

# Australia

## UCEAP Advising Notes

### 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 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 the Advising Notes 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/advising>

### Australian Universities:

#### Host University Preference and Placement

When applying to the Australia Universities program, you apply to an exchange network as opposed to a particular university. In your application, ***you are asked to rank six of the Australian host universities in order of preference.*** Please be aware that space at your first choice host university is not guaranteed.

Whereas the decision to select you for the Australia Universities program is made by the campus EAP office (i.e. Berkeley Study Abroad), the decision to place you at a particular host university is made by the UCEAP Program Officer in Australia.

#### GPA Requirement

While the minimum GPA requirement for the UCEAP Australian Universities program is 2.85, University of Sydney and University of Queensland has a higher 3.0 GPA minimum that must be met at the time of application and maintained throughout the pre-departure period. If you do not meet the requirement, please only the remaining four host institutions.

#### 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 UC Program Officer in Australia are based primarily on academic fit. Additional information on the factors that can play a role are:

- **Academic fit:** because your academic focus is the main criterion host university placement decisions are based on, it's important that you think about whether the host universities you are interested in are a good match for you academically.

- **Non-academic concerns:** geographical preference, relatives who live in a certain city, employment opportunities, etc. are also taken into consideration, but to a lesser extent.
- **Popularity of host university:** roughly half of the applicants to the program rank the University of Sydney, University of New South Wales, University of Queensland or the University of Melbourne as their first or second choice. It is recommended that you seriously consider all of the universities available and we encourage you to take the time to research all of your options before applying for the program.

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.

**Selection Timeline and Terminology**

Selection into the Australian Universities program happens at the campus level. Your application is then forwarded to UCEAP and Australia for further review. The Program Officer in Australia 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 on MyEAP. After students complete all necessary predeparture paperwork and procedures, their status will be changed to “placed.” In almost all instances, your “referral” equals your “placement.”

UCEAP provides a guide about what to expect after your application has been referred. Please review the information below for a preview of additional information you will need to submit about 3 months after the initial application period.

[http://eap.ucop.edu/Documents/\\_forms/1718/Australia/application/auapplication\\_materials\\_17-18.pdf](http://eap.ucop.edu/Documents/_forms/1718/Australia/application/auapplication_materials_17-18.pdf)

**Academics**

- **Flexibility is important.** Keep in mind that the courses you find in the EAP 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 Australia. 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 16 (semester) units each semester. The usual course load is about four classes per semester, but this can vary by university and the specific courses selected.
- **Do Australian universities have “Fall” and “Spring” semesters?** When researching courses on the host university web sites, be aware that “Semester 1” is the equivalent of Berkeley’s Spring semester and “Semester 2” is equivalent to Fall.
- **Which courses will transfer as upper/lower division?** First year Australian courses are considered lower-division by UC, while second and third year courses will translate as upper-division. Third year courses can be considered similar to first-year graduate coursework in the US.
- Use the following Glossary of Academic Terms to make your course search on the host university web sites easier.

In the U.S....	In Australia...
Major	Course
School / College (e.g., School of Engineering)	Faculty
Course (e.g., History 40a)	Unit / topic / subject / class
Professor / Faculty	Member Academic Staff, Lecturer
Grades	Marks
College / School/University	Uni

### **Cost of the Australian Visa**

Before departure you will receive instructions from UCEAP on how to apply for your student visa. The Australian visa is expensive. At the time of writing, the visa application fee is \$550 Australian dollars (AUD). You can pay this fee by credit card (and since you will apply for your visa online, this is also the easiest way to pay the application fee).

### **EAP Alums and Reciprocal Exchange students**

EAP 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 the BSA Adviser an email with your list of questions and the contact information of returnees who have agreed to be contacted will be shared.

### **Faculty Contacts**

UC Berkeley Plant Biology Professor [Russell L. Jones](#) was Director of the UC Study Center in Australia for two years, up until December 2008. As the former Study Center Director, Professor Jones is an excellent resource for information about everything from housing, to the Australian higher education system, to what feedback students have given about each university. He is an especially good source of information about doing research with faculty in Australia, something he strongly encouraged students to do while he was Study Center Director. You can email him your questions or request an appointment with him via email ([rjones@nature.berkeley.edu](mailto:rjones@nature.berkeley.edu)).