

Japan

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 Japan Programs for 2017-18

The **Intensive Language Program (ILP)** that was offered at International Christian University is no longer required for Keio, Hitotsubashi, Osaka, or Waseda participants. This program has been replaced by a summer **Language & Culture Program at International Christian University**.

See what EAP Japan Alumni Say About Studying Abroad in Japan

- Recently our Tokyo Study Center staff spoke with past EAP Japan students about their experiences and their lives in Japan. Check out the videos on YouTube: Part I: <http://youtu.be/jgVpniPZjpY> Part II: <http://youtu.be/16WQbXn6cTg>
- Fall 2014 Meiji Gakuin student blog: okane-mochi.tumblr.com
- Summer 2015 Osaka Summer Lab Research [student photos](#)
- UCEAP Tokyo Site Visit Video: <https://youtu.be/fqpWHmXsfoM>
- Tsuru semester blog and video: <http://foreversunseekers.wordpress.com/2013/06/11/study-abroad-review-tsuru-university/>

Citizenship and Student Visa Considerations, All EAP Japan Programs

Per Japanese government regulations, if you have Japanese citizenship you must enter Japan as a Japanese citizen, even if you have dual citizenship with another country. If you are a Japanese citizen and would like to apply to an EAP Japan program, please notify the BSA Japan Adviser by email prior to application. Students with Japanese citizenship do not need a visa to enter Japan.

Students participating in EAP Japan programs must obtain a student visa in the U.S. prior to departure. In order to apply for a student visa you will need a Certificate of Eligibility, which is issued by the host institution 10 to 30 days prior to the start date of the program. Please **do not** make plans to travel outside the U.S. in the month before the official start date of your EAP Japan program.

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.

Non-US citizens should contact the Japanese Consulate to determine your visa requirements. Requirements and processing times for non-US citizens may vary. Ensure that you have the proper documents to re-enter the US. Consult with the Bureau of US Citizenship and Immigration Services (UCCIS), if necessary.

A valid passport is required to apply to all host universities. If you do not have a valid passport, or if your passport will expire less than six months after the end of your program, please apply immediately.

Advisory for Transfer Students

Berkeley applicants to EAP Japan programs must have a 3.0 **UC GPA** at the time of application (with the exception of the Beginning Japanese program at Osaka University, which requires a 2.85 UC GPA and the Summer Lab Research program at University of Tokyo, which requires a 3.30 UC GPA). Applicants for Fall 2017 programs must have a 3.0 UC GPA after the Fall 2016 term at Berkeley, and Spring 2018 applicants must have a 3.0 UC GPA after the Spring or Summer 2017 term at Berkeley to be eligible for admission. Transfer GPAs cannot be considered for admission to EAP Japan programs. Transfer students are encouraged to contact the BSA Japan Adviser to discuss specific academic plans and timeframe for study abroad in Japan.

The Waseda University Global Leaders Program

The [Waseda University Global Leaders Program \(GLP\)](#) is offered for the Academic Year 2017-18. Three students will be selected for GLP and will receive *free university housing* for the Fall and Spring semesters at Waseda. The Global Leadership Fellows Program pairs ten Waseda students who have already studied abroad for a year in the U.S. with ten students from participating U.S. universities (two students each from UC Berkeley, Columbia University, Dartmouth College, Georgetown University, Johns Hopkins University and University of Washington). Japanese and U.S. participants enroll in special educational modules – the U.S.-Japan Zemi (seminar) and Global Leadership Fellows Forum - as core curriculum. Berkeley GLP students also enroll in course work in English in the: School of Political Science & Economics, School of Science & Engineering, School of Commerce, School of Social Science, and School of International Liberal Studies (note that EAP students outside of the GLP program are limited to course work in the School of International Liberal Studies and School of Political Science & Economics).

To be considered, Berkeley students apply to the UCEAP "[Waseda University](#)" year program by November 28, 2016 and will be selected for the opportunity by the BSA Japan Adviser.

