

China

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>

Changes to UCEAP China programs for 2017-18

The **Beijing Normal University Summer + Year** program has been cancelled. Students can no longer apply to both terms with one application. Instead, students can apply to the summer option, the year option, or both options individually.

Peking University will now offer Fall, Year, and Spring + Summer Internship options, in addition to the Spring option already offered. The Fall semester option will end before December holidays. The Spring + Summer Internship option will allow students to intern during the summer with PKU alumni at local start-ups.

The summer **Language & Culture, Beijing Normal University** program has been replaced with the summer **Language & Culture, Peking University** program. The calendar, UC unit credit, and language levels provided will remain the same for UCEAP students. The GPA requirement has been lowered to 2.5 for this program. Because this is a language and culture program, PKU will not accept students who are citizens of PRC, Taiwan, Hong Kong, or Macau.

See what EAP Alumni Say About Studying Abroad in China

A UCB student on the Fudan JPIS Fall 2013 blogged about her experience in China! Check it out at <http://globalguoren.tumblr.com>

Watch a video created by UCEAP students in Beijing (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gaQzR65IEu4>) and Shanghai (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ANjG9huw75U&t=14s>)

Citizenship and Passport Considerations

Peking University does not accept students who have only Hong Kong, Macau or Taiwan citizenship to the **Year-long, Fall, or Spring EAP programs**. Peking University will accept students with PRC passports, but **Tsinghua University** will not. Dual citizens who can submit a valid US passport are eligible for admittance to Peking University and Tsinghua University. **Peking University** does not accept students who have only PRC, Hong Kong, Macau, or Taiwan citizenship to the **Summer EAP program**.

Fudan University accepts students with PRC, Hong Kong, Macau, and Taiwan citizenship; however, those students cannot stay in university dormitories and will be placed in off campus apartments (assistance with these arrangements will be provided). Students with Hong Kong, Macau, or Taiwan passports must obtain "home visit permits" to enter China and do not need to apply for a visa. Dual passport holders should apply to Fudan University programs with their US passport.

For all EAP China programs, students cannot be accepted to a Chinese university without a valid passport at the time of application to the program. A passport is *not valid* if it expires within six months of the projected end of the EAP program. US permanent residence and a green card are not sufficient documentation for admittance to a Chinese university and do not substitute for a passport. Stateless or refugee citizens cannot apply to EAP China programs. If you do not have a passport or need a renewal, apply immediately to make the EAP application deadline.

Students who are in the process of applying for US citizenship or making any legal name changes are not eligible to apply unless the changes will be completed before application to the EAP program.

Chinese universities do not permit UC students to live in Chinese student dormitories.

Preparing for your program in China

It is highly recommended that all students intending to study abroad in China complete a course at Berkeley related to Chinese culture or history prior to departure.

UCEAP Program Discounts

UCEAP will be offering a discount of \$2,000 for the following programs: **Beijing Normal University** (Fall, Summer + Fall), **Peking University** (Spring), **Tsinghua University** (Spring). For more information visit <http://eap.ucop.edu/FinancialOverview/Pages/Discounted-Programs-2016-17.aspx>

Scholarship Opportunities

Students with US citizenship are eligible to apply for the Credit Student Scholarship for China-US Humanities Exchange Scholarship at **Tsinghua University**. Students can receive up to 7500 RMB for the semester, which can almost cover their housing costs at Tsinghua. Awardees will need to open a local account at Chinese bank after they arrive and the money will be transferred to their account directly.

Academic Considerations, Summer Programs:

Courses on the **PKU, Language and Culture** program may not be taken P/NP, and there is no option to reduce the number of units a course is worth. Students must take 2 courses worth 5 semester units each, total of 10 semester units

Students on the International Summer School at **Fudan University** can take content courses related to Chinese history, culture, politics, business, and economics, international and intercultural studies, and Chinese language. To be eligible for summer financial aid, students must enroll in three courses worth 2.7 semester units each.

Academic Considerations, Semester and Year Programs:

The **Engineering, University of Michigan-Shanghai Jiao Tong University Joint Institute**, located at Jiao Tong University, just outside of Shanghai, will offer coursework in Engineering. The University of Michigan-Shanghai Jiao Tong University Joint Institute offers coursework in English taught by international faculty in Mechanical Engineering and Electrical and Computer Engineering. This will be a rigorous program for those who seek a global approach and wish to develop an international network in the field of engineering.

The **BNU Fall** program is primarily for language training, with a limited number of courses offered in English each year. Additional subject courses are available for students with adequate language skills (typically students with a minimum of 3-years of university level Chinese prior to departure). BNU is has been expanding their course curriculum to include more courses taught in English.

PKU Fall, Spring, and Year programs are also primarily for language training, with regular university course work available to students with native or near native language ability. A successful EAP applicant to PKU Year will be serious about their studies, have a strong language background, and personal attributes that will enable them to thrive in a bureaucratic institution with little hand holding. The list of courses available in English will not be available until arrival in China, and selection varies from year to year (see exception below). In prior terms, the courses in English have focused on Chinese society and culture, politics, economics or international relations.

