

# Spain UCEAP Advising Notes

## Objective

This document is an advising tool written by a Berkeley Study Abroad (BSA) 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 website. If any concerns you have are not addressed on the UCEAP website or the Advising Notes document, please contact the BSA Adviser for this program.

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## Summary of Programs

	Prerequisites	Summer	Fall	Year	Spring
<b>Themed or UC Curriculum</b>					
<a href="#">21<sup>st</sup> Century Barcelona</a>	None	X			
<a href="#">Beyond Barcelona</a>	None	X			
<a href="#">Python &amp; Data Science</a>	None	X			

<a href="#">Spanish in Madrid</a>	Max = Spanish 2	X			
<b>Immersion</b>					
<a href="#">Carlos III Univ. of Madrid</a>	None		X	X	X
<a href="#">Complutense Univ. of Madrid</a>	Spanish 4 for coursework in Spanish		X	X	
<a href="#">University of Barcelona</a>	Spanish 4 for coursework in Spanish		X	X	X

## Choosing a Spain Program

There are 7 unique programs offered through UCEAP Spain. Students who are considering studying in Spain for the **summer** should also compare and consider programs through [Berkeley Summer Abroad](#) (UC Berkeley faculty-led programs) and [Berkeley Global internships](#).

There is a lot of information to sort through, but in many cases, students can narrow down options by identifying:

- What subject area(s) they want to study and what courses are offered on specific programs
- Which term(s) they want to be abroad (summer, fall, year, spring)
- How long do they want to be abroad (Note: some calendars for programs abroad do not align neatly with the Berkeley academic calendar. The spring term tends to end in June/July.)
- What level of Spanish language background they have
- Whether they wish to take courses in English or in Spanish

## Spanish Language Prerequisites

For information about the different ways that you can fulfill Spanish language prerequisites for programs that have them, please see the application requirements. [UCEAP Language Prerequisite Guide: Spanish & Portuguese](#).

## Immersion Programs

Students of all Spanish language background levels can take courses in immersion programs at Carlos III University of Madrid, Complutense University of Madrid, or University of Barcelona..

However, please be very careful that your level of Spanish background will determine the types of courses you have access to.

The Immersion programs in Spain tend to be a good fit for students who:

- Want the maximum amount of flexibility on courses and on housing choices
- Can exercise academic and logistical independence (e.g. being flexible with the limited information on courses offered before arrival, searching for accommodations after the Intensive Language Program).
- Are prepared to be independent, proactive, and flexible.

A Note about Fall Semester Immersion Programs: The regular Spanish academic calendar for the fall term runs into February, students participating in the fall semester options will be permitted to complete their exams in December to return in time for the Berkeley spring semester.

## Visas

### Summer

Due to the limited duration of the summer programs, students with a valid US passport are not required to obtain a student visa.

### Fall, Spring or Year

Obtaining a student visa for a semester or year in Spain requires persistence, patience, and a proactive approach. Although you will receive more detailed visa information after you are selected, there are some important things you should be aware of now to ensure you do not have problems later on:

- Before you begin your UCEAP application, make sure you will have a **valid passport 6 months beyond the end date of the program**. If you do not have one, apply for one immediately.
- **The way you list your name in your UCEAP online application must be exactly the same as the way it's listed in your passport.** If there is any discrepancy in between the way your name is listed in your passport and the way it is listed in the UCEAP portal and other application documents, you may face obstacles in getting your visa.
- **Plan ahead to extend.** For fall program applicants, if you think there is any possibility that you will want to extend your stay in Spain, you are highly encouraged to check "Yes" on the Departmental/College Pre-Approval to Extend (DPA) form in the application and obtain the necessary signatures. Checking "Yes" does not commit you to extending, but it will help ensure that you receive the documentation necessary to extend your visa in Spain. If you wish to extend to a spring program after arriving in Spain, it is likely that you will have to return to the U.S. to apply for a new visa.

