

# Botswana

## 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>

### Application Materials

Students must refer to the CIEE Application Instructions found in the [BSA Application Checklist](#) for Botswana when completing their CIEE application. Students should note that the CIEE and host university application will require items that may take additional time to prepare, including, but not limited to, letters of recommendation, official transcript, and passport-size photos.

### Note for Transfer Students

Students must be matriculated at the University of California for at least one semester before being eligible to apply for the Botswana program. A 2016 spring admit transfer student is therefore ineligible to apply for the fall 2016 Botswana program.

### Curriculum

Students must choose between the Community Public Health track and Arts & Sciences track at the time of application. Students must indicate their choice of track in their application statement of purpose and later when completing their CIEE application.

### Arts & Sciences Track

The program curriculum includes coursework offered by both CIEE and the host university, the University of Botswana. Students enroll in the CIEE Setswana Language and Culture Practicum, and five regular university courses, one of which must have a focus on Botswana or Southern Africa. Students may enroll in an internship based at a non-governmental organization involved in community development, public health, social welfare, women's rights, environmental protection, or education. The CIEE Language and Culture Practicum is for CIEE students only; whereas the University of Botswana courses are taught alongside University of Botswana undergraduates and other international students. Additional information on courses is available on the [CIEE program website](#) and the [CIEE Handbook](#).

**Community Public Health Track**

Students may elect to participate in the Community Public Health Track which provides an introduction to basic healthcare issues in Botswana through coursework and a community health practicum. Students on the study abroad Gaborone program take the following required CIEE courses: the CIEE Setswana Language and Culture Practicum, the CIEE Public and Environmental Health Issues in Botswana, and the CIEE Community Health Practicum. In addition, you're required to take three University of Botswana elective courses, one of which must be in public and environmental health. The University of Botswana courses are taught alongside University of Botswana undergraduates and other international students; whereas the CIEE courses are for CIEE students only. Additional information is available on the [CIEE program website](#) and the [CIEE Handbook](#).

**University of Botswana**

Students often notice striking differences between their home educational system and that of the University of Botswana. The University's academic environment is part of the challenge of studying abroad in Botswana. Following the British model of education, this system offers a less structured environment that requires students to take greater responsibility and initiative. Professors expect a great deal of individual study.

Learning by rote is the model most often used in classes. This entails professors reading from notes or books, with the expectation that students copy word for word their recitation. Most University classes are very large, thus making classroom interaction with the professor very rare. For example, lectures may involve as many as 100 students, while tutorials and seminars have smaller class sizes, ranging from 15 to 25 students. The system is geared toward the serious student who is motivated and self-sufficient.

Students must be prepared to assume more responsibility and independence in completing readings, be assessed for a course through a single paper or exam, and be able to seek out assistance from instructors and Botswana students.

Students interested in taking courses alongside Botswana students should note that courses with topics on Africa and Botswana are generally more popular with international students than Botswana. Although not required, students may wish to consider a formal language course in one of the official Botswana languages (e.g. Setswana).

**Housing**

Most students live in residence halls on the University of Botswana campus. Students typically share double rooms with local undergraduate students. Restrooms and shower facilities are shared. A limited number of study abroad homestays are also available. Students are placed with carefully selected families in the greater Gaborone area.

For students living on campus in the University residence hall, meals are not included in the program fee (except during the one-week rural family stay) and are the responsibility of the student. Students eat at two dining halls on campus and can purchase a meal plan or purchase individual meals. Additional meals can be purchased at local restaurants and cafés. Students living with homestay families receive two meals per day and should budget for daily lunches.

**Scholarships**

CIEE offers scholarships and grants based on merit and financial need. You should apply! Students will have access to the CIEE online scholarship application once they begin their CIEE online application.

**Visa and Entry Clearance**

US citizens do not require a student visa for Botswana, but must be in possession of a valid passport. Students must also bring a copy of their birth certificate with them to Botswana as it will be needed to apply for a residence permit on site. Although U.S. citizens are not required to have a visa while in Botswana, it is likely that they will need a visa to visit bordering African nations. Non-U.S. citizens should contact the nearest Botswana embassy to inquire about visa requirements for their citizenship.

**Special Demands of the Program**

Health and safety remain primary issues of concern for study in Botswana, particularly crime/security, motor traffic, and HIV. Students should review the CIEE Program Handbooks (links above) to familiarize themselves with risks associated with participation on the program.

Students should familiarize themselves with the role of race, gender, sexuality, and religion while studying in Botswana, and develop appropriate expectations according to personal backgrounds and self-identification. LGBTIQ students are invited to reference the [UCEAP LGBTIQ Community Resource Page](#) to learn about host country laws and norms.

Given the special demands of the program, it is highly recommended that applicants meet with the BSA adviser prior to submitting an application.