The GLP program has an excellent website for your review: <http://www.cie-waseda.jp/glp/us/>

Below are testimonials from two students who participated in the 2014-15 GLP:

Studying in Waseda University through the Global Leadership Fellows Program, has been an astounding academic experience. Professor Kohno, the professor that runs the political science seminar, is one of the best teachers I've ever had the privilege to study under. Academically speaking, this program will not disappoint. That aside, there are other benefits to being part of this new program. Thanks to my involvement with GLFP, I'm getting the chance to do an internship with the American Chamber of Commerce in Japan. This kind of opportunity is rare for someone studying here through the regular study abroad program, yet we're given the privilege to intern in a couple of pretty amazing places. So far, my experience here, in large part thanks to this program, has been great. I hope those that are considering applying, do so with haste. You won't regret it.

- Senior, Sociology Major

The Global Leadership Fellows Program is a great opportunity to join a close-knit community of individuals dedicated to researching world issues. Joining this program has been one of the best decisions of my life. I have examined global issues through many different perspectives alongside lifelong friends from both America and Japan. The professors guide us, but do not limit us, encouraging us to push our limits. The work is difficult but rewarding and the forum discussions are engaging. Furthermore, the staff is dedicated to making our stay in Japan worthwhile and comfortable, assisting us in anything from moving in or going to the doctor or offering internship opportunities. If any students are hesitant about GLFP, I would really encourage them to apply. GLFP is a rare and valuable experience, and joining the program means joining the growing international network for years to come.

-Junior, Psychology Major

Summer Lab Research, Science, University of Tokyo (UTRIP)

This program is often impacted and UCB may only be able to send one or two students each summer. If you are not accepted to this program because of space constraints, your application may be redirected to other summer research programs at Chinese University of Hong Kong, National University of Singapore, or National Taiwan University.

Review program information and possible research projects on the UTRIP website: <http://www.s.u-tokyo.ac.jp/en/utrip/program/>. Please note that UCEAP students are only eligible to participate in 2nd Crew projects.

Selection by Berkeley/UCEAP does not guarantee placement by UTRIP. You must be selected by the host university in addition to BSA and UCEAP.

Summer Lab Research, Engineering & Science, Osaka University

This program offers a shorter summer version of the semester long Research Program at Osaka University.

Osaka University has three campuses, and FrontierLab students will be assigned to a research lab located either on Suita campus or Toyonaka campus depending on the Osaka University faculty supervisor's school affiliation. Furnished apartments will be arranged around Suita and Toyonaka campuses at Osaka University for summer students. Osaka University Map:

http://eap.ucop.edu/Documents/_forms/1617/Japan/Osaka%20Map.pdf

Note Regarding Lab Research Programs

Prospective students are encouraged to accept placement in this program only if they are certain they will be able to participate within the lab they are assigned. Lab research placements such as this are often competitive; if you accept and later decline a placement, you may be taking an opportunity away from students who were not selected. Research teams at the host university also count on having selected students as part of their lab, so you are encouraged to accept the placement only if you can commit to participation in the program.

Academic Considerations, Beginning Japanese, Osaka Univ. Summer Program

The Beginning Japanese program is for students with little or no prior study of Japanese language and is suitable for those with 1 semester or less of university-level Japanese language study.

Students who are looking for a summer option in Japan but are linguistically overqualified for the Beginning Japanese program should consider: semester or year-long UCEAP options, summer [ICU Language & Culture Program](#), summer [Affiliate Programs](#) such as [JARU Global Summer Program](#), [UTokyo Innovation Summer Program](#) and [Tohoku University Summer Program](#), summer programs through [UC Davis](#), other UC campus Travel Study programs (if offered), or [Independent study abroad programs](#).