- The normal visa processing period is typically no sooner than 90 days and no less than 60 days before departure for your UCEAP program. Because you have to leave your passport at the Spanish consulate for visa processing, **it may not be possible for you to travel internationally within 90 days of the start of your program.**
- Be prepared for trips to the consulate. Fall and Year participants typically need to visit the consulate before the end of spring semester, sometimes during final exams. Spring participants typically need to visit the consulate before the end of fall semester, sometimes around the time of the Thanksgiving holiday.
- Keep in mind that although UCEAP provides general visa guidelines as a courtesy, **it is ultimately your responsibility to obtain a visa.** UCEAP will be able to address some of your visa questions, but there may be times when you will need to direct your questions directly to the Spanish consulate.

## Back to Back Study Abroad Programs

If you are planning to study abroad on two consecutive programs, Spain is **not** recommended as a second program destination due to the visa requirements. Students must plan to be in the US from the time of application for the visa through the time their visa is ready to be picked up in person. Because the process typically takes 4-6 weeks, it is not recommended for students to be traveling outside of the US during the pre-departure process.

## Applying for a Visa with a Non-US Passport

Contact the Spanish consulate immediately to find out about entry requirements. UCEAP is not able to provide guidance to non-US citizens on how to apply for a visa. You are responsible for contacting the Spanish Consulate to find out what documents you will need to apply for a student visa for Spain.

## Carlos III University of Madrid (Fall, Spring, Year)



[Carlos III University of Madrid Info Session](#)



[Berkeley Stories: Rocky M](#)



[Berkeley Stories: Elena M](#)

Slidedecks from Program Alumni:

[Carlos III Universidad de Madrid \(Spring 2018\)](#)

[Madrid \(Spring 2018\)](#)

## Language Requirements

**Students with limited or no Spanish language background** will only have access to Carlos III classes taught in English. Carlos III offers English-taught courses mainly in the areas of Business, Economics, International Studies and Engineering.

Click “ingles” at the left hand menu to filter the departments that offer [coursework taught in English](#).

**Students with Spanish 4 or its equivalent can take Hispanic Studies** courses taught in Spanish. Please understand that [Hispanic Studies courses](#) can be limited.

**Students with Spanish 25 or higher** can take whatever course offerings at Carlos III as long as they meet the prerequisites for the class.

## Academic Planning

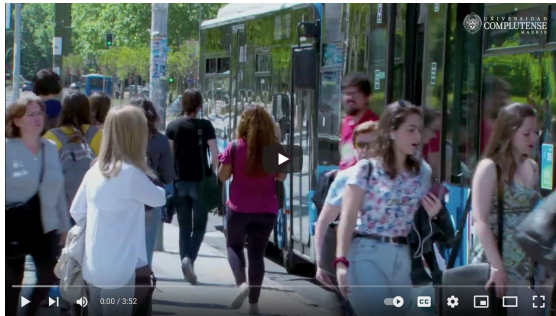
Students enroll in courses after they arrive in Madrid.

Carlos III University hosts many international students. Because the fall semester immersion programs in Spain run from October to February, the Carlos III program made the exception to allow UCEAP fall participants to take fall semester final exams in December so they can return to Berkeley in time for the spring semester.

## On-site support

Students are supported by the [UCEAP Madrid Study Center](#). Please visit their site to learn more and access important resources.

## Complutense University of Madrid (Fall, Year)



[UCM English](#)

**Students with limited or no Spanish language background** will only have access to classes taught in English. Complutense offers a [small set of classes taught in English in a variety of disciplines](#).

**Students with a strong foundational knowledge of Spanish (Spanish 4+)** will have an opportunity to be fully immersed in the Spanish academic setting by choosing courses from regular offerings and taking courses alongside Spanish students. They can also take classes offered in English or a mixture of both, if preferred.

The Complutense program begins with an Intensive Language Program (typically 4 weeks for fall and year programs). The ILP is worth 2-4 semester units.

Students fill out UCEAP course registration forms in July and finalize course enrollment upon arrival.

## On-site support

Students are supported by the [UCEAP Madrid Study Center](#). Please visit their site to learn more and access important resources.

## Python and Data Science (Summer)

This is a relatively new program that takes place at the Accent Study Center in Madrid. Students must live in program housing (homestay or residence hall) as it is not possible to secure your own housing.

