

Singapore

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>

Citizenship Considerations:

Please email the BSA Adviser for Singapore if you currently hold or have ever held Singaporean citizenship and would like to apply to an EAP program in Singapore.

A*STAR will only accept applications from U.S. citizens with a valid passport at time of application.

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.

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.

Biodiversity, National University of Singapore:

Students with prior study of Biology and/or Ecology will be given priority for selection to the program, however all applicants will be considered.

This program has a set curriculum of two courses: Field Study in Biodiversity and Language Study (choose between Introductory Chinese or Introductory Bahasa Indonesian). Please note that students with prior exposure to Chinese language will not have access to a more advanced Mandarin course and will need to take Bahasa Indonesian.

The biodiversity course includes a key weeklong fieldtrip to Pulau Tioman, an island in the East China Sea, off the coast of Malaysia.

Science & Engineering Internship, Agency for Science, Technology & Research (A*STAR):

Session 2 is currently the only term open to UCEAP students.

Applicants must be majoring in biology, pre-med, chemistry, physics, computer science, or engineering, and have at least a 3.5 cumulative GPA. Biomedical/pre-med placements are very limited and competitive.

Selection for the program by UCEAP does not guarantee placement at A*STAR. After being selected by UCEAP you will complete an A*STAR application, which involves *independent and proactive outreach* to lab supervisors. Instructions will be provided by UCEAP, but you'll include items such as a cover letter, resume, and letter of recommendation from a UC faculty member. A*STAR makes final placement decisions. In prior summers, students have been notified of placement as late as May.

Students are responsible for finding their own housing and need to be very independent. A*STAR provides a housing stipend of SG\$1,500/month to all EAP students who are placed in a lab. It is paid monthly and a full two months of service is required for receipt of the stipend funding.

Students selected for this program need to be independent (minimal on-site support), self-motivated (they need to market themselves to the supervisors and proactively follow-up), and flexible (internship choices and late placement notification).

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.

Check out the following blog for a Summer 2015 A*STAR student's perspective: <http://kadie16.github.io>

NUS Fall, Year and Spring Programs:

NUS offers top quality academics at world renowned university, plus incredible access to travel destinations throughout Asia. Courses are available in virtually all fields of study so it's a great program for staying on track with progress toward your major. Consider Singapore as your study abroad destination!

NUS is now offering a new Global Studies major in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. This courses in this major, which will be available to UCEAP students, will take an interdisciplinary abroad using Political Science, Economics, Sociology, History, Geography, and Communications to think about International Affairs.

After you've been "selected" for participation by EAP, the final admission decision is made by NUS. After selection by EAP, students complete an online NUS application and are asked to list ten courses they are interested in taking for the semester of their participation. Student admission to NUS is dependent on those courses *being available for enrollment*, therefore it is critical for students to be aware of the courses (called "modules" at NUS) that are impacted for exchange students. Please go to the following webpages to review course information at NUS:

Overview: <http://www.nus.edu.sg/registrar/edu/ng.html#academic>

Course opens to exchange students in 2016-2017: <http://www.nus.edu.sg/registrar/info/ng/NG-Modules.pdf>

NUS recommends that students take courses primarily in their major or field of study. However, you may take courses outside your major provided the courses were requested and approved in the NUS application. Students may be asked for documentation proving they have satisfied the prerequisites for a course. NUS recommends that students take courses in only one to two departments to get a more cohesive academic and social experience.

Business and economics courses are limited to students in those majors. EAP students participating in the Singapore Year program may only take business courses in one of the two semesters. Other areas with many restrictions include the school of computing and the department of computer science.

Students should explore courses listed in all available departments at NUS because courses are not cross-listed like they are at UCB. You may be able to find a course in your desired subject area (include Economics and Business) in a less obvious faculty, such as the Department of Southeast Asian studies, which is less impacted.

Student flexibility is a very desirable attribute for this EAP program. NUS cannot guarantee that students will get the modules they request in their application, but employing the strategies above will increase the success of getting modules that you desire.

The Spring program has historically ended in time for graduating seniors to return to UCB to walk in their graduation ceremonies! Students spending their final semester at UC on EAP are encouraged to visit the BSA Adviser for Singapore during drop-in hours to discuss how participating in EAP can impact the graduation time frame.

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.

Calendar Considerations:

- The **Fall semester** at NUS begins in late July and ends in early December.
- The **Spring semester** at NUS begins in early January and ends by early to mid- May.

Considerations for LGBT Students

Singapore is included on UCEAP's list of destinations where extra caution is advised for LGBT students. This list includes locations where (1) the rights of LGBTIQ persons are less definitive or (2) there are restrictions on the freedom of expression and association of LGBTIQ individuals. As in many countries, tolerance levels vary by region; major cities may be more accepting of the LGBTIQ community than rural areas. You can review the [Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2015](#) from the U.S. Department of State for more information.

Singapore remains conservative regarding LGBT rights. Social acceptance of homosexuality varies, with the majority of the population opposed to decriminalization of anti-gay laws. Such laws are rarely enforced, and there is a grassroots movement to abolish them, though currently, the government and Parliament show no indication of repealing restrictions. The LGBT community faces legal challenges and restrictions, as well as overt and implicit discrimination.

Multiple laws criminalize homosexual behavior in Singapore. Men are a particular target of the law, which criminalizes homosexual relations between men. Solicitation of sex between men is characterized as "gross indecency" that carries a punishment of imprisonment up to two years. The law does not criminalize female-to-female sexual relations.