Starting in Fall 2015, courses taught in English in the area of Chinese Studies will be offered through the [Yenching Academy](#) at PKU. This college provides an interdisciplinary perspective with students studying alongside future leaders from around the globe. This is a master's level program with a focus on Chinese area studies. However, it will be open to UCEAP undergraduates; the UCEAP courses will be awarded upper-division UC credit.

BNU Fall, PKU Fall, Spring, and Year, and PKU Spring students without a firm background in Chinese (3 or more years of university-level Chinese) are unlikely to have access to courses outside of Chinese language instruction (with the exception of the Yenching Academy at PKU). This is because students without sufficient language background will find it difficult to follow lectures and complete assignments in Chinese. Students who wish to take regular university courses (all of which are taught in Chinese) must pass a language test administered upon arrival at the host university.

Fudan University offers semester programs with course work taught in English. Some of the curriculum of the **Fall** program is taught jointly by UC and Fudan faculty, while the **Spring** curriculum is taught entirely by Fudan faculty. The focus of the Fall program is "International Studies" with interdisciplinary course work in Political Science, Economics, Business, History, Chinese Studies and more. Students must take two UCEAP program-specific courses and will choose two or three other courses, depending on the number of units of each course. The Spring program offers a majority of courses in Business and Economics and Media and Communications. On both the Fall and Spring programs students are highly encouraged to enroll in a Chinese language class, but it is not mandatory. Students with advanced Chinese skills may also be able to enroll in regular university course work in Chinese after arrival at Fudan (permission of the instructor is required for enrollment).

All students applying to **Fudan University** are advised that *confirmed* course information is announced very close to departure for the program (mid to late July for the Fall program and mid-January for the Spring program). Students will conduct academic planning with their major advisers based on the prior year's course offerings during the semester prior to departure for the program, but need to be prepared to communicate via email with their advisers and reconfirm their course choices (and the implication on making progress toward their major) once course work is announced.

All courses at **Fudan University** are subject to a strict grading curve. University policy mandates that only 30% of students in a course can receive an A or A-, regardless of class size. Historically the grades for Berkeley students have been very good, but inevitably there are students who receive a B or B+ who feel their

actual performance warranted a better grade. Grades are not negotiable, so students will need to work hard for their A's given the competition with the curve.

The Spring semester program at **Tsinghua University** has no language prerequisite and primarily offers course work taught in English in the fields of Economics and Management, and Engineering. Additionally, students will have access to Chinese language instruction. Students with advanced Chinese skills may also be able to enroll in regular university course work in Chinese after arrival at Tsinghua (permission of the instructor is required for enrollment).

Calendar Considerations

For **all EAP China programs**, do not make plans to be out of the country between the end of the semester at Berkeley and the start of your EAP program in China. Students will not be able to apply for a visa without an official acceptance letter from the host university in China; these are not issued until 3 to 5 weeks prior to departure for EAP. You will not be able to enter China without a visa. Contact the BSA Adviser for China if you have already made plans to be outside of the country after the end of your term at Berkeley and the beginning of your term in China to see if the visa processing timeline will be possible for you.

The spring semester in China (**for students on Year or Spring programs**) ends in late-June to early-July depending on the program. Students are not permitted to depart China earlier than the date listed on the EAP program calendar.

Fudan University has historically been unable to *confirm* program arrival and departure dates for the Fall program until late May or early June. Confirmed program dates for the Spring program are typically announced in late November or early December. Students should not purchase a plane ticket until program dates are confirmed, which means students on these programs buy their plane ticket closer to departure than they may want to. Students who buy plane tickets before program dates are confirmed run the risk of having to pay costly airline change fees if they guess incorrectly on the arrival dates. Students cannot arrive after the official EAP arrival date for an EAP program.

Letters of Recommendation

Letters of Recommendation are not currently required at the time of application for EAP China programs. However, two letters of recommendation are required **after selection to PKU Programs**. The letters are sometimes requested with little turn around time, so you may find it easier to make arrangements for your letters of recommendation in advance of when you will be asked for them. Letters must be from UCB faculty or GSI's and printed on official UC letterhead. The letter can be addressed to the host university (ex. Dear Peking University Admissions Committee) and enclosed in a signed and sealed envelope.

Internships and Volunteering

Internships are possible for students on **semester or year-long program options** in Beijing and Shanghai. The EAP Study Centers in Beijing and Shanghai maintain lists of internships held by prior program participants and you will find this information on the Internship tab of the UCEAP program pages. All internships are unpaid (due to visa restrictions) and are arranged after arrival. Students on **all summer programs** should not anticipate having enough time to pursue an internship.