# Spanish in Madrid (Summer)

Slidedeck from Program Alum:

[El Verano en España: Language and Culture, UC Center Madrid](#)

Although the Spanish in Madrid program does not require any prior Spanish coursework, you will be overqualified and not eligible for the program if you've completed more than 1 year (2 semesters) of university-level Spanish or its equivalent. We consider all previous formal Spanish language training, including AP, SAT II exam scores, community college courses, etc. Please see [UCEAP Language Prerequisite Guide: Spanish & Portuguese](#) for clarification.

You will be asked to disclose your previous Spanish language instruction in the application. If it looks like your Spanish background exceeds the program's maximums, then you will be deemed ineligible. Please consult the Spain Adviser if you have any doubts or concerns.

The Spanish in Madrid program requires a minimum "2.0 cumulative GPA and good academic standing, as defined by your UC campus." What this means is that even if you have a 2.0, if a 2.0 does not constitute "good academic standing" within your college and/or your department, you may not be allowed to participate in the program. If your GPA is below a 2.5, it is recommended that you check with your college/school and department for requirements of good academic standing.

# 21<sup>st</sup> Century Barcelona (Summer)



[Barcelona International Summer School UPF](#)

UCEAP offers an International Summer School program at the Pompeu Fabra University in Barcelona.

Courses on this program run for different lengths of time (1 to 3 weeks) and are worth different unit values. Students must be enrolled in a total of 6.7 units for the duration of the 5-week program. [View examples of courses here.](#)

Keep in mind that courses offered through International Summer School change from year to year. The course information may not be available until after the initial UCEAP application. If



students are hoping to satisfy requirements through the program, it may be prudent to consider a back-up option.

Spanish language instruction is not available through the program. Those wishing to take Spanish language courses are encouraged to consider UCEAP Spanish in Madrid, or UC Berkeley's faculty-led [Summer Abroad programs](#) in Spain.

## Beyond Barcelona (Summer)

Slidedeck from Program Alum:

[Summer Abroad in Barcelona](#)

UCEAP offers an International Summer School program at the Autonomous Univ. of Barcelona. Students will take two consecutive courses. Through the two courses, students will earn 6 semester units. In the past two years, 6-8 courses were offered in each block to choose from.

Keep in mind that courses offered through International Summer School at AUB changes from year to year. The course information is usually not available until February, after the initial UCEAP application. If students are hoping to satisfy requirements through the program, it may be prudent to consider a back-up option.

Spanish language instruction at various levels are not typically available through the program. Those wishing to take Spanish language courses are encouraged to consider UCEAP Spanish in Madrid or Berkeley's [Summer Abroad programs](#) in Spain.

## Limited Capacity

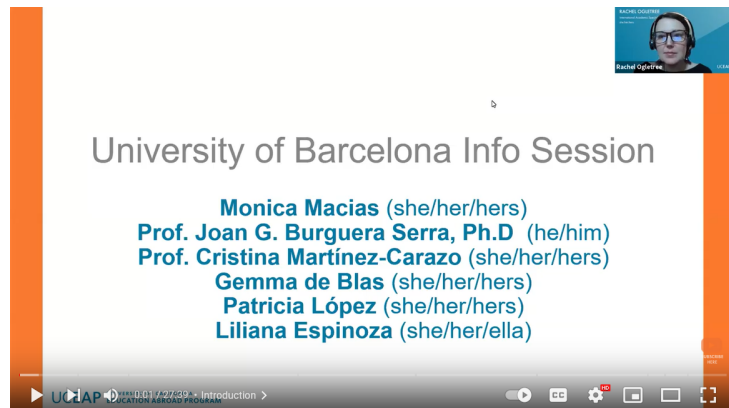
The Beyond Barcelona program has limited spaces available and qualified applicants are accepted on a first-come, first serve basis.

The summer 2024 application opens on November 1, 2023 at 9am and the UCEAP application submission is the timestamp for consideration of admission to the program.

