

Korea

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 sources of detailed program information are the UCEAP webpages for Korea <http://eap.ucop.edu/OurPrograms/korea/Pages/default.aspx> and the Program Guide <http://eap.ucop.edu/guides/Pages/default.aspx> from the prior academic cycle.

If any concerns you have are not addressed on the UCEAP website, in the Program Guide or this 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>

Financial Aid and Scholarships for Study Abroad

View UCB financial aid details and many scholarship opportunities on our webpage:

<http://studyabroad.berkeley.edu/finances>

Deadlines to apply for scholarships are earlier than you may think, so do your research now!

Some scholarships that are good for students going to Korea are:

- Boren Scholarship: http://www.borenawards.org/boren_scholarship/basics.html
- Gilman Scholarship (must receive Pell Grants): <http://www.iie.org/en/Programs/Gilman-Scholarship-Program>
- UC Berkeley's Institute of International Studies Merit Scholarships - non-need-based scholarships of up to \$2000 each to support undergraduate research (can be done abroad) in any area of international studies (deadline is in November) - <http://iis.berkeley.edu/content/undergraduate-merit-scholarships>

Citizenship Considerations:

Students who have American citizenship but **whose parents were born in Korea** will be considered Korean citizens by the Korean Embassy. Students should contact the Korean Embassy regarding their ability to obtain a Korean visa. Start the process right away as it can be lengthy.

If you have Korean citizenship you must apply for this program as a Korean citizen, even if you have dual nationality with another country. Submit a copy of your valid Korean passport.

Male students who have Korean citizenship either by birth or blood can be conscripted into the Korean military if they are 18-36 years old and have not satisfied their Korean military service requirement. Check with the Korean Embassy for more information.

Students who are in the process of applying for US citizenship or making any legal name changes should discuss this issue with your BSA adviser before applying.

Passport Note: Your passport must be valid for at least 6 months after your projected return from abroad. If you do not currently have a valid passport, *apply immediately*.

Academic Considerations:

Students who want to maximize the academic value of their EAP experience in Korea are urged to apply for a semester or year rather than just a summer. In summer, regular Yonsei students do not attend classes, so you will be taking your courses only with UC and other international students. Once the thousands of summer students depart, the EAP students who remain for Fall or Year get to experience the regular student life at Yonsei University. Financial aid also works better during a semester or year because all aid that students receive at Cal will go with them to Korea. In summer, it is more complicated and the EAP budget is not always fully covered.

Students are no longer allowed to extend from Summer to Fall or Year so if you want to spend both Summer and Fall or Year at Yonsei, you must apply to the Summer + Fall or Summer + Year option at the outset.

Extension from Fall to Spring and Spring to Fall is still possible so all Fall and Spring applicants are urged to submit the College and Departmental Pre-Approval to Extend form, even if they are not sure yet if they wish to extend. Students are encouraged to get the approval signatures from their department and college on this form, as then they will know that these two campus units have already granted their approval. Without these signatures on the form, students who decide they'd like to extend once in Korea will have to initiate a Petition to Extend at the study center, then wait many weeks while it is routed to UCEAP and UCB to find out if their department and college approve of the idea. So get pre-approved while you're on campus in order to reduce your stress in Korea. Many students do choose to extend because of the extensive course offerings taught in English and because Seoul is such a remarkable city.

Five types of courses are available to exchange students at Yonsei University during the regular semester or year: Office of International Affairs courses in English for exchange students; Underwood International College's Division of International Education courses taught in English (instructor permission is required); regular Yonsei University courses taught in English (limited selection); regular Yonsei University courses taught in Korean; and Korean language courses. The maximum number of language units allowed per semester is 10 semester units. Most EAP students take courses taught in English.

During the **Fall, Year and Spring** program, students who are not fluent in Korean are required to take a Korean language course. All students will be tested upon arrival and those who are deemed fluent enough will be considered for a waiver of the language study requirement by the study center staff. Language study is not required during the **Summer** program, although it is strongly recommended.