Mental Healthcare in China

The prevalence of mental illness is rising in China but treatment facilities remain underdeveloped. China's mental health care trails behind many countries around the world. There is lack of trained mental health professionals, low investment in mental health, high stigma among the population, and lack of an effective public mental health systems of care. Official policy does not permit primary health care professionals to independently diagnose and treat mental disorders within the primary care system. There is a reluctance to address mental illness and psychiatry due to the limited extent to which health care professionals and public health officials are involved with the issue. The country's public health system is struggling to keep up with

the demand in mental health care. In most regions of China, few good options exist even for local families that try to find professional help. China's mental health hospitals are too few and grossly understaffed. China has a severe undersupply of trained mental health staff. Students with pre-existing conditions will need a treatment plan in place indicating when and who they will be reaching out for help. Please discuss a treatment plan with your mental health provider if you will need to seek mental healthcare while abroad.

Considerations for LGBT Students

China is included on UCEAP's list of destinations where extra caution is advised for LGBT students. This list includes locations where (1) the rights of LGBTIQ persons are less definitive or (2) there are restrictions on the freedom of expression and association of LGBTIQ individuals. As in many countries, tolerance levels vary by region; major cities may be more accepting of the LGBTIQ community than rural areas. You can review the [Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015](#) from the U.S. Department of State for more information.

The government does not actively support the LGBT community, but neither does it impose sanctions. Socially, homosexuality is seldom discussed. Urban Chinese tend to be accepting of homosexuality, but in deeply conservative rural areas, homosexuality is neither discussed nor socially accepted. Large generational, educational, and societal gaps persist, with older generations tending to be less accepting toward same-sex relationships. The result is a complex risk environment that has few clear social guidelines but little overt threat of violence or abuse. The risk of harassment or violence is extremely low in large urban centers. The Chinese government actively avoids any discussion or recognition of LGBT rights, instead adopting a "live and let live" approach.

China decriminalized homosexuality in 1997 and removed it from the list of mental disorders in 2001. Since then, however, the government has taken few steps to promote tolerance, although a measure to approve same-sex marriages continues to gain traction with each successive proposal. Discrimination against openly gay people in Chinese workplaces is common, and there are no laws protecting LGBT individuals.

Considerations for Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities will find accessibility and accommodation very different from what they find in the United States. Standards adopted for making roads and buildings accessible to persons with disabilities are subject to the Law on the Handicapped, which calls for their "gradual" implementation; however, compliance with the law is lax. Even in newer areas of large cities, sidewalks often do not have curb cuts, making wheelchair or stroller use difficult. Many large streets can be crossed only via overhead pedestrian bridges not accessible except by staircase. Although some sidewalks have special raised "buttons" or strips to help those who are blind or have restricted sight to follow the pavement, they are unreliable. While most public buildings have elevators, they are often locked, and the responsible official with the key must be located before they can be used. In major cities, public restrooms in places visited by tourists usually have a least one handicap-accessible toilet. International signage is used to identify handicap-accessible facilities. Free or reduced-entry fares on public transportation are sometimes provided for a handicapped person and a companion, although this is usually stated only in Chinese and is often restricted to residents with special identification cards.

Graduating Seniors

If you are a graduating senior who is applying to a year or spring semester program, please be advised that the finals period may stretch into June or July. Returning to Berkeley to walk in a commencement ceremony is an unrealistic expectation for year and spring participants. If walking in graduation is very important to you, we recommend that you apply to NUS in Singapore or possibly Thammasat University in Thailand, as there is a better chance these programs will end before commencement. As an alternative to walking in a spring ceremony, there is also a UCB "December Graduates Convocation" if you would like to have the experience of walking in graduation (not department specific). Similarly, you can wait and walk in the following spring departmental ceremony.

Graduating seniors participating on a spring semesters program can add to the Spring degree list via TeleBEARS or petition with their UCB college. However, spring program grades are often not reported to UCEAP until mid-August so your grades will not arrive in time for your degree to be processed with the spring degree list (which occurs in mid-July). You will be automatically removed from the spring degree list and placed onto the summer degree list, which is processed in October. The College of L&S has an agreement with the UCB Registrar to back date the degree to Spring if a student was originally eligible for the Spring degree list (so once your degree is finalized in October, the date on your diploma will indicate a May graduation). *This policy is subject to change.* Students in other colleges should consult with a college adviser regarding the possibility of backdating a degree. For all students, after your EAP grades arrive and you are waiting for the next degree list to be processed, you can request a "Certificate of Completion" from the Berkeley Registrar that can serve as "proof" of graduation.

Other Considerations

While many students have reported that the pollution in Beijing and Shanghai are is not as bad as is often reported, air quality is often poor. The UCEAP Study Center monitors the air quality regularly and provides resources and information for students in country, but students with respiratory issues (such as asthma) may want to discuss with a health care provider how to prepare for time abroad in either city. If you wear contact lenses, you may need to take the prescription and a pair of glasses with you in case the heat or the city environment makes contacts uncomfortable.