Academic Considerations, Year-long Programs

Japanese Universities – optional summer ILP (Keio, Hitotsubashi and Waseda), mandatory summer ILP (Osaka)

Students with at least one year of Japanese language study prior to departure may consider the year-long immersion program for broad-based study in Japan, at one of four Japanese universities. Placement notifications can be expected in late January.

These four Japanese universities have the following minimum language requirements:

- Keio University – minimum of 1 year of university level Japanese prior to departure
- Waseda University – minimum of 1 year of university level Japanese prior to departure
- Hitotsubashi University – minimum of 1 year of university level Japanese prior to departure
- Osaka University – minimum of 3 years of university level Japanese prior to departure

For course information, the [Course Summary](#) compares host institutions at a glance and provides links to host institution course information for the above universities and ICU.

Applicants who exceed the minimum language requirement of a given university may still rank that university as one of their top two choices on the EAP application (e.g. a student with three years of Japanese prior to departure may still apply to Keio or Waseda).

The UC unit value of courses taken in Japanese universities varies widely, but is typically less than the standard units earned for a Berkeley course. Please refer to the summary below to see the average Berkeley units earned per course at the host institutions. It is encouraged that you discuss with your major/college adviser the possibility of using two courses on a similar theme to fulfill a major requirement.

ICU:	1.7 – 2.7 (regular classes), 8.0 (intensive language classes)
Keio:	2.0
Waseda:	2.0 - 4.0
Hitotsubashi:	2.0
Osaka:	2.0

There are significant differences in academic culture between Japan and the U.S. It is highly encouraged that you research the Japanese academic culture or make an appointment with the EAP Japan adviser to discuss these differences prior to applying for a year-long program.

How do you decide which host university is right for you? Research, research, research! The BSA Japan Adviser cannot simply tell you the host institution that is going to be the best fit for you, academically or socially. Expect to dedicate many hours of research to the process of deciding which universities to rank on your EAP application. The best place to begin is on each host institution’s website to review their course listings (see the UCEAP website and Course Summary above).

Academic Considerations, Semester Programs (not Science/Engineering related)

Students considering studying abroad for one semester in Japan have the option of an “immersion” program at ICU or Hitotsubashi (broader focus, enroll in regular university courses), or can choose from “special focus” programs that have curriculum pertaining solely to the special focus of the program—these special focus topics, including course listings, are easily accessible from the UCEAP website so are not repeated here. Applicants should research the courses offered on special focus programs and demonstrate an understanding of the program offerings in their EAP application (in their Statement of Purpose and Preliminary Academic Planning Form).

International Christian University (ICU) – L&C Summer + Fall

No language prerequisite! Please note that on the EAP website there are both “Fall” and L&C Summer + “Fall” options listed for this program. **ICU is on the quarter system, therefore the ICU Fall only option is NOT open to Berkeley students.** However, **Berkeley students are encouraged to apply to the L&C Summer + Fall** which provides enough units and contact hours to satisfy Berkeley’s requirements for Fall semester enrollment (and financial aid).

The program begins with a six week intensive language program (L&C Summer) for all language levels (you test when you get there, and they’ll place you in the appropriate level). The L&C Summer runs from (roughly) early July to mid-August. You have approximately a two week break, then go into the Fall quarter at ICU which is (roughly) early September to mid-November. During the Fall quarter, you may continue studying intensive Japanese language, or you can choose from the regular ICU course curriculum.