Students who can read, write, and comprehend university-level Korean may enroll in Yonsei courses taught in Korean during the Fall and Spring semesters, but should be cautioned that these courses require fluency. *Regular university courses taught in Korean are not available during the summer.*

The one-year intensive language course at the Korean Language Institute (KLI) is no longer an EAP option. For a description of the regular and semi-intensive language options, please see the Academic section of the Program Guide at the link at top.

The Summer-only option has specific requirements: no variable unit option - courses are taken for full units; P/NP option is limited to students who take three courses (and then just one course may be taken P/NP.)

Attendance is very important. For example, summer students will be given an F if they miss three classes.

For the **International Summer School** at Yonsei University, students have the option of taking two or three courses, each valued at 3.0 semester units. Financial aid students will receive **more aid** if they take three courses for a total of 9 semester units. All applicants to the Korea summer program must complete and submit the "Summer Financial Aid Questionnaire" form, even if they will not receive financial aid. Prior to being packaged for EAP summer aid, students' forms will be given to the Financial Aid Office (FAO) and students will be packaged according to the intentions they stated on this form. If a student is packaged by the FAO for 3 courses based on this form and then enrolls only in 2 courses upon arrival at Yonsei, s/he will be required to pay back a portion of the summer financial aid to the FAO. Students who are packaged for 2 courses, then decide to take 3 once at Yonsei, will not be repackaged for additional aid, so please deliberate carefully before indicating how many courses you intend to take.

Internships are available, but are different for Summer vs. a semester. For further information, see http://eap.ucop.edu/OurPrograms/korea/Pages/international_summer_yonsei.aspx?t=5 for Summer and http://eap.ucop.edu/OurPrograms/korea/Pages/yonsei_univ.aspx?t=5 for Semester and Year.

A few important notes about the YISS summer internships:

1. This internship is quite competitive. Only ~15-20% of all UC applicants typically are selected. So you need to be realistic about your chances.
2. The internship counts as one of your **two** courses and earns 3 semester units. Students doing internships are allowed by Yonsei to take only one regular course for a total of 6 units which will result in the lower amount of financial aid.
3. There is an application process completely separate from the UCEAP application and even the host university application. Deadline to apply is typically late April; notifications typically go out in early June. See link above for details.
4. If the internship is a make or break aspect of your decision to study at Yonsei in summer, please note that if you don't get chosen for an internship and then decide to withdraw from Korea Summer, you will have to pay the \$500 late withdrawal penalty to UCEAP because it will be long after the deadline to withdraw without a penalty.

Community Service/Volunteer opportunities abound - EAP students have served as interpreters for adoption agencies, tutored North Korean refugees in English and in their adjustment to the south, and helped children during hospital stays in the Yonsei affiliated hospital right on campus. Semester and year students can get one UC credit for this service and have it on their transcript and then add it to their resume. Summer students do not get academic credit, but can still use this opportunity to meet people and add it to their resume. Students are not required to speak Korean to participate.

Field trips: During the programs, there are several trips to various local temples, parks, or other interesting sites as well as cultural activities.

Housing Considerations

Students may choose to live with relatives in Seoul if they wish. Before choosing this option, however, find out how long the commute will be to Yonsei. Missing class due to a long commute is not acceptable. University arranged housing is impacted and offered to EAP students on a first-come, first-served basis. *Prior to departure, Yonsei requires a deposit to confirm a housing arrangement, in some instances the full housing payment. Students receiving financial aid are not exempt from making the deposit to guarantee university housing and will need to make arrangements accordingly.* Yonsei will help arrange on-campus housing, but not off-campus housing.

Graduating Seniors Spending their last UC Term Abroad in any UCEAP Program

Graduating seniors must enroll in a full course load while abroad, even if they do not need the courses or units for graduation. (Requests by DSP students who provide documentation may be considered for a reduced course load.) Only one-third of units taken during a semester abroad may be on a P/NP basis (so about one course); the rest must be letter-graded. In summer, both courses must be for a letter grade if only two courses are taken (unless one is an internship course which is graded P/NP only); if a third course is taken, it may be done on a P/NP basis.

