

Year, London School of Economics

UCEAP Advising Notes

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to present challenges related to health concerns and international travel. Please check UCEAP's [Pandemic Updates](#) page for the most up-to-date information about UCEAP program cancellations for the 2023-24 academic year and additional resources and information. *Updated 08/2022.*

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](#) websites. If any concerns you have are not addressed on the UCEAP website or in the Advising Notes document, please contact the BSA adviser for this program.

Adviser Contact Information

The Berkeley Study Abroad Adviser for this program is Michelle Ayazi (mayazi@berkeley.edu). Please feel free to email Michelle with any questions and/or concerns you have about the program or your participation. You can make an advising appointment with Michelle [here](#).

Program Information

The LSE "General Course" is LSE's **year-long** study abroad program, with courses taking place in the Michaelmas (Fall) and Lent (Spring) terms, and examinations in the Summer term. The year-long structure means that students can learn topics in considerably more depth and breadth than in an equivalent single-semester course.

For the most complete information, we recommend that you study the UCEAP and LSE websites together:

[Visit the UCEAP London School of Economics program page](#)

[Visit the LSE General Course website](#)
[General Course Brochure](#)

As a UCEAP participant, you should be referring to the UCEAP London School of Economics program page for eligibility, academic policy, and program cost information.

LSE YEAR INFORMATION SESSION coming up on November 2, 2022. Please contact Michelle Ayazi mayazi@berkeley.edu for more information. Here is a [recording](#) of previous year's information session for you to access in the meantime.

Application Process

All UCEAP students must initiate their application through the Berkeley Study Abroad Portal to be considered for UCEAP participation: <http://studyabroad.berkeley.edu/uceap-how-apply>.

- Berkeley applicants to LSE General Course must have a 3.3 UC GPA at the time of application and maintain it through departure. Students who wish to take quantitative classes (Econ, Finance, Accounting) will need a 3.5 cumulative UC GPA.
- Applicants must have Junior or Senior class standing by departure. Units earned through AP exams, and/or community college units earned during high school cannot count towards the class standing requirement.
- Note for Transfer Students: Students must be matriculated at the University of California for at least one year before being eligible to attend the UCEAP LSE General Course program.

Selection Process

The selection criteria we will use for this program include:

- GPA and Academic Record
- Class Standing
- Strength of Statement of Purpose.
 - Applicants should demonstrate through their essay that they understand the program structure and program demands well; detail their academic, professional and personal goals; and make a solid case for why this program in particular is a good fit for them.
- Strength of Recommendation Letter
 - The letter should be from a UC instructor who is teaching you or has taught you at UC. The letter of recommendation can be from a UC GSI.
- Whether the student intends to take courses for major related requirements abroad.
- Quality of overall application

Your application will go through a preliminary review by the Berkeley Study Abroad Office and will be forwarded to UC Berkeley faculty for further review, ranking and nomination. Shortly after your campus nomination, you will be asked by UCEAP to complete a host university application. Instructions and details will be provided at that time. Students are expected to follow the host university application instructions and application timeline provided by UCEAP in order to maintain their status in the program.

Curriculum

General Course students take four full-unit courses (or the equivalent in half-unit courses), and may pick and choose these from across [300+ course options in 19 academic disciplines](#).

Yearlong course = 1 LSE unit = 8 UC semester units
Semester-long (H) course = .5 LSE unit = 4 UC semester units

The majority of courses at LSE are year-long. Courses that are designated with (H) or "half-unit" are semester-long so you will need to take two of these in place of one of the year-long courses. Typically, teaching for the half-unit courses takes place only in one term, either Michaelmas or Lent. Exams are held in the first week of January and the Summer term.

When reviewing potential courses, pay attention to the level of the course, and any pre-requisites that you must have taken in order to be eligible to enroll. There are three levels for undergraduate courses at LSE, designated 100, 200 and 300 level. General Course students predominantly take 200 level courses (intermediate level courses taken by LSE students in their second and third/final years), and LSE does not usually recommend that students take more than one 300 level course (advanced-level courses equivalent to senior or master's level courses in US) as they are exceptionally demanding. For perspective, note that most LSE degree-seeking undergraduates typically do not take more than one or two 300 level courses during their degree programs, and many will complete their degrees without taking *any* 300 level courses.

Academic Culture

You are expected to be more independent than you might normally be at UC. There is rarely any immediate accountability for the material presented in lectures; students will demonstrate their mastery of material in exams at the end of the year. There are no regular tests, and few assignments other than papers provide

feedback. As a result, you may not know where you stand academically in some courses until completion of final exams at the end of the academic year. You will need to work with less direction, fewer in-term assessments, and less sense of how your performance will finally be judged. The advantage of such a system is that you can set the agenda of your own education and tailor it to your particular interests.

Students with Disabilities

We encourage you to speak with the BSA Adviser for this program prior to applying. Advice for students with disabilities is available and you are encouraged to contact the [Disability and Well-being Service](#) at LSE with any questions. According to UK Tier 4 visa regulations, all students must take a full load of courses to maintain their visa status.

Visa

Due to lengthy UK Tier 4 visa processing times, travel after the UC term ends and before this EAP program is highly discouraged. Please discuss any potential pre-program travel plans with your BSA Adviser.

Additional instructions on travel and Visa/Entry Clearance will be provided in your UCEAP Pre-Departure Checklist, which will be available to you after you have been selected for the program.

Notes for Non-US Citizens: See this [UKVI tool](#) for non-US citizens to find out if there are any restrictions or additional requirements for your country of citizenship.

Program Calendar and Flights

Since you are a UCEAP student, your program will begin with a mandatory, multi-day, comprehensive on-site orientation offered by UCEAP. This orientation will precede LSE's own orientation. DO NOT purchase your plane tickets until the official UCEAP program calendar, and UCEAP orientation and arrival instructions, have been posted to your UCEAP Portal.

Housing

You will be guaranteed housing in one of LSE's central London Halls of Residence, provided that you apply before the Accommodation deadline (usually in May/June, TBD).

LSE offers a variety of styles of [accommodation \(housing\)](#), all of which is within walking distance of the School. There will be a diverse mix of students in your Hall: undergraduates and postgraduates, local and international, etc. All rooms feature high-speed internet access, and the vast majority of rooms are single, although there are a limited number of twin rooms available for those who prefer to share.

Scholarships

All UCEAP students are encouraged to apply for a UCEAP Scholarship, which offers a \$2000 award for fall semester and \$2000 award for spring semester. For more information, visit the [UCEAP Scholarships](#) page.

US Citizen Pell Grant recipients are encouraged to apply for the Gilman Scholarship, which offers a possible award of up to \$5000. For more information, visit [gilmanscholarship.org](#).

UCEAP students are **not** eligible for the John C Phelan Scholarship available through LSE.

More information on financial aid and scholarships can be found on our website: <http://studyabroad.berkeley.edu/finances>

Financial aid students can request a financial aid estimate for the program here: <https://studyabroad.berkeley.edu/finances/financial-aid-advising>