Taiwan
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. 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 in the Advising Notes document, please contact the BSA adviser for this program.

Adviser Contact Information

For BSA Adviser name, email and drop-in advising hours, visit http://studyabroad.berkeley.edu/advising

See what EAP Alumni Say About Studying Abroad in Taiwan

Fall 2014 NTU student blog: http://fallintaipei.tumblr.com/

Citizenship and Passport Considerations

Taiwan citizens may apply to the Chinese in Taipei (Summer) program. Students with Chinese nationality are not eligible to apply. Students who hold dual citizenship (for example, hold both China and US passports) ARE eligible to apply using their non-PRC passport.

If you have only Taiwanese citizenship, you are not eligible for the Research in Taipei (Summer) program or the National Taiwan University (Fall, Spring, Year) program. However, you are eligible to apply if you hold dual citizenship. Dual citizenship holders (for example, hold both Taiwan and US passports) ARE eligible to apply using their non-Taiwanese passport. PRC citizens may apply.

Please note that Taiwan-born men between the ages of 18 and 40 who return to the country may be required to serve in the Taiwanese military. Fully investigate all matters pertaining to your citizenship and military service obligations before leaving the U.S. You may obtain additional information from the Overseas Compatriot Affairs Council (OCAC) and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office (TECO).
Non-U.S. citizens should contact TECO now to determine visa requirements for your country of citizenship. Contact the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) if you have questions about re-entering the U.S.

Students who are in the process of applying for US citizenship or making any legal name changes are not eligible to apply unless the changes will be completed before application to the EAP program.

A valid passport is required to apply to all host universities. If you do not have a valid passport, or if your passport will expire less than six months after the end of your program, please apply to renew immediately.

**Intensive Chinese Language Options in Taiwan**

Berkeley students can participate in the *Chinese in Taipei (Summer)* program hosted by National Taiwan University. This program offers intensive language study in Chinese from beginning to advanced levels. Students and earn 8 semester units on the program.

The *Chinese in Taipei (Fall)* program is unfortunately not available to Berkeley students, because it is a quarter-length program.

**Program-specific Considerations: National Taiwan University**

*NTU* provides one of the least expensive EAP options in Asia at one of the top-ranked research university partners with whom EAP works.

*NTU* courses taught in Mandarin are for students with native or near-native language ability. Regular *NTU* subject offerings that are taught in Mandarin use traditional characters. Occasionally, *NTU* courses will offer lectures in Chinese with textbooks and other materials in English.

*NTU* Courses taught in English are in a range of fields and are open to all EAP students regardless of language ability. Students can look for courses taught in English on *NTU*’s website.

EAP students can take one Chinese language course offered through the Chinese Language Division (CLD) at *NTU*.

All courses available to EAP students operate on the regular *NTU* calendar. Fall courses run from *September to mid-January* and spring courses run from *February to mid-June*. It is not possible to make arrangements to take exams early for *NTU* courses. Therefore, it is not possible to depart Taiwan earlier than mid-January or mid-June, respectively. For Fall package students, it is possible to complete final exams at *NTU* in mid-January and return to Berkeley in time for the beginning of the spring semester.

Students going to *NTU* in the Fall, Spring, or Year packages must complete a Medical Examination Report as part of their host university application, including a chest x-ray. This medical exam is in addition to the regular EAP Health Clearance (instructions will be provided after selection to the program) and can cost between $200 and $300 to complete at the Tang Center. The cost of the health clearance is factored into the EAP budget for the program, but financial aid recipients must plan carefully for pre-departure expenses that occur before the release of financial aid for EAP. The exam can also be done upon arrival at *NTU*. 
Program-specific Considerations: Research in Taipei

The Research in Taipei program (hosted by NTU) offers a variety of research opportunities. Available departmental labs include the College of Science, College of Electrical Engineering & Computer Science, College of Engineering, College of Bio resources and Agriculture, College of Life Science, College of Public Health, and School of Veterinary Medicine. Click here for a list of participating labs from Summer 2019.

Students earn 4.0 semester units for research and 2 semester units for a culture course, for 6.0 total semester units.

Prospective students are encouraged to accept placement in this program only if they are certain they will be able to participate within the lab they are assigned. Lab research placements such as this are often competitive; if you accept and later decline a placement, you may be taking an opportunity away from students who were not selected. Research teams at NTU also count on having selected students as part of their lab, so you are encouraged to accept the placement only if you can commit to participation in the program.

Satisfying Minimum Language Prerequisites at UC Berkeley

Please be aware that programs with a language prerequisite also have an associated minimum language GPA. Therefore, if you have taken any Chinese language courses on a P/NP basis, begin making arrangements for a letter from the department stating what the letter grade(s) would have been. You will be required to provide this information with your EAP application.

The preferred way to satisfy the minimum language requirement for a program is to take Chinese language course work at Berkeley (or the equivalent course work at another institution). If you have never taken a college-level course in Chinese, but are confident that you have the equivalent language proficiency, an EAP language evaluation can be arranged for you after you submit your application to the program (see the application for more details).

Considerations for LGBTIQA+ Students

Taiwan is included on UCEAP’s list of tolerant destinations for LGBTIQA+ students. Nations on this list are included based on recognition of same-sex unions and the existence of human rights laws prohibiting discrimination against gay individuals. This resource considers potential risks as they specifically affect members of the LGBTIQA+ community, and not necessarily the overall threats posed to all students traveling and studying abroad. As in many countries, tolerance levels vary by region; major cities may be more accepting of the LGBTIQA+ community than rural areas. You can review the Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2018 from the U.S. Department of State for more information.

Taiwan poses a low threat to LGBTIQA+ individuals. Social acceptance is mixed, with attitudes generally split between younger, progressive generations and older, more conservative ones. Reported instances of violence against LGBTIQA+ individuals were rare, and the police response was adequate.

Existing Taiwanese law poses a low threat to the LGBTIQA+ community. Homosexuality is explicitly legal, as is being transgender, although it requires a six-month consideration period. Taiwan outlawed surgical requirements for transgender individuals in January 2015.
Considerations for Graduating Seniors

If you are a graduating senior who is applying to a Spring package program, please be advised that the finals period may stretch into June or July. Returning to Berkeley to walk in a commencement ceremony is an unrealistic expectation for Spring participants. If walking in graduation is very important to you, we recommend that you apply to the National University Singapore, as there is a better chance that program will end before commencement. As an alternative to walking in a Spring ceremony, there is also a UC Berkeley "December Graduates Convocation" if you would like to have the experience of walking in graduation (not department specific). Similarly, you can wait and walk in the following Spring departmental ceremony.

Graduating seniors participating on a Spring package program should ensure that they are on the Spring degree list. If they are not yet on this degree list, students should petition to move their graduation term with their UC Berkeley college. However, spring program grades are often not reported to UCEAP until mid-August, so your grades will not arrive in time for your degree to be processed with the spring degree list (which occurs in mid-July). Early grades are not possible. You will be automatically removed from the spring degree list and placed onto the summer degree list, which is processed in October. Thus, your diploma would display a summer graduation date rather than a spring graduation date. This policy is subject to change. For all students, after your EAP grades arrive and you are waiting for the next degree list to be processed, you can request a "Certificate of Completion" from the Berkeley Registrar that can serve as "proof" of graduation.