The L&C Summer + Fall and Spring plus Internship programs at ICU are two of the “immersion” programs in Japan offered on a semester basis. Immersion means that students enroll in regular university courses alongside Japanese and other international students. Here are some helpful guidelines to help you research the course work available at ICU:

- ICU course listings are available at: http://www.icu.ac.jp/en/liberalarts/list_syllabi/index.html
- When you are looking at courses, pay attention to the following to get a complete picture:
 - Course number (beginning with a three letter department code, and a three digit number starting with 1, 2 or 3): courses that begin with a 1 are more likely to be lower division, and courses that begin with 2 or 3 are likely to be upper division.
 - Language of instruction: E for English, J for Japanese, and E/J for taught in English and Japanese (combo – usually lecture in Japanese, texts in English)
 - Term offered (Autumn, Winter, Spring): only look at Autumn courses
 - Unit values of courses: 2 ICU units = 1.7 UCB semester units, 3 ICU units = 2.7 UCB semester units

To remain in good standing at Berkeley, students must take a minimum of 12 semester units, combined between the Summer and Fall quarter. Though the UCEAP website indicates students can accept as little as 3 quarter units (2 semester units) for the summer portion of the program (and up to 12 quarter, 8 semester units), Berkeley students will need to accept a *minimum* of 6 quarter (4 semester) units for the summer program.

Global and International Studies, Meiji Gakuin University – Fall or Spring

No language prerequisite! Students with a declared Social Science major are given priority for selection, but all majors will be considered so long as a student demonstrates sincere interest in the academic program via their EAP application (and any follow-up requested by the BSA Japan Adviser).

Meiji Gakuin is one of the few UCEAP Japan partner universities that offers some 4.0 semester unit courses. Higher unit value courses *may* be easier to use for major credit. Course information for the current MGU semester can be found on the MGU website: <http://fis.meijigakuin.ac.jp/uc/about-us/course-list-and-syllabi>. Course information for the prior MGU semester can be requested by email to the BSA Japan Adviser.

For the courses at MGU that have lower unit values (2 semester units), students may be able to do a special study project related to a particular course in order to increase the unit value of the course and meet their departmental requirement.

EAP students at MGU will be housed in a subsidized university dormitory in single rooms. The housing includes a meal plan with breakfast and dinner, keeping the program affordable and providing excellent opportunities to mingle with Japanese students. A limited number of homestays may also be available on the MGU program. More information can be found at <http://fis.meijigakuin.ac.jp/uc/student-life/uc-dormitory-information>.

MGU now offers paid internship positions for UC students to help in the learning center as English tutors and teaching internships for academic credit!

Language & Culture, Tsuru University – Fall only

This program has a language prerequisite of one-year of university-level Japanese, but can accommodate advanced speakers as well. The program is 5 months in length and offers course work in Japanese studies in addition to language study. Tsuru offers a small-town environment that really pushes UC students to use and improve their Japanese language skills.

Language & Culture, Doshisha University – Spring only

There is no language prerequisite, but beginning to advanced speakers can be accommodated on the program. The program is 4 ½ months in length and offers students an amazing opportunity to explore Kyoto and the historic Kansai region of Japan.

Most of the academic offerings of this program fall into the "language" category. All students take 10 semester units of language on the program. Though it will feel like taking one large language course, it will actually translate into ten 1-unit courses on your transcript, each with an individual grade. The language courses are taught every weekday from roughly 9am to 12:30pm. On top of your language coursework, you will also take a minimum of two elective courses. Electives meet only once per week for 1.5 hours per class, and are worth 2 semester units each. Thus, the minimum unit load on the program is 14 semester units. You are welcome to take additional electives beyond the required two.

You will not find out which electives are available to you until after arrive at Doshisha and you take the language exam. The language exam determines what level of language course you are placed in (there are 8 levels), AND also tells you which electives you can take because electives are taught at different language levels (you can also take electives in English). Additional course information can be found on the Doshisha website: <http://cjlc.doshisha.ac.jp/english/about/curriculum.html>

Academic Considerations, Engineering and Science Semester/Year Programs

In Japan, EAP engineering and science students have the status of junior researchers. You will be assigned to work in a *kenkyushitsu* that typically includes a professor who oversees research, an associate professor, a post-doctoral student, graduate students, and undergraduate seniors writing their senior theses. Graduate students conduct independent research and undergraduates conduct assigned research within their field of interest. Most learning and interaction with other students takes place in the *kenkyushitsu* through a mentor process rather than in a formal classroom setting.

