

# New Zealand

## 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>

### New Zealand programs

Sustainability: Sciences & Environmental Management

The Sustainability: Sciences & Environmental Management at Lincoln University highlights the option to study in the fields of Environmental Sciences, Forestry, Ecology, Plant Science and Landscape Architecture. While students on this program mainly take specialized courses in these fields, they can also choose from other fields of studies to diversify their academic experience at Lincoln.

### Space Limitations

The Sustainability: Science & Environmental Management program at Lincoln University can be an impacted option. Students interested in this option are highly encouraged to speak with the adviser prior to applying. It is possible to find similar coursework at other institutions within New Zealand. You may be able to obtain permission to apply to a back-up choice.

The selection criteria we will use for this program include:

- Student's coursework, background and training in the fields as they relate to Lincoln Univ.'s offerings
- Student's declared major at the time of application review
- Whether the student intends to take courses for major related requirements abroad
- GPA
- Class Standing
- Statement of Purpose: priority will be given to students who successfully convey why the Sustainability & Sciences program is a particularly good fit for them and how the program will benefit them academically, professionally, and/or personally.

New Zealand Universities

**Space Limitations**

For the 2017-18 year, UCEAP informed campuses that spaces at the Univ. of Otago will not be available in the spring 2018 due to oversubscription in the fall. It is possible to find most coursework at other institutions within New Zealand.

**Host University Referral and Placement Process**

Perhaps the most important feature of the New Zealand Universities program is that it involves applying to an exchange network as opposed to one particular university. As such, you will be asked to rank five of the New Zealand host universities in order of preference. As an exchange program applicant you need to be aware that space at your first choice of host university is not guaranteed.

Whereas the decision to select you for New Zealand Universities program is made by the campus study abroad office (i.e. Berkeley Study Abroad), the decision to refer and place you at a particular host university is made by the UC Study Center Liaison Officer in New Zealand.

**What are my chances of being placed at my first choice of host university?**

The good news is that in the past, the majority of students have been placed at their first or second choice host universities. The placement decisions made by the UC Study Center Liaison Officer in New Zealand are based primarily on academic fit, but various factors can play a role:

- **Academic fit:** because your academic focus is the main criterion host university placement decisions are based on, it's important that you think about whether the host universities you are interested in are a good match for you academically. The [University of Auckland](#) and [Victoria University of Wellington](#) both have course restrictions for exchange students, so please examine those carefully before ranking your host university choices.
- **Non-academic concerns:** geographical preference, relatives who live in a certain city, employment opportunities, etc. are also taken into consideration to a limited extent
- **Popularity of host university:** many applicants to the program rank the University of Auckland or Univ. of Otago as their first choice. It is recommended that you seriously consider all of the universities available and encourage you to take the time to research all of your options before applying for the program.

If placement at any institution other than your first choice host university is not acceptable to you, you can consider an [independent study abroad](#) program or look into applying directly to the university.

**How do I choose between host institutions?**

Choosing between the host universities in New Zealand will require some research. All host institutions have a range of disciplines and academic, co-curricular and extra-curricular opportunities to choose from. Like the research you conducted when applying to the UC system, each university will also differ in size, location and campus culture. To assist with this, please see the [Google Slides on UCEAP New Zealand Universities](#).

**Selection Timeline and Terminology**

Selection into the New Zealand Universities program happens at the campus level. Your application is then forwarded to UCEAP and New Zealand for further review. The UC Study Center Liaison Officer will select your application for "referral" to a specific host university. The UCEAP office will then notify you via email to check your "referral" status on MyEAP (in late-March for fall programs and in August for spring programs). After students complete all necessary predeparture paperwork and procedures, their status will be changed to "placed." In almost all instances, your "referral" equals your "placement."

**Academics**

**Flexibility is important.** Keep in mind that the courses you find in the EAP Course Catalog or on the host university’s web site may not be offered the semester(s) you will be abroad. Often times you will not have concrete information about what courses will be offered until a couple months before departure or even until upon arrival in New Zealand. Be prepared for the possibility that you will have to modify your plans.

**How many courses/units will I take?** Students are required to take a minimum of 14 units each semester. The usual course load is about four classes per semester, but this can vary by university and the specific courses selected.

**Do New Zealand universities have “Fall” and “Spring” semesters?** When researching courses on the host university web sites, be aware that “Semester 1” is the equivalent of Berkeley’s spring semester and “Semester 2” is equivalent to fall.

**Which courses will transfer as upper/lower division?** First year New Zealand courses are considered lower-division by UC, while second and third year courses will translate as upper-division.

Third year courses are considered to be equivalent to fourth-year advanced courses at UC or even first-year graduate coursework in the US. Because these courses will generally require more previous knowledge than those at UC, if you are interested in taking a third year course you will need to consult first with the UC Study Center Liaison Officer in New Zealand.

Use the following Glossary of Academic Terms to make your course search on the host university web sites easier.

In the U.S....	In New Zealand...
Degree program or program of study	Course
Student handbook or university catalog	Calendar
Course	Paper
College or school within the university	Faculty
Units	Points

**EAP Alums**

EAP alumni are one of your best resources for information about the program. If you would like to be put in touch with alums, simply send the BSA Adviser an email with your list of questions and the contact information of returnees who have agreed to be contacted will be shared.