

Switzerland

UCEAP Advising Notes



[Berkeley Study Abroad Photo Contest Entries from Switzerland](#)

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.



[Study Abroad in Central Europe](#)

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Summary of Programs

	Summer	Fall	Year	Spring
Global Studies, Geneva	(Optional add on to spring)			X

Selection & Timeline

Students must have a UC GPA at the time of application in order to be eligible to apply to this program.

UCEAP makes selection decisions for Global Studies, Geneva by July 1st and students need to take action on pre-departure requirements almost immediately after selection is announced. The first requirement will be the University of Geneva host university application sometime in mid-July, followed by pre-departure paperwork and the Switzerland visa. Students who will be out of the country during the summer and/or fall semester prior to participation should contact the Swiss Consulate in the U.S. to find out what will be necessary to apply for the Switzerland visa from abroad.

Housing

The housing in Geneva is located in a residential area around a 20-25 minute commute from campus. It is directly located on the bus line, though Geneva is a very walkable city when the weather is nice. Students live in individual rooms with communal kitchens and bathrooms. A sauna is located in the basement.

Academics

There is a month-long registration period at the beginning of the term where students may audit classes. Students need to verify in person at the beginning of the semester that they can get a letter grade for their courses. Courses do not meet as often as UC Berkeley courses and in many cases, grades will be determined by the final exam.

Student Life

There is an engaged culture at the University of Geneva and an active presence of student organizations, events, speakers series, film screenings and more. International students tend to take advantage of the Erasmus offerings of day trips, pub nights and other social activities available to exchange students.

Students with Disabilities

Individuals with disabilities may find accessibility and accommodation different from the US. Most cantons have implemented some provisions for persons with disabilities, but there is no country-wide standard. Review how to request disability related accommodations on the [I am a Student with a Disability page](#).

LGBTQIA+ Identifying Students

Threat to safety in the LGBTIQ community is low. Societal tolerance ranges from mixed tolerance to tolerant. Review [tips and resources for LGBTQIA+ Identifying Students](#).

Spring or Spring + Summer

Students can do the Spring program (coursework only) or the Spring (coursework) + Summer (internship) program. If students stay for the summer internship they will be able to remain in UNIGE-provided housing, which is much cheaper than renting on one's own.

Summer Internships

Internships are not guaranteed though support is available. The Internship Coordinator has an extensive network and supports students throughout the application process by offering workshops such as resume writing in the Swiss style. You will need to put in a significant amount of time and effort into securing your internship position.

Some students start their internship part-time during the semester (no more than 15 hours per week) but not before March 15. Many organizations are used to having interns for periods much longer than 2 months so you will need to be flexible with your start date. Students who begin their internship early may take one less elective course.

Work Permits are not required for you as an exchange student with the University of Geneva. If an internship provider requests a work permit from you, notify the internship coordinator *immediately* so they can contact your internship provider to clarify work permit issues.

Examples of Previous Internship Placements

As stated above, placement is not guaranteed and internships vary from year to year. Future internships will not necessarily mirror these examples of previous internship placements.

Geneva for Human Rights

Attended selected sessions of the UN human rights organizations and mechanisms, prepared analytical reports, and attended meetings of UN treaty bodies.

CAUX- Initiative of Change Foundation

Created website content for events and programs, conducted interviews of speakers and participants, drafted press releases, and produced content for social media platforms.

Geneva Peacebuilding Platform

Provided logistical and programmatic support for the Safer Cities Conference and Geneva Peace week. Assisted with interviews, provided transcription support and edited videos.

Graduate Women International

Managed social media and email communications, fundraised, prepared reports, and contributed to the written statement for the Human Rights Council to be submitted to the commission on the status of women.

ICTSD- Environment and Natural Resources Programme

Wrote op-eds and articles, researched, and contributed to social media posts.

International Centre of Migration Health and Development

Researched how climate change affects migration and migration patterns, and diabetes in migrant populations.

International Telecommunications Union ITU

Designed promotional materials, analyzed Chinese Digital Object Architecture based applications, analyzed IoT based interoperability solutions deployed by China, and assessed drone registration environment policies.

World Federation of United Nations Associations (WUFNA)

Contributed to weekly reports on trade and environment issues, policy research, and dialogues on fisheries/ocean health trade policy. Drafted articles, performed background research, provided administrative and human resources support, and coordinated event logistics.

UICC Global Cancer Control Advocacy and Networks

Contributed to the design, development and implementation of new activities in the UICC advocacy portfolio, developed monthly newsletters, analyzed the advocacy network engagement approach, and drafted reports.

Professional Pathways Certificate

Internships done in Geneva as part of the Global Studies Geneva program can potentially count toward the UC Berkeley French Department [French for Professions](#) certificate. For additional information, please contact the UC Berkeley French department at fredept@berkeley.edu on this exciting professional-development opportunity.