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Mandatory Orientations at Cal and at Yonsei:

All students selected to participate in EAP's programs in Korea (including students who were born in Korea, lived many years in Korea, or who have even studied at Yonsei University in the past) are required to attend the **mandatory pre-departure orientation at Cal** mentioned below. Failure to attend this orientation may result in your dismissal from the program.

In case you are selected, please mark your calendar now for the mandatory 3-4 hour Korea orientation. For Summer, Fall or Year, reserve *Saturday, May 6, 2017* (8 AM to 8 PM, time TBA.) Once the exact date and time have been chosen, you'll be notified by the Korea adviser. For Spring '18, the Korea adviser will email you in November to find a date and time.

Also, upon arrival in Korea all EAP participants (including students who were born in Korea, lived many years in Korea, or who have even studied at Yonsei University in the past) must attend **two mandatory orientations**, one hosted by Yonsei University and one hosted by the UCEAP Study Center. There will be an **Official EAP Arrival Date** clearly listed in your pre-departure materials. You are not allowed to arrive after that date.

Failure to arrive by the Official EAP Arrival Date, or failure to attend *either* of the onsite orientations may result in your dismissal from the program. Do not make any plans that conflict with the Official EAP Arrival Date or onsite orientations.

Calendar Considerations:

Past students have been interested in enrolling in Berkeley's Summer Session A prior to departure for the **International Summer School** program at Yonsei. Please be aware that late arrivals for EAP are not permitted, thus it is **NOT** possible to participate in both Summer Session A and the summer program at Yonsei.

The **Spring** semester at Yonsei begins in mid-February and ends in mid-June. No early departures allowed.

LGBTQ Students:

Please read the UCEAP webpage on Sexual and Gender Diversity, including the description of the situation in Korea under the “Host Country Laws and Cultural Norms” section, scrolling down to the “Destinations Where Extra Caution is Advised.” <http://eap.ucop.edu/Diversity/Pages/LGBTQ.aspx> If you have any concerns, please feel free to discuss them with the BSA Korea adviser.

Medical Marijuana

Marijuana is not legal in Korea, even if you are approved for medical marijuana use in California. Please consult with your primary care physician for a legal substitute before applying to the program.

Undocumented Students

Undocumented students who are granted Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) may be eligible to study abroad with Advance Parole. Students who intend to study abroad with DACA need to be organized and work with the UC campus study abroad adviser and the Undocumented Students Program (USP) Office: <http://undocu.berkeley.edu/> Liliana Iglesias: liliglesias@berkeley.edu

Undocumented students who qualify for DACA should consult with an immigration attorney in USP before enrollment in UCEAP to evaluate any risks of potentially being unable to re-enter the United States upon completion of the Program and any impact that participation in UCEAP might have on any deferred action applications that the student may be pursuing. It will be necessary for the student to work out an appropriate timeline for the Advanced Parole process and possible visa application process for the country of study.

Students must carefully review the UCEAP Program Budget(s) and Payment Schedules in the Money Matters tab of their program’s Pre-Departure Checklist and assess the financial risks of a potential withdrawal from the program in the case that Advanced Parole is not approved.

Contacting EAP Alumni/ae and Reciprocal Exchange Students

EAP alums and students studying at Cal from Yonsei University are some of your best resources for information about the program. If you would like to be put in touch with alums or reciprocity students, simply send the Korea BSA Adviser an email addressed to the alums or reciprocity students (e.g., “Dear alums, or Dear Reciprocity Students, I have some questions about the program or your university...”) and the message will be forwarded to them.

Helpful links

Here are some UCB School of Journalism videos that explore the lives of South Koreans: [J School videos explore lives of South Koreans](#)

Need more convincing to choose Yonsei? Then read this Welcome Letter from Prof. Hyungji Park, Director and Academic Liaison Officer, EAP Seoul Study Center:

http://eap.ucop.edu/Documents/_forms/1617/Korea/summer/welcome.pdf

If you’d like to **teach English in Korea after graduation** and get paid for it, check out TALK <http://www.talk.go.kr/> It’s sort of like JET, but in Korea.