Need to Know: Scottish Parliament Internship and Irish Parliament Internship

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

Scottish Parliament Internship Course work
You enroll in the following three courses (12 semester UC units). See course descriptions for all three courses. The information provided is subject to change.

Special Study Internship 187 (6.7 semester UC units) - during the internship, you are working closely with your assigned Member of Scottish Parliament (MSP) for a minimum of 25 hours per week. You produce an Internship journal, receive a mid-term evaluation from your MSP, and submit a final self-evaluation.

International Non-Governmental Organizations (INGO) (2.7 semester UC units) - explores the activities of INGOs as subcontractor, educators, technical assistance providers, humanitarian aid providers, and policy advocates. You will investigate the role of INGOs in civil society and how they shape, and are shaped by, world politics, state, and economic forces. You prepare an essay and a presentation; participate in a group project; and complete a final exam.

Parliamentary Studies 121 (2.7 semester UC units) - an overview of the working practices of the U.K. and Scottish Parliament. You compare the functions, powers, and responsibility of both parliaments facilitating an understanding of devolved and centralized politics in the U.K. In consultation with the instructor, you prepare an essay, a case study, and a presentation for your final grade.

Irish Parliament Internship Coursework
This program has two components: the internship and academic courses.

Internship (6 UC semester units): From Week 2 onwards, you will spend two days per week in Parliament. Based on your skills and past experience, you may be assigned research, report writing, drafting of press releases, or corresponding with constituents or organizations on local matters.

Academic Courses (3 UC semester units each): You will be enrolled in three upper division courses which are taken at the Institute of Public Administration:
- Irish Society & Politics – An intensive course that runs in week 1. It covers contemporary issues in Irish Politics, Economy, Society and the European Union.
- Modern Irish History – This course covers the major historical trends in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland in the 19th and 20th century.
- Modern Irish Literature – The course covers key works by the major Irish writers of the 20th and early 21st centuries.

Length of Program
For Scottish Parliament, due to visa regulations, students may intern only for one semester and are thus limited to applying to either the Fall or Spring Scottish Parliament Internship option. An extension from Fall to Spring for this program is not possible. However, Fall students can apply to other EAP options to make a back-to-back program, if approved by the BSA Adviser.

For Irish Parliament, consecutive program participation may be possible, TBD pending visa regulations.

Minimum cumulative GPA
The minimum cumulative GPA at the time of application and maintained through the end of the last term prior to departure for the EAP Scottish Parliament Internship is 3.0 overall, in addition to a 3.0 in your major. Make sure you have the
appropriate cumulative GPA at the time of application. If your cumulative GPA is below 3.0 at the time of application, your application will not be accepted.

**How to decide if a particular program is a good match for you**

After reviewing the program descriptions and considering your options, you are welcome to contact recent program participants to hear about their experiences abroad. Please email the [BSA Adviser](mailto:) and ask for email addresses of students who have participated on EAP in the recent past.

**Placement**

To avoid placement delays or rejection, you are encouraged to put the time into developing a strong cover letter and CV with your initial application. Although rare in occurrence, the Parliament reserves the right not to accept a student based on the quality of their cover letter and/or CV. The [Career Center](mailto:) offers excellent resources and support, which all students are encouraged to take advantage of.

Note that the Scottish Parliament will not make Fall 2016 acceptance decisions until early June 2016, due to the Scottish elections this past May.