

# South Africa

## 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 a 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](#) websites. If any concerns you have are not addressed on the UCEAP website or in the Advising Notes document, please contact the BSA adviser for this program.

### **Adviser Contact Information**

The Berkeley Study Abroad Adviser for this program is Michelle Ayazi ([mayazi@berkeley.edu](mailto:mayazi@berkeley.edu)). Please feel free to email Michelle with any questions and/or concerns you have about the program or your participation. You can make an advising appointment with Michelle [here](#).

**“University of Cape Town” is the name of the fall and spring course-based UCEAP program at the University of Cape Town.** The program takes place at The University of Cape Town. For the most complete information, we recommend that you study the UCEAP and CIEE program pages together:

[Visit the UCEAP University of Cape Town program page](#)

[Visit the University of Cape Town website](#)

**“Summer Global Internship, Cape Town” is the name of the summer internship-based UCEAP program in Cape Town.** The program is administered on-site by the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE). For the most complete information, we recommend that you study the UCEAP and CIEE program pages together:

[Visit the UCEAP Summer Global Internship, Cape Town program page](#)

[Visit the CIEE Summer Global Internship, Cape Town program page](#)

As a UCEAP participant, you should be referring to the UCEAP program page for eligibility, academic and program cost information.

### **Exclusivity Clause for Summer Global Internship, Cape Town**

UC students are only allowed to participate in this program via UCEAP. UC students cannot apply to this program independently through CIEE.

### **Application Process (both programs)**

All UCEAP students must initiate their application through the Berkeley Study Abroad Portal to be considered for UCEAP participation: <http://studyabroad.berkeley.edu/uceap-how-apply>.

### **Competitiveness of the Program (both programs)**

Students who meet the minimum eligibility requirements and submit a well-prepared application with an articulate Statement of Purpose by the Berkeley Study Abroad application deadline will have a very good chance of being selected, but we cannot make guarantees.

### **Scholarships (both programs)**

All UCEAP students are encouraged to apply for a UCEAP Scholarship, which offers a \$2000 award for semester programs and a \$1000 award for summer programs. For more information, visit the [UCEAP Scholarships](#) page.

For the summer program: 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](http://gilmanscholarship.org).

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: <https://studyabroad.berkeley.edu/finances/financial-aid-advising>

### **University of Cape Town Curriculum (Fall and Spring program)**

Universities in South Africa are based on British higher education in structure and method. For some courses, this may be more lecture-based instruction requiring effective note taking of lectures and the ability to demonstrate understanding of material based solely on lectures. Students must be prepared to assume more responsibility and independence in completing readings, be assessed for a course through a single paper or exam, and be able to seek out assistance from instructors and South African students. For more information about courses and academics, visit the UCEAP University of Cape Town program page (Academics tab).

South Africa is on the calendar year system; hence, their academic year begins spring (first) semester and continues through fall (second) semester. When reviewing courses, applicants should carefully note University of Cape Town course levels (100, 200, 300, 400, 500), required prerequisites, duration (year vs. semester), and term (first vs. second semester). Additional information on courses is available in the [UCT Faculty Handbooks](#). UCEAP students are required to take 1-2 courses in the school/faculty in which they are admitted.

Students interested in African Studies courses should be aware that such courses are highly popular with international students and UCT limits the numbers of international students in any class on campus to no more than 50% of class enrollment; therefore, African Studies courses cannot be the main objective of all UC student study. Students are recommended to consider general major coursework with community engagement opportunities in order to learn and experience issues impacting South Africa.

Students take courses with local and international students. Students interested in taking courses alongside South Africans should note that courses with topics on Africa and South Africa have generally been more popular with international students than South African students. Although not required, students may wish to consider a language course in one of the official languages of South Africa (e.g. Xhosa, Afrikaans).

### **Internships and Research (Fall and Spring program)**

If interested in research for academic credit, students must enroll in a UCT class which has a required research or fieldwork component. Formal internships are not a feature of this program. Students may also pursue community service and volunteer activities independently on a non-credit basis through local organizations.

**Housing (Fall and Spring program)**

Limited campus housing may be available. Otherwise, all students will live with other U.S. and international students in a shared apartment or house in a safe neighborhood arranged by Ida Cooper Associates (IDACA). IDACA and the International Academic Programmes Office (IAPO) will arrange housing before your departure based on the housing preference questionnaire you will complete in the UCEAP Pre-Departure Checklist. The lodging and amenities will vary by each housing option, but you can easily buy things that meet your needs in Cape Town. Houses are not centrally heated, and you may want to purchase a heater for the winter months or a fan for the warmer months.

Unless otherwise instructed, you will make your housing payments directly to the landlord in local currency, even if you are on financial aid. In some cases, credit card payments may be accepted. Before leaving South Africa, you must pay the balance of any outstanding rent, library, gym, and other charges in full. If you leave unpaid fees behind, your grades will not be released to UC and you will be responsible for paying these fees directly to the host university even after returning to the U.S.

**Visa and Entry Clearance (Fall and Spring program)**

Travel after the UC term ends and before the official UCEAP program start date is **not possible** due to the visa application processing times. UCEAP is not able to accelerate the process for issuing acceptance letters and visas.

**NOTE: Approximately one month before your program begins, all students must travel to the South African Embassy (Consulate) in Los Angeles to obtain their visa in-person.**

For NorCal students: The BSA Adviser for this program can connect you via email with the other UC Berkeley students going to South Africa during your study abroad term, if there are others. You may want to plan the trip to the South African Consulate in Los Angeles together - to make it more fun and to save on money (gas and possible overnight stay). You can return home after dropping off your visa application. You then need to wait for your passport to be mailed back to you with your student visa stamp inside, which will probably arrive immediately before departure.

The BSA Adviser for the program can also help connect you with other UC students going to South Africa. You will all be heading to the LA Consulate around the same time. Please note that consulates are closed over the weekend.

**Special Demands of the Program (both programs)**

Health and safety remain primary issues of concern for study in South Africa, particularly crime/security, motor traffic, and HIV. The [US Department of State South Africa Country Page](#) is an important resource. Students are responsible for reviewing all informational materials and resources provided by the Department of State, UCEAP and the University of Cape Town and are expected to do independent research on the country of South Africa, the city of Cape Town and the surrounding area. Students should also familiarize themselves with the role of race, gender, sexuality, and religion while studying in Cape Town, and develop appropriate expectations according to personal backgrounds and self-identification. Given the special demands of the program, it is highly recommended that applicants meet with the BSA adviser prior to submitting an application.