Need to Know: UK/ Sussex Summer

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, as well as Sussex’s International Summer School web site. Sussex’s web site also includes an excellent Student Handbook. 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

Program Location
The University of Sussex is located just outside the popular beach resort city of Brighton, which is known for its vibrant nightlife and cosmopolitan atmosphere. Spending time in Brighton has been one of the highlights of the Sussex summer program for many students. One of Brighton’s nicknames is “London By the Sea” because you are only an hour’s train ride away. Other nicknames for Brighton are “Britain’s San Francisco” and “The Gay Capital of Britain.”

Application Deadlines
The Summer 2014 Sussex International Summer School program has a rolling application deadline beginning December 1, 2013 and ending February 3, 2014. Please note that while Sussex’s own application window is from December 1, 2013 until April 1, 2014, in order to apply for the program as an EAP student you must submit your EAP application to Berkeley Study Abroad by February 3 and the Sussex ISS host university application to Sussex by February 28.

Application Process
Applying to the Sussex/PKP program involves submitting dual applications, one for EAP and one for Sussex. Students should access the application from the BSA website, not the Sussex website. You will first submit online applications for Sussex and EAP, and then submit hard copy application materials to BPSA. Submit the Sussex host university online application, item #10 on the Application Checklist, first.

Competitiveness of the Program
Sussex ISS will be able to accommodate all the qualified applicants who apply. Students who want to take Physics 1 & 2 must have a 2.5 cumulative GPA and a background in calculus.

Students are advised to apply as early as possible within the application window to increase their chances of getting their first choice of courses and housing. Physics students must apply as soon as the website opens in December to secure a spot in the physics series.

Physics 1 & 2, Calculus-based: Students who wish to enroll in the Physics series should apply when the website opens in December. The Physics series classes are so popular that in order to get a space you must apply during the first week in December, preferably on December 1st. If you should be placed on a waiting list, don’t despair: early applicants on the waiting list have a good chance of being placed because of attrition. Students must take the series of both Physics 1 & 2 courses.

Acceptance
Sussex has responsibility for selection. You will be notified officially of EAP selection after being notified by Sussex ISS. Sussex will email their acceptance decision to you within three weeks of receiving your complete application (i.e. online application as well as hard copy application materials). EAP will send selection notification to the student after Sussex informs us that you, the student, have been accepted to the program, have accepted the offer online, and have paid the non-refundable application fee (explanation follows). Sussex will not accept a student that has not applied to the EAP-UK-England Sussex ISS program simultaneously.

Application Fee
Students must pay a £150 application fee (about $237 if 1 GBP = $1.60). This fee is non-refundable.
Summer Financial Aid

Financial aid for the summer is not as comprehensive as what students may be accustomed to during the academic year because it is a “trailer” to the 2012-2013 academic year. If getting financial aid is important for your participation in the Sussex program, it’s essential that you plan ahead and keep the following in mind:

1. The Financial Aid Office will likely not be able to release award letters for summer until the beginning of April or even later. If you have questions, please visit the Financial Aid Counselors in the Berkeley Study Abroad Office.
2. Your total summer financial aid package will be comprised of one or more of the following types of funds: fee grants*, program grants, student and parent federal loans and possibly private bank loans.
3. Your summer financial aid award will not be disbursed until a minimum of 10 days prior to the program start date, so you will need to be prepared to pay any pre-departure fees for the health clearance and airline tickets using a credit card or other means.

Scholarships

• The Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship Program will offer summer scholarships.
• UCEAP offers Promise Award Scholarships.

Curriculum

• Students take 2 (two) consecutive courses worth 4 semester units each, 8 units total for the program.
• The program is eight weeks long and is divided into two four-week sessions. Students can take only one course in each 4-week session.
• Courses are both lower division (level I) and upper division (levels II and III). Level III courses are research-based.
• Students can elect to do research in place of a course. Sussex ISS will strive to place a student with a professor or post-graduate student doing research in an area of the student’s interest but cannot guarantee a suitable placement.

Prerequisite Courses for Science and Environmental Design Majors

Many past students have taken the physics courses to fulfill pre-requisites for Integrative Biology, Molecular Cell Biology and some College of Natural Resources majors. The Physics 1 and 2 calculus-based courses offered at Sussex are pre-approved to satisfy the Physics 8A and 8B prerequisite courses. If you are considering taking any Sussex courses for medical school admission you are advised to consult with your prospective medical schools to ensure the courses you take can be used to satisfy your requirements.

Physics 1 & 2 fill up very fast. If you want these courses, apply on or shortly after December 1st! Anyone applying as soon as the website opens has a good chance of getting a spot in these courses or, if placed on a waiting list, of ultimately getting a spot.

EAP Returnees

EAP returnees are one of your best resources for information about the program. If you would like to be put in touch with them or other Sussex contacts just email the BSA Adviser.

Bringing Dependents on the Program

The Student Visitor Visa necessary for this program does not permit the student to bring dependents.

Student Visitor Visa

Depending upon whether the student will have to provide a parental bank statement to prove sufficient funds for the Student Visitor Visa, the student may need to bring a certified birth certificate. Most U.S. citizens will be able to order their birth certificate on-line by contacting: https://www.vitalchek.com. U.S. citizens can also telephone the county clerk in the county of birth to obtain the birth certificate. Please request these well in advance, as the process to obtain it may be lengthy. A photocopy of a certified document is not acceptable.