Because of reasons above, applicants to Engineering and Science programs will be asked to submit a research project proposal after being nominated for the program by Berkeley Study Abroad. The purpose of the proposal is to match you with an appropriate professor/lab at the host university.

EAP offers 3 semester or year programs for Engineering and Science majors with varying levels of Japanese language proficiency:

Japanese Universities – ILP + Year

Osaka University on the "Japanese Universities" ILP + Year program is appropriate for Science and Engineering majors. The program requires a minimum of 3 years of university-level Japanese prior to departure for coursework in Japanese. See also "Academic Considerations, Year-long Programs" section of the Need to Know.

Engineering & Science in English, Tohoku University – Year & Spring

No language requirement, but students with advanced Japanese language skills also have access to electives taught in Japanese.

At Tohoku, students typically take the following course load each semester:

- Independent Study Project (Lab Research): 5.3 semester units
- Japanese Language: 4 semester units
- Science and Engineering Electives in English: 3 classes worth 2 semester units each (6 total units)

Review electives offered on the Tohoku website: <http://www.insc.tohoku.ac.jp/english/exchange/jype/>

Students have the opportunity to double the amount of time (30 hours per week) and units (10.6 UC semester units) earned in the lab portion of their program at Tohoku. This will be known as the intensive research course and will require the approval of the research supervisor after arrival at Tohoku.

At Tohoku, UCEAP students will be placed at University House Sanjo or International House. It is a 15 minute shuttle ride to campus or 30 minute shuttle ride to the research labs.

Lab Research, Engineering & Science, Osaka University – Fall & Spring

No language requirement.

The Fall program runs from late September to mid-February so is only possible for students who do not have to return to UCB for the Spring semester.

It is possible to turn this program into a year-long option by applying to both Fall and Spring programs. Consult the BSA Japan adviser if you are interested in this possibility.

This is a full-time lab program. You may take one or two courses in addition to the lab research. Courses that will be open to UC exchange students will not be known until the program begins. Many students take one Japanese language course.

At Osaka, students take the following course load each semester:

- Lab Research: 14 semester units
- Optional Japanese language course

A Note about UCEAP Japan programs without language requirements

Some programs in Japan do not require previous Japanese language study; expose yourself to learning the language now so that you have an idea of what learning Japanese is like. Students with learning disabilities may find learning another language challenging. If this is the case, provide a letter from your campus DSP Adviser to document your learning disability.

Learning hiragana <http://www.todai-ic-nihongo.com/incenter/materials/elm/kana/task1.html>

Learning kanji <http://www.todai-ic-nihongo.com/incenter/materials/elm/thisweek/1/index.html>

For Science and Engineering programs, although research is supervised in English, all seminars, courses, and meetings of the research unit are in Japanese. It is mandatory that you attend the seminars and colloquia and participate in the group's research efforts and social events, even if you lack an optimal level of Japanese comprehension.

Calendar Considerations, All EAP Japan Programs

The academic calendar in Japan is not a direct match to the academic calendar of UC Berkeley. Programs that do not compare to the Berkeley academic calendar are listed below (if a program is not listed, there is no significant difference). Some Fall programs require a student to sit-out the Spring semester at Berkeley.

Japanese Universities:

- Year: early September 2017 to late July 2018
- Hitotsubashi Spring: early April 2018 to late July 2018

Engineering & Science in English, Tohoku University:

- Spring-only: early April to early August 2018
- Year: late September 2017 to early August 2018

International Christian University (ICU):

- Summer + Fall: early July to mid-November 2017
- Year: late August 2017 to late June 2018
- Summer + Year: early July 2017 to late June 2018
- Spring with Internship: April to late July 2018

Global and International Studies, Meiji Gakuin University:

- Fall: early September to late December 2017
- Spring: early April to late July 2018

Lab Research, Engineering & Science, Osaka University:

- Fall: mid-September 2017 to early February 2018
- Spring: late March to early August 2018

Language & Culture, Tsuru University:

- Fall: late July to mid-December 2017

Language & Culture, Doshisha University:

- Spring: late March to early August 2018

Go to the [Participants](#) section of the EAP website to view current or past calendars.

