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 website, and reviewed by a student in the Program Self-Assessment. 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

The BSA Adviser for England is Amy Veramay (averamay@berkeley.edu). Amy has spent time travelling around England and would be happy to discuss and help you compare cities and universities.
Application
You can use this website “Preparing for the UCEAP application” to assist you.

There are three applications for this program:
1) Berkeley students will start their application via the Berkeley Study Abroad website.
2) Students will then complete a second application in the UCEAP Portal.
3) Later on in the process, not at the time of your initial applications, students will also apply directly to their host university. You will be prompted for this application, so don’t worry!

Host University Preference and Placement
When applying to the English Universities program, you apply to an exchange network as opposed to a specific university. In your application, you will be asked to rank the English host universities in order of preference. We encourage students to only rank the universities you’d actually see yourself attending and rank at least two. Please note that all universities in London have “London” in their title. Please also be aware that space at your first choice host university is not guaranteed.

Be sure to review which courses English universities offer via UCEAP’s academic guide to determine which university is the best academic fit for you.

What are my chances of being placed at my first choice of host university?
The good news is that in the past, the majority of students have been placed at their first or second choice host universities. The placement decisions made by the UCEAP Program Officer in London are based primarily on academic fit.

Admission to a host university is contingent upon acceptance into a particular department (usually the applicant’s major department) at that university. Study within a small range of departments (one or two) is the norm. For example, if you are an Econ major at Cal, but applying to take History courses at Queen Mary, your application would not be as strong as a History major at Cal applying to the History department at Queen Mary. Some universities have you apply directly to a school or department, but then let you take a few courses in other areas.

To make sure you’re creating the strongest application possible, please use the UCEAP England Academic Guide. There you’ll be able to see what courses are available to you. If you apply to a host university that does not offer the courses you intend to take, we will not be able to move your application forward. For example, if you apply to UCL and intend to CS courses, your application would not move forward since CS courses are not available at UCL. If you plan to apply to UCL, please make sure your current, declared major at UCB (which is stated on CalCentral at the time of application), exactly matches one of the admitting departments at UCL. If your major is not listed, we encourage you to consider the BASc program (course options are in the pathways or the core) or another host university.

If placement at any institution other than your first choice host university is not acceptable to you, you can consider an independent study abroad programs or look into applying directly to the university.

Important Considerations Regarding KCL & UCL
The spring term for this program is very competitive. We typically do not have enough space for all qualified applicants at UCL or KCL. It is important when crafting your application that you intentionally put UCL or KCL as your number because students who place UCL or KCL at their #1 choice will have priority at that university. For example, if there are only 15 spaces at UCL and 15 at KCL, only the students that list UCL as #1 or KCL as #1 with the top 15 GPA will get into each. If you put UCL as #1 and don’t get in, KCL will likely fill up and you could be referred to your third choice. UCL fills first, so we don’t recommend putting UCL as anything other than your first choice in the spring term.
Nomination to the English Universities program happens at the campus level. Your application is then forwarded to UCEAP and then finally on to the Study Center in London for further review. The Program Officer in the UK will select your application for “referral” to a specific host university. The UCEAP office will then notify you via email to check your “referral” status in your UCEAP Portal.

After students complete all necessary pre-departure paperwork and procedures, their status will be changed to “accepted.” In almost all instances, your “referral” equals your “acceptance.” Acceptance at Irish Universities over the last couple years have come in September/October for spring students and May for fall students. You can check this chart to see when students have been placed at your host university in the past.

Cohort
This program allows students to take courses alongside local British students, as well as international and UC system-wide students. To see how big the UCB cohorts were per university, check out this chart.

Academics
Flexibility is important. Keep in mind that the courses you find in the UCEAP Course Catalog or on the host university’s web site may not be offered the semester(s) you will be abroad. Often times you will not have concrete information about what courses will be offered until a couple months before departure or even until upon arrival in Ireland. Be prepared for the possibility that you will have to modify your plans.

How many courses/units will I take?
Students are required to take a minimum of 14-16 units each semester. The usual course load is about four classes per semester, but this can vary by university and the specific courses selected. Check out this chart to see how many courses students took in the past and how many semester units they were.

Other Important Notes
Delayed Grades from Abroad: Important for Seniors
Depending on the host institution, UCEAP will transmit your UCEAP courses, units, and grades to Berkeley up to 90 days after your program officially ends. You cannot be administratively graduated until your UCEAP grades are reported to Berkeley, are posted to your transcript, and a degree audit is conducted. The Berkeley Office of the Registrar only administratively graduates students (a.k.a. degrees are “posted” to transcripts) three times per year: October for students with a summer anticipated graduation date, February for students...
with a Fall anticipated graduation date, and July for students with a Spring anticipated graduation date. If your EAP grades arrive after degrees are posted for your term of participation, your degree will be processed and posted to your transcript with the next term’s degree list.

You can review this chart to see when students at your host university in the past have had their UCEAP grades transmitted to the Berkeley Office of the Registrar. Factoring in a 1 to 4-week delay for grades to appear on your Berkeley transcript, determine when your degree is likely to be posted by the Berkeley Office of the Registrar (October, July or February).

If you determine that your grades are likely to arrive later than the term you need to graduate from Berkeley to stay eligible for your graduate program or another post-graduation opportunity, contact the program/employer you are applying to as early as possible. Ask about their policy on delayed graduation due to study abroad participation. Find out how long they can wait for UCEAP grades to be recorded on your official Berkeley transcript and for your degree to be posted by the Berkeley Office of the Registrar. Ask your graduate program or employer if you can provide some academic information while waiting for your UCEAP grades or Berkeley diploma. If courses and grades do not yet appear on your Berkeley transcript, ask the program/employer if it will accept an official “Verification of UCEAP Coursework.” This is a letter from UCEAP verifying dates of UCEAP attendance and giving the estimated dates of arrival for course titles, units, and grades. You can get this letter from your BSA Campus Adviser or from your UCEAP Academic Specialist for your program. If your UCEAP grades already appear on your Berkeley transcript but you are waiting for your degree to be posted, you can also request a Certificate of Completion. Read more about Transcripts and Diplomas on the Office of the Registrar website.

UCEAP Alums
UCEAP 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 Amy an email (averamay@berkeley.edu) 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 with tips, example schedules and presentations from students who have participated in this program. Example schedules and tips from students who’ve participated on these programs are included in this folder.

Making friends with locals
When students are able to make friends with locals while studying abroad, their experience is enriched. The recent post How to Make Friends with Locals While Abroad by UCEAP student Elizabeth Lemerand (UCLA) offers advice for students to make meaningful connections while they travel.