Spain
UCEAP Advising Notes

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to present challenges related to health concerns and international travel. Please check UCEAP's Pandemic Updates page for the most up-to-date information about UCEAP program cancelations for the 2023-24 academic year. Updated 09/2022

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.

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PROGRAM SUMMARY

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RESOURCES

Advisor Contact Information
The Berkeley Study Abroad Adviser for this program is Michelle Ayazi (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.

UCEAP Alums
EAP alumni are one of your best resources for information about the program. If you would like to be put in touch with alums, simply send the BSA Adviser an email with your list of questions and the contact information of returnees who have agreed to be contacted will be shared.

UCEAP Alum-Created Resources
Some of our returnees have created presentations to share with others. You can look at their work through the Student Created Resource Google folder that we will continually update.

UCEAP-Created Resources
Study Abroad in Latin America and Spain | UCEAP Study Abroad Fair 2021
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gv-FXCA-VQ

Study Abroad in English in Spain and the Americas | UCEAP Study Abroad Fair 2020
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zuv9FWiVsi0&feature=youtu.be

Carlos III Univ. of Madrid Info Session | International Education Week Nov 2020
https://ucsb.zoom.us/rec/share/ISES8Z4bPFsPsCOiy_4lv81ntikZGjpZ7m8iZs86EkCavwlLi6DevObnUnmEMX.ZkOkXWv4R2fWmKxo?startTime=1605805291000

PROGRAMS

There are 7 unique programs offered through UCEAP Spain. Please keep in mind that UCEAP is one set of options offered to Berkeley students through the Berkeley Study Abroad programs. Students who are only considering studying in Spain for the summer should also compare and consider programs through BSA’s Summer Abroad (UC Berkeley faculty-led programs) and Global internships.

How do I choose among the options offered in Spain?

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
- 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

LANGUAGE PREREQUISITES

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

Visa Information for All Other Spain Programs
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. You will need to submit a legible scan of your signed and valid passport sometime in the application or pre-departure process. Have this ready to submit when needed.

- It’s critical that the way you list your name in your UCEAP online application is 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 you 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 your arrival 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 (3 months) and no less than 60 days (two months) 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. Note that consulate procedures and processing times may differ during the pandemic.

- Keep in mind that although the UCEAP Systemwide Office provides general visa guidelines as a courtesy, it is ultimately your responsibility to obtain a visa. The Systemwide Office 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 program participation with Spain as second program
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 predeparture process.

Non-U.S. Citizens students should 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.
PROGRAM DETAILS

21st Century Barcelona @ Pompeu Fabra University
UCEAP offers an International Summer School program at the Pompeu Fabra Univ. 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. For examples of courses, please see:
https://www.upf.edu/web/barcelonasummerschool/courses-and-syllabi

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.

Carlos III University of Madrid
Students of all Spanish language background levels can take courses at Carlos III University. However, please understand that your level of Spanish background will determine the types of courses you have access to.

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.
http://www.uc3m.es/ss/Satellite/Grado/es/ListadoGrados/1371212987094/Oferta_de_titulaciones

Students with Spanish 4 or its equivalent can take Hispanic Studies courses taught in Spanish. Please understand that Hispanic Studies courses can be limited.
https://www.uc3m.es/ss/Satellite/C3IS/en/TextoMixta/1371222089501/Cursos_de_Estudios_Hispanicos

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

The 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.

Limited Capacity
The Carlos III University of Madrid fall program has a capacity limitation of 235 spaces for the UC system. Qualified students who apply for the program will be nominated on a first-come, first-served basis based on their UCEAP application submission date/time. The application will open on November 1 at 9am PST and students are encouraged to apply as soon as possible. In light of this, it is recommended that students complete the UCEAP application first, then complete the Berkeley Study Abroad application second. The UCEAP application submission will be your ‘time stamp’ for consideration for admission to the program.

The Carlos III University of Madrid spring program has a capacity limitation of 235 spaces for the UC system, with 100 of those spaces guaranteed to UC Berkeley students. Qualified students who apply for the program will be nominated on a first-come, first-served basis based on their BSA application
submission date/time. The UCEAP application will open on November 1 at 9am PST and can be submitted anytime thereafter. The other required portion of the application (Berkeley Study Abroad application) opens in October 2022. Students can work on the application as soon as it opens, but would not be able to submit until March 20, 2023. Students interested in this option are encouraged to apply as soon as possible on March 20. Because the UCEAP application can be submitted earlier, it is recommended that students complete the UCEAP application first, then complete the Berkeley Study Abroad application second. The BSA application submission will be your 'time stamp' for consideration for admission to the program.

Complutense Univ. of Madrid

Students of all Spanish language background levels can take courses at Complutense University of Madrid. However, please understand be very careful that your level of Spanish background will determine the types of courses you have access to.

**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 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 Options**
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.

**The Intensive Language Program (ILP)**
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.

Univ. of Barcelona

Students of all Spanish language background levels can take courses at the University of Barcelona. However, please understand be very careful that your level of Spanish background will determine the types of courses you have access to.

**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.

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 Options
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.

The Intensive Language Program (ILP)
All University of Barcelona program begins with an Intensive Language Program (typically 4 weeks for fall and year programs and 10 days in spring). The ILP is worth 2-4 semester units. ILP availability may change as more English taught offerings become available to UCEAP participants.

Beyond Barcelona @ Autonomous Univ. of 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, UC Berkeley’s faculty-led Sessions’ Summer Abroad programs in Spain.

Limited Capacity
The Beyond Barcelona program has a capacity limitation of 70 spaces for the UC system. Qualified students who apply for the program will be nominated on a first-come, first-served basis based on their UCEAP application submission date/time. The application will open on November 1 at 9am PST and students are encouraged to apply as soon as possible. In light of this, it is recommended that students complete the UCEAP application first, then complete the Berkeley Study Abroad application second. The UCEAP application submission will be your ‘time stamp’ for consideration for admission to the program.

Spanish in Madrid @ UC Center Madrid Language Maximum
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 you are too advanced to qualify for the Spanish in Madrid summer program, you are encouraged you to consider UC Berkeley’s faculty led Summer Abroad program in Spain. If it looks like your Spanish background exceeds
the program’s maximums, then you will be deemed ineligible. Please consult the BSA Adviser for UCEAP Spain programs if you have any doubts or concerns.

**Minimum GPA Requirement**
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.

**Subsequent Spain Program Options**
Students may be able to use the Spanish in Madrid program to meet the language prerequisite for other EAP programs. Consult the EAP Adviser for more information.