Summer Global Internship, Singapore (Summer 2021)


Quick Links

Below is a summary of the ’21-22 UCEAP Singapore programs available to Berkeley students:

**Immersion**
National University of Singapore (Fall, Spring, Year)
Singapore University of Technology and Design (Fall, Spring, Year)

**Research**
STEM Research in Singapore (Summer)

Citizenship & Passport Considerations

For all UCEAP Singapore programs, students cannot be accepted to a Singaporean university without a valid passport at the time of application to the program. Your UCEAP application will state how long your passport must be valid after the end date of the program. 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 select 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:

- GPA
- Class Standing
- Student’s coursework background and training in relevant areas
- Statement of Purpose: priority will be given to students who successfully convey why the chosen 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.

The following programs are considered impacted. 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.

- STEM Research in Singapore – Summer
- Singapore University of Technology and Design – Fall, Spring, Year

Program Considerations - Summer

**STEM Research, Singapore**

Starting in Summer 2021, UCEAP will be hosting the STEM Research in Singapore program, hosted by Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD). Since this is a new program, some details are still unknown, but all currently available information is on the UCEAP website.
**Biodiversity (cancelled for Summer 2021)**

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 fieldtrip 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 (cancelled for Summer 2021)**

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:

- Business
- Business Analytics
- Marketing
- Advertising
- Data Science
- Computer Science
- Graphic Design
- NGOs/NPOs
Some challenging internship fields to place in Singapore are:

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

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**
Starting in Fall 2021, UCEAP will be hosting the Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD) program. 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 (Fall, Spring, Year)**
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 in 2020-21
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 LGBTIQA+ Students

Singapore is included on UCEAP’s list of destinations where extra caution is advised for LGBTIQA+ students. This list includes locations where (1) the rights LGBTIQA+ of persons are less definitive or (2) there are restrictions on the freedom of expression and association of LGBTIQA+ individuals. As in many countries, tolerance levels vary by region; major cities may be more accepting of the LGBTIQA+ community than rural areas. You can review the Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2019 from the U.S. Department of State for more information.

Singapore remains conservative regarding LGBTIQA+ rights. Social acceptance of homosexuality varies, with the majority of the population opposed to decriminalization of anti-gay laws. Such laws are rarely enforced, and there is a grassroots movement to abolish them, but currently, the government and Parliament show no indication of repealing restrictions. The LGBTIQA+ community faces legal challenges and restrictions, as well as overt and implicit discrimination.

Multiple laws criminalize homosexual behavior in Singapore. Men are a particular target of the law, which criminalizes homosexual relations between men. Solicitation of sex between men is characterized as “gross indecency” that carries a punishment of imprisonment up to two years. The law does not criminalize female-to-female sexual relations.

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.