Sweden
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 our website.

Non US Citizens
Non-US citizens, if they are from a country that requires a visa, are required by the Swedish government to secure biometric data before applying for the residence permit. Non-U.S. citizens must travel to Washington, D.C. to have biometric fingerprints, a photo and an electronic signature taken with a special machine during the semester before departure for Sweden.

U.S. Citizens
U.S. citizens can secure biometric data (biometric fingerprints, a photo and an electronic signature taken with a special machine) in Malmo, Sweden, after they arrive for the start of their program.

FYI regarding international travel just prior to the program
Sweden participants must relinquish their passports in order to secure a Swedish residency permit: Summer and Year participants have to apply for the residence permit by around April 20, Fall participants by May 20, and Spring participants by November 10. The Swedish Consulate can take up to two months to issue the permit and return the passport. You may receive the passport only days before your program starts. For this reason, international travel or travel to Europe before the start date of the program may be problematic. It is possible to obtain a duplicate U.S. passport if necessary for international travel before the start of the program.

Academic Planning: English Language Courses
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 on the UCEAP Course Catalog it means the lectures are in Swedish, but sections and reading material are provided in English.
Required Units or Credits
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.

Block Courses: Students are required to take a normal course load, 3 or 4 courses per semester. Courses are taught in block periods. The semester is divided into two 8-week periods. One or two courses can be taken during each block period.

The Nations Social Clubs
Since Sweden is an expensive country relative to the United States it’s important to find ways to eat and to socialize cheaply. 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.

Academic System: Undergraduates can take 1st Year Masters level courses
The Swedish academic system consists of three years of undergraduate study followed by 2 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. 4th year Masters courses are similar to upper-division courses in the major at UCB and juniors and seniors may be able to take some of these courses if they meet the prerequisites.

Lund University:
SAS (Special Area Studies) Courses in 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 mix of (total) 3 or 4 of both types of courses. Since Special Area Studies courses are just for international students, UCB students are encouraged to take at least one or two courses from the regular faculty or department offerings, in a field the student is majoring or minoring in, in order to interact with Swedish students and regular 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.

Housing in Lund
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: credit card, loan from parents, Cal Central Short-Term Emergency Loan, etc.

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. Spoletorp 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.

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 internship or research opportunity. Students can use the help of the Study Center Program Coordinator or the Lund Univ. 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 and an independent research group focusing on Israeli-Palestinian relations. 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 EAP application.

Uppsala University:
This is a new option as of 2019-2020. 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.

Academics in 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. Students may be able to take Master’s level courses if they can demonstrate that they have completed the prerequisites.

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.

Housing in 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.