

Sweden

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>

Non US Citizens

Non-US citizens, if they are from a country that requires a visa, check here:

<http://www.government.se/government-policy/migration/list-of-foreign-citizens-who-require-visa-for-entry-into-sweden/> are required by the Swedish government to secure biometric data before applying for the residence permit. Non-U.S. citizens must travel to Washington, D.C. to have biometric fingerprints, a photo and an electronic signature taken with a special machine during the semester before departure for Sweden.

U.S. Citizens

U.S. citizens can secure biometric data (biometric fingerprints, a photo and an electronic signature taken with a special machine) in Malmo, Sweden, after they arrive for the start of their program.

FYI regarding international travel just prior to the program

Sweden participants must relinquish their passports in order to secure a Swedish residency permit: Summer and Year participants have to apply for the residence permit by around April 20, Fall participants by May 20, and Spring participants by November 10. The Swedish Consulate can take up to two months to issue the permit and return the passport. You may receive the passport only days before your program starts. For this reason, international travel or travel to Europe before the start date of the program may be problematic. It is possible to obtain a duplicate U.S. passport if necessary for international travel before the start of the program.

Extending your program in Sweden

Extensions are possible if you are in good academic standing and meet the GPA requirement for the Fall/Year programs. *You can extend ONLY if you have acquired a Residence Permit for the program you wish to extend to before departure for Sweden.* UCEAP will cooperate with your plans by getting the proper letter from Lund University to apply for the residence permit you need. Indicate your interest in extending by filling out the Departmental Approval to Extend Form in the EAP application.

Summer Language & Culture Program, P/NP Option

Students in the summer only program who are not extending to the fall or year options may elect to take the courses P/NP.

Academic Program for Fall/Year/Spring, English Language Courses

Although there is a wide variety of course work offered in English, students should pay particular attention to whether or not subjects have prerequisites or have limited availability. If a course is listed as being taught in Swedish/English on the EAP Course Catalog it means the lectures are in Swedish, but sections and reading material are provided in English.

Academic System: Undergraduates can take 1st Year Masters level courses

The Swedish academic system consists of three years of undergraduate study followed by 2 years of graduate study, with most students continuing on for a graduate degree. Undergraduate instruction is Level 1, 2 or 3, with Level 1 being introductory. Levels 4 & 5 are graduate courses. Almost all Lund faculties/departments, including Science, offer courses in English at the Masters level and courses in Swedish at the Bachelor level, although there are some exceptions. Undergraduates can take first-year Masters courses or “400” courses. Because the Swedish System is a 5-year degree, 3 years for the undergraduate and 2 years for the graduate degree, 4th year Masters courses are similar to upper-division courses in the major at UCB and juniors and seniors can take them.

Required Units or Credits

Students are required to take a normal load of 30 ECTS credits each semester in the Swedish system. A 4-semester unit course at UCB would be equivalent to a 7.5 ECTS-credits course in Sweden; four-7.5 ECTS courses equal 30 ECTS points. Some courses are offered for 10 or 15 ECTS credits, depending on the work involved in the course. Students should plan to take 3 or 4 courses per semester to do the required number of ECTS credits.

SAS (Special Area Studies) Courses

There is a wide variety of Scandinavian Special Area Studies courses that were developed for international study abroad students that are taught in English. Students are asked to choose 4 of these when enrolling, and simultaneously to choose 4 courses in the regular departments. The student will probably end up taking a mix of (total) 3 or 4 of both types of courses. Since Special Area Studies courses are just for international students, UCB students are encouraged to take at least one or two courses from the regular faculty or department offerings, in a field the student is majoring or minoring in, in order to interact with Swