Singapore  
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

Newer UCEAP Singapore Programs

The Summer Global Internship, Singapore program allows students to intern in one of a variety of fields in Singapore. This program is different than Berkeley Global Internships, although the programs are very similar. If you are unsure about which program to apply to, feel free to reach out to the UCEAP adviser for the Singapore programs (Marie Bartz) or the Global Internships Coordinator (Breanne Tcheng). Contact information is available in our advising schedule.

Citizenship Considerations

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 an EAP program in Singapore. The Singaporean Embassy can also provide more information.

Students who are in the process of applying for US citizenship or making any legal name changes are not eligible to apply unless the changes will be completed before application to the EAP program.

A valid passport is required to apply to all host universities. If you do not have a valid passport, or if your passport will expire less than six months after the end of your program, please apply immediately.
STEM Research Singapore will only accept applications from U.S. citizens with a valid passport at time of application.

Exclusivity Clause

Please note that UC students are only allowed to participate in the following programs via UCEAP. UC students cannot apply to these programs independently:

- Summer Global Internship, Singapore
- Biodiversity
- Summer in Singapore

Academic Considerations

**Summer in Singapore**
The *Summer in Singapore* program offers a range of courses related to Asian Studies. Courses are focused on Asia with attention to the diverse environment of Southeast Asia. Some of the courses will include course-related excursions to other Asian countries. Past excursions have included travel to Taiwan, Japan, Korea, India, or Indonesia.

**Biodiversity (Summer)**
For the *Biodiversity* program. Students with prior study of Biology and/or Ecology will be given priority for selection 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.

**STEM Research Singapore (Summer)**
For the *STEM Research Singapore* program, Session 1 is currently the only term open to UC Berkeley students. Applicants must be majoring in Science or Engineering, have prior research experience, and have at least a 3.3 cumulative GPA. Please note that Biomedical/pre-med placements are very limited and competitive.

Nomination for the program by UCEAP does not guarantee placement at the Agency for Science, Technology, and Research (A*STAR). After being nominated by UCEAP, you will complete an A*STAR application, which involves *independent and proactive outreach* to lab supervisors. Instructions will be provided by UCEAP, but you'll include items such as a cover letter, resume, and a letter of recommendation from a UC faculty member. A*STAR makes final placement decisions. In prior summers, students have been notified of placement as late as May.

Students are responsible for finding their own housing and need to be very independent. A*STAR provides a housing stipend of SG $1,500/month to all EAP students who are placed in a lab. It is paid monthly and a full two months of service is required for receipt of the stipend funding.

Students nominated for this program need to be independent (because there is minimal on-site support), self-motivated (they need to market themselves to the supervisors and proactively follow-up), and flexible (due to limited internship choices and late placement notification).
Prospective students are encouraged to accept placement in this program only if they are certain they will be able to participate within the lab they are assigned. Lab research placements such as this are often competitive; if you accept and later decline a placement, you may be taking an opportunity away from students who were not selected. Research teams at the host university also count on having selected students as part of their lab, so you are encouraged to accept the placement only if you can commit to participation in the program.

Check out [this blog](#) for a Summer 2015 STEM Research Singapore student’s perspective.

**National University of Singapore (Fall, Spring, Year)**

The National University of Singapore (NUS) 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 EAP, the final admission decision is made by NUS. After nomination by EAP, 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:

- Overview and module restrictions
- Courses open to exchange students in 2019-20

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 EAP 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 EAP are encouraged to visit the BSA Adviser for Singapore during drop-in hours to discuss how participating in EAP can impact the graduation timeframe.

Graduating seniors participating on a spring semesters program should ensure that they are on the Spring degree list. If they are not yet on this degree list, students should petition to move their graduation term with their UC Berkeley college. However, Spring package 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 EAP 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.

**Calendar Considerations**

- The **Fall Semester** at NUS begins in late July and ends in early December
- The **Spring Semester** at NUS begins in early January and ends by early to mid- May

**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 2018 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.