Objective of the “Need to Know” Document
The Need to Know 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 Need to Know document, please contact the BSA adviser for
this program.

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

NOTE: This information is subject to change for Fall 2016.

Space Limitations
This program is an impacted option. Students interested in this option are highly encouraged to speak with the adviser
prior to applying. You may be able to obtain permission to apply to a back-up choice.

The selection criteria we will use for this program include:
• GPA and Academic Record
• Whether the student intends to take courses for major-related requirements on the program
• Class Standing
• Statement of Purpose: priority will be given to students who successfully convey an understanding of the program; and
can articulate thoughtfully why this program in particular is a good fit for them and how the program will benefit them
academically, professionally, and/or personally.

Curriculum
The Mediterranean Food and Culture Program introduces you to the Mediterranean in all of its complexity. The courses
examine Mediterranean foodways from three scales of analysis: the Mediterranean as a space of cultural encounters, the
nation-state as a uniquely modern phenomenon, and the city as a complex community.

The program employs a historically grounded approach to contemporary food practices in the Mediterranean, fusing
experiential learning with vigorous academic study. In five courses spread across three cities—Istanbul, Florence, and
Barcelona—you explore the social and cultural fields where contemporary Mediterranean foodways come to be
constituted both literally and discursively.

Two umbrella courses continue across the semester, each worth 5 semester units:
1. Making of the Mediterranean: Cultural Encounters
2. Unmaking the Mediterranean: Nationalism and Nation States

In two of the three cities, you enroll in a five-week course worth 2.67 semester units that focuses on that city's unique
configurations of food production and consumption (pick two):
1. Istanbul: Megacity, Food, and Human Ecology
2. Florence: Florence and the Politics of Food in Italy

All courses are taught in English at the upper-division level. You are required to take a full-time course of study while
abroad: 15.3 semester UC units are required; four courses. However, students are only taking three courses or 12.67 at
any given time.

This intensive program requires your active participation in order to maintain the pace. In all of the courses, instructors
use the cities as course material and frequent visits to such places as local markets, urban farms, foundations, migrant
neighborhoods, and vineyards immerse you in the subject matter. The sights can be overwhelming, but must also be
carefully observed and recounted in the context of multi-disciplinary readings transcending different historical periods.
A semester-long research project across the three cities, readings and exams for each module of the umbrella courses, journals and reflection papers, and oral presentations, must all be juggled and completed on schedule. Students who miss class or assignments fall behind quickly and have a difficult time catching up during the final weeks of the semester. The Mediterranean Food and Culture Program is intoxicating and richly rewarding, but is also one of the most rigorous semesters you experience!

Free time will be scarce due to the fast pace of the courses and limited time in each country. You will be able to explore the cities through academic excursions and other planned trips. You will also be able to explore on your own during the class break between the Florence and Barcelona portions of the program. The ACCENT staff will have information on cultural and social events, and will organize a number of activities for the program, which will vary depending on availability and student interest.

**Housing**

Prior to departure, you will complete a housing questionnaire, which will be used by the ACCENT staff to help place you in housing suitable for your needs. It is crucial you take the questionnaire seriously and answer all the questions thoughtfully. Past students recommend you be specific and honest about your needs, even while realizing that perhaps not all of them may be met. Lodging costs are included in the program fees you pay to UCEAP. You will pay out of pocket for meals. Check the UCEAP Student Budget, located in the Money Matters section of your Participants page for housing costs.

You will receive your apartment assignment once you arrive in Istanbul. You will not receive any information about your housing assignment prior to departure. It is not possible to move into your housing early. If you arrive early or plan to remain in Barcelona after the program, you must arrange your own accommodations.

All students will sign a housing contract, and consequences of breaking the contract range up to expulsion from the program. You will receive a set of “Living Guidelines” when you arrive for the program to help you adjust more smoothly to your accommodations. In the meantime, keep the following in mind:

Each living space is unique and will vary in size, condition, and proximity to your classes. Keep in mind that living standards in Europe are different from those in the U.S., and living spaces tend to be smaller and older. In Istanbul and Barcelona, you will be placed in double/trip rooms within student apartments. In Florence, you will be placed in double/triple rooms within a residence hall. The Istanbul apartments are located in the Harbiye and Taksim neighborhoods, offering easy access to a variety of public transportation options. The Barcelona apartments are located in the beautiful, tight knit community of Gracia. The student residence in Florence is located in the Santa Croce neighborhood in central Florence. Overnight guests are not allowed.

Housing is located within a 25-40 minute walk or bus ride away from the ACCENT Centers. Please remember that commuting via public transportation or walking is the norm in Europe and this commute time is not unusual.

Several UC or international students will share an apartment/residence. Living spaces are co-ed, with single-sex bedrooms. You will spend a significant amount of time with the same group of students; you will attend class each day and travel on weekend excursions with your roommates. Many students enjoy this aspect of apartment living.

**Internships, Research, and Independent Study**

Internships for academic credit are not possible on this program.