

# Morocco

## 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

In addition to submitting an application to Berkeley Study Abroad, students must also complete an online application through CIEE. Students should note that the CIEE application will require items that may take additional time to prepare, including, but not limited to a letter of recommendation, transcripts and passport-size photos. Students should follow the application instructions provided by UCEAP very carefully.

### Language Prerequisite

For Fall Program: All students must have completed 2 semesters of college-level Arabic (Arabic 1B) or 2 semesters of college-level French (French 2) by the time of participation. If proof that you have met the language requirement does NOT appear on your transcript, you will be required to submit a language evaluation letter from an Arabic or French language instructor. Students who wish to take elective courses taught in French must have completed 2 semesters of college-level French by the time of participation.

For Summer Program: This program has no Arabic language pre-requisite. For students with previous Arabic language study, you will be given placement test on arrival and placed in the level appropriate for your Arabic language proficiency.

## Curriculum

For Fall Program: Students enroll in Intensive Moroccan Colloquial Arabic during the first two weeks of the program. During the regular academic session, all students enroll in Modern Standard Arabic and the CIEE core course, Contemporary Moroccan Society and Culture. In addition, students choose two CIEE elective courses. Students interested in furthering their language skills may choose to enroll in the optional Moroccan Colloquial Arabic course as one of their electives. The majority of CIEE elective courses are taught in English, although at least one elective course is offered in French each semester. More course information, including Syllabi, is available on the [CIEE website](#). Courses are for CIEE students only.

For Summer Program: The Summer Intensive Arabic Program offers Modern Standard Arabic in two 4-week sessions. Classes meet 5 hours per day, 5 days per week. Each session therefore includes 100 hours of instruction in Modern Standard Arabic (5 credits) and colloquial Arabic (1 credit) for 6 total credits. One summer session covers the material usually presented in one semester on a U.S. campus. All students enroll in Modern Standard Arabic and in colloquial Arabic at a level appropriate to their proficiency. MSA meets for 4 hours a day and colloquial Arabic for 1 hour a day. Students are given placement tests on arrival and placed in the level appropriate for their Arabic language proficiency.

## Community Involvement

For Fall Program: Students can choose from a variety of volunteer activities with local NGOs, schools, and other organizations. Possible examples include projects with students who are visually impaired, mentally challenged youth, women's groups, Berber groups, the World Health Organization, and the World Bank.

For Summer Program: Although AMIDEAST encourages and provides opportunities to interact with local university students (including arranging for language partners and cultural dialogue sessions on semester programs) you will be the one who truly develops these relationships. On semester programs AMIDEAST will assign a local language partner with whom you can meet to practice Arabic and how much you interact with this person is up to you and your partner. In addition, AMIDEAST will organize frequent cultural dialogue sessions throughout semester programs, giving you the opportunity to discuss pertinent issues of identity, religion, gender, etc. with local university students.

## Housing

For Fall Program: All students are required to participate in homestays with host families who are carefully matched with students based on a variety of factors including family makeup, language background and proximity to campus. Whether located downtown, the older part of the city, or in newer quarters, homestays provide clues to understanding Moroccan culture and a glimpse into the generosity, tolerance, and diversity of the Moroccan family. Most homes combine western and traditional Moroccan elements and families are typically multilingual. Study abroad host families provide breakfast and dinner on weekdays and additional meals on the weekend. Students use public transportation to commute to and from their housing.

For Summer Program: Students live with Moroccan families in Rabat that have been carefully screened by AMIDEAST/Morocco from a database of qualified applicants. Students usually are placed with families who have previous experience hosting American students through AMIDEAST. Most host family members speak Arabic as a first language and also speak at least some French; a minority speak Spanish or Amazigh (Berber) as well. AMIDEAST matches students with host families using a variety of criteria. While all placement preferences may not be met in every case, AMIDEAST will strive to make the best match to ensure a rewarding and pleasant living experience. Students will be provided with all meals by their host families but may find that some days it is not possible to return to the family for lunch because of class schedules.

### **Scholarships**

For Fall Program: CIEE offers scholarships and grants based on merit and financial need. Students will have access to the CIEE online scholarship application once they begin their CIEE online application.

For Summer Program: AMIDEAST offers scholarship opportunities for students participating on their programs. For more information, including eligibility and application process for AMIDEAST Scholarships please visit the scholarships section of their [website](#).

### **Visa and Entry Clearance**

US citizens can enter Morocco without a visa. For stays of longer than 90 days, a resident permit is required and can be issued by the Police Department of your place of residence in Morocco. The CIEE resident staff will assist you in acquiring your resident permit in Rabat. Students of other nationalities who wish to study in Morocco should contact the Moroccan Embassy to learn whether or not they are required to have a visa to enter the country.

### **Special Demands of the Program**

Health and safety remain primary issues of concern for study in Morocco, particularly crime/security and motor traffic. Students should familiarize themselves with the role of race, gender, sexuality, and religion while studying in Morocco 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.