Financial Considerations for EAP Japan Programs

Studying in Japan can be expensive due to the high living costs in Japan, but it should not deter you from pursuing this option. There are MANY generous scholarships offered by organizations in the US and Japan. Here are a few scholarships to explore:

- [Bridging Scholarships](#)
- [JASSO Scholarship](#): if available for your EAP program, you will be invited to apply through your pre-departure paperwork, after you have been accepted to EAP. Please wait for instructions.
- [Gilman Scholarship](#): you must be a US citizen receiving a Pell Grant to qualify for this scholarship.
- [American Association of Japanese Women Scholarship](#)
- [Japanese Government \(Monbukagakusho: MEXT\) Scholarships](#)

Students participating in the **Lab Research, Science, Univ. of Tokyo** summer program earn 5.0 UC semester units for this program; 4.0 units for research and 1.0 unit for the lecture series, both graded on the Pass/No pass grading option only. To qualify for summer financial aid at Berkeley a student must enroll in a minimum of 6.0 semester units, therefore this program **DOES NOT QUALIFY FOR SUMMER FINANCIAL AID** as a stand-alone option.

Graduating Seniors:

If you are a graduating senior who is applying to a 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 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.

Considerations for LGBT Students

International Christian University is one of the best campuses in terms of support offered for LGBT students. Please review the [LGBT in ICU Student Guidebook](#).

Japan is included on UCEAP's list of tolerant destinations for LGBT students. Nations on this list are included based on recognition of same-sex unions and the existence of human rights laws prohibiting discrimination against gay individuals. This resource considers potential risks as they specifically affect members of the LGBTIQ community, and not necessarily the overall threats posed to all students traveling and studying abroad. You can review the [Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2016](#) from the U.S. Department of State for more information.

According to the U.S. Department of State's Human Rights Report, no law prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity, and there are no penalties associated with such discrimination. Japan is one of the few countries in Asia that does not criminalize same-sex relations. Acceptance can vary from place to place, and situation to situation, but overall the country tends to be tolerant of LGBTIQ persons and the safety and security of LGBTIQ persons is unlikely to be a concern. Japan has one of the lowest levels of violent crime in the world. LGBTIQ persons are highly unlikely to experience any particular safety and security risks.

Traditional Japanese society stigmatizes homosexuality, often discouraging an open expression of identity. Despite some occasional social discomfort, the LGBT community enjoys a high degree of freedom and increasing levels of support from communities and the government. Pervasive societal stigma surrounding LGBT persons also prevent many from being open about their sexual orientation, and attorneys who frequently represent LGBT persons related 10 cases during 2012 in which clients were threatened with disclosure of sexual orientation.

Map, Descriptions, and Photos of the Japanese Host Universities

Please refer to this helpful [map and descriptions](#) of the Japanese universities affiliated with UCEAP.

Each university has its own photo album with helpful descriptions:

[International Christian University](#)

[Waseda University](#)

[Keio University](#)

[Hitotsubashi University](#)

[Osaka University](#)

[Tsuru University](#)

[Doshisha University](#)

A Final Note about Applying to EAP in Japan

Preparations for studying abroad in Japan are complicated and time consuming, beginning with your actual EAP application and continuing through departure for your program with host university and visa paperwork. Attention to detail is vital to the success of your application and placement at a Japanese university.

Remember that Japanese officials (including host university administrators, Japanese Ministry of Education, the Japanese Immigration office) are very strict about the accuracy and appearance of your paper work, so please look over all forms meticulously before submitting them.