Students may review the UCEAP application instructions and start preparing any required documents for upload prior to the opening date, but cannot start the application until it opens on Nov 1st at 9am. Be sure to submit the UCEAP application first, immediately followed by the submission of the BSA application (within 24 hours) for all programs. Students may work on their BSA application in advance, but cannot submit until it opens.



# University of Barcelona (Fall, Spring, Year)



## [University of Barcelona Info Session](#)

Slidedecks from Program Alumni:

[Spring in Barcelona](#)

[Housing in Barcelona](#)

**Students with limited or no Spanish language background** will only have access to classes taught in English. University of Barcelona [offers limited coursework in English](#). Business and Economics majors are impacted at the University of Barcelona. UCEAP participants should not plan on having access to coursework in those fields. We recommend you to consider Carlos III University of Madrid which offers many classes in Business and Economics taught in English.

**Students with a strong foundational knowledge of Spanish (Spanish 4+)** will have an opportunity to be fully immersed in the Spanish academic setting by choosing courses from regular offerings and taking courses alongside Spanish students. They can also take classes offered in English, Catalan or a mixture of all three, if preferred.

Through University of Barcelona Estudios Hispánicos, students of any Spanish proficiency level can take Spanish or Catalan courses. For students with a B2 level of Spanish or higher, they can also choose from the Spanish degree course offerings in the Facultat de Filologia i Comunicació. Finally, the Language Services department also offers a beginner Catalan language course geared specifically to exchange students.

Students enroll in courses after they arrive in Barcelona. Students should have several courses in mind and must be flexible about course enrollment.

## Engineering and Research (Summer)

This is a new program offered by UCEAP in 2024 and it will take place at Carlos III University of Madrid. Because it is new, we do not have many details beyond what you can find on the UCEAP website. More information to come!

## Barcelona Summer (Summer)

This is a new program offered by UCEAP in 2024 and it will take place at Carlos III University of Madrid. Because it is new, we do not have many details beyond what you can find on the UCEAP website. More information to come!

## Students with Disabilities

You may find accessibility and accommodation different from what you expect in the US. Spain has laws that prohibit discrimination in employment and education, and mandate access to healthcare, buildings, and other state services. While the government generally enforces these provisions, levels of assistance and accessibility vary across the country.

Building accessibility in Spain is limited. Many older buildings have only stairs and no elevators. Expect to encounter uneven sidewalks, unequipped bathrooms, and narrow doors and aisles. Newer buildings are more accessible and some of the major shopping malls, museums, and restaurants are well adapted. Sidewalks in historic areas are often narrow and uneven. Most buses have ramps, and many metro stations have elevators. Taxis that accommodate wheelchairs are available.

For more information:

- 21st Century Barcelona: [Inclusio](#), Pompeu Fabra's page for student support
- Carlos III University of Madrid: [Disability and Specific Educational Support Needs](#)
- Complutense University of Madrid: [Office for the Integration of Persons with Disabilities](#)
- [Accessible Tourism Guide to Madrid](#)
- University of Barcelona: [Services for New Special Needs Students](#)

Review how to request disability related accommodations on the [I am a Student with a Disability page](#).

## LGBTQIA+ Students

Threat to safety in the LGBTQIA+ community is minimal. Societal tolerance ranges from tolerance to acceptance. For more information:

- Madrid Programs:
  - [UCEAP Madrid Study Center Diversity & Inclusion](#)

- [LGBTIQA+ Madrid Guide](#)
- [COGAM](#) (LGBTQIA+ Non-profit organization in Madrid)
- [Carlos III University of Madrid Equality page](#)
- Complutense University of Madrid: [Gender Equality](#), and [Sexual Diversity and Gender Identity](#) (in Spanish)
- 21st Century Barcelona: [Pompeu Fabra, LGBTI](#) (in Catalán)
- University of Barcelona: [Igualtat](#) (in Catalán)

Review [tips and resources for LGTBQIA+ Identifying Students](#).

## Working Abroad

A Student Visa and Schengen Visa do not permit you to work in Spain. A work visa is required in order to work in Spain. UCEAP cannot sponsor work visas, only employers in Spain can sponsor work visas.