

Ireland

Irish Parliament Internship

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>

Irish Parliament Internship Coursework

This program has two components: the internship and academic courses.

The internship is an officially authorized program working within the Irish Houses of Parliament: the Dail and the Senate. It is governed by the House Committee on Procedures and Privileges. Interns have the status of adjunct staff. Work in parliament is subject to conditions laid down by the Committee on Procedures and Privileges covering such matters as access to facilities, dress code, dealings with press and televised media etc.

You are part of a small staff: Irish parliamentarians commonly have a staff complement of just one or two. The nature of the work varies greatly but can be summarized as either administration or research. Typically you will undertake some combination of these research and administration tasks. Throughout the internship, you are required to give an account of progress to the program director.

The way you are introduced to the internship can vary. You may start work right away, be introduced in week two, or be given preparatory reading at the introductory session and then fully integrated into work at the beginning of week three.

You work for around 15-20 hours per week, for a minimum of two and a maximum of three days a week. You are sometimes asked to work in the Parliament office for two days and asked to do research for Committee work on legislative work on a third day at the IPA. The working day in the Parliament is usually 9.30/10.00 – 5.00/5.30. Practice varies depending on the deputies' distance from Dublin, committee workload, events in constituency etc. In some weeks there are late sittings either dealing with emergency issues or because of the need to clear backlog. On such occasions you may be asked to stay longer.

In addition to the internship, you are required to enroll in three courses for a total of 21 UC quarter units (14 semester units). See the [Courses&Credit](#) tab for more detail.

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](#) offers excellent resources and support, which all students are encouraged to take advantage of.

Study Center

Courses are taught by lecturers at the Institute of Public Administration (IPA) in the IPA building, which is located in an attractive, tree-lined suburb of Dublin within easy reach of the Parliament and city center.