Sweden
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.

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. Please check this website for the most up to date information about which programs are running in the 2022-23 academic year.

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Berkeley Study Abroad Photo Contest Entries from Sweden

Study Abroad in Northern Europe | UCEAP Virtual Study Abroad Fair 2021
Visas

US Passport Holders

The Swedish residency permit application can be done online. U.S. citizens can secure biometric data in Malmo, Sweden, after they arrive for the start of their program.

Non US Passport Holders

Non-US passport holders that are from a country that requires a visa are required by the Swedish government to secure biometric data in Washington DC the semester before departure.
Academics in Sweden

Students are required to take a normal load of 30 ECTS credits each semester in the Swedish system. A 4-semester unit course at UCB would be equivalent to a 7.5 ECTS-credits course in Sweden; four-7.5 ECTS courses equal 30 ECTS points. Some courses are offered for 10 or 15 ECTS credits, depending on the work involved in the course. Students should plan to take 3 or 4 courses per semester to do the required number of ECTS credits.

Students are required to take 3 or 4 courses per semester. One or two courses can be taken during each 8 week block period, which are similar to quarters in the US.

Although there is a wide variety of course work offered in English, students should pay particular attention to whether or not subjects have prerequisites or have limited availability. If a course is listed as being taught in Swedish/English, it means the lectures are in Swedish, but sections and reading material are provided in English. If you do not speak Swedish, sign up for courses listed as being taught in English only.

Undergraduates can take first year masters level courses. The Swedish academic system consists of three years of undergraduate study followed by two years of graduate study. Undergraduates may be able to take first year Masters courses or “400” courses if they are offered in English, though there are some exceptions. First year Masters courses are similar to upper-division Berkeley courses. Students must meet pre-requisites to take such a course.

Student Life in Sweden

Outside of the dorms, the Nations Clubs provide places to gather socially for lunch and dinners each week and to have inexpensive social activities and weekend musical events. Students can also run for office within the club or volunteer as bartenders and in exchange for work receive discounts on meals or drinks.

Lund University

Housing at Lund

UCB students live in dormitories or in off-campus housing. Students make their selections in the housing application. The student can potentially choose to live near the faculties the student will be taking classes in. Sparta international is the international dorm, but other dorms will have a mix of Swedish and international students. Floors or “korridors” contain multiple single rooms all grouped around a common kitchen & common living room area. There is a sizeable up-front
cost for the housing deposit that is required in May or November, before departure for the program. Students must plan to have a way to pay this before financial aid disburses.

Academics at Lund

There is a wide variety of Scandinavian Special Area Studies courses that were developed for international study abroad students that are taught in English. Students are asked to choose 4 of these when enrolling, and simultaneously to choose 4 courses in the regular departments. The student will probably end up taking a total of 3-4 courses that include both types of courses. Since SAS courses are just for international students, UCB students are encouraged to take at least one or two courses from the regular faculty (department) offerings, in a field the student is majoring or minoring in, in order to interact with Swedish students and department faculty.

Courses in the regular university are excellent. Class size is small compared to UCB and faculty are very informal (on a first-name basis) and approachable. Work in class often involves group work with other students and practical application of theory.

Internships and Research Projects in Lund

Internships are something students will look into once they have arrived in Lund and have started the semester. These would be arranged directly between the student and whichever department, professor or entity potentially offers an opportunity. Students can use the help of the Study Center Program Coordinator or the Lund University Career Services to find a good match.

To date we have had a lot of internships/research projects in the sciences, biology and engineering. Fewer students have attempted internships or research in the humanities and social sciences, although a student recently completed a research project with the Political Science Department. A student who is determined to pursue an internship opportunity is typically able to secure one, particularly if they are somewhat flexible.

Program Extension in Lund

Extensions are possible in Lund University if you are in good academic standing and meet the GPA requirement for the Fall/Year programs. You can extend ONLY if you have acquired a Residence Permit for the program you wish to extend to before departure for Sweden. UCEAP will cooperate with your plans by getting the proper letter from Lund University to apply for the residence permit you need. Indicate your interest in extending by filling out the Departmental Approval to Extend Form in the UCEAP application.
Uppsala University

This is a relatively new program for UCEAP. Uppsala University is the oldest university in Scandinavia and prides itself on its history. It is located in a small-medium sized city that is a short train ride from Stockholm.

Housing at Uppsala

Housing is not guaranteed but students have a good chance of getting housing if they apply on time. Students must accept their offer very soon after receiving it via email. Several housing options exist and can be found on the Uppsala University Housing office website.

All exchange students live together and you will not live with Swedish students. All housing includes a single room. Depending on the location, the room may or may not include a private bathroom or kitchenette. If they do not, shared facilities will be available. Please note, since Uppsala is a historic university, some of the housing options will be older.

Academics at Uppsala

There are over 800 courses offered in English in a variety of fields. Unfortunately, architecture, economics, sociology and fine arts courses are not available in English. Students interested in taking business courses must apply early. Law courses require two years of prior legal studies. No entry level natural science courses are taught in English.

Uppsala University is on a semester system with each semester lasting 20 weeks. There are no formal holiday periods, though students can expect short breaks over Christmas and Easter holidays. Courses run at different speeds depending on the professor and could last anywhere from 5 to 20 weeks. While students will need to choose preliminary courses when they apply, please note that courses are only available 5 weeks prior to the term start date.

The Center for Environment and Development Studies (CEMUS) is a unique offering at Uppsala University that offers student-driven transdisciplinary courses in English. Details can be found on their website.

More Resources

Adventures in Sápmi

Sápmi is the Sámi name for Arctic areas where these indigenous people live. This website is an invitation to you, the reader, to learn more about the Sámi and their culture.
**LGBTQ+ Travel in Sweden**

Sweden’s inclusive reputation as an LGBT-friendly country has found favor with the international LGBTQI community, making it an ideal destination for gay-friendly travel – a place where you can walk down the street with whomever you love and just be you.

**Study in Sweden with a Disability**

Studyinsweden.se is a comprehensive, official resource on higher education in Sweden for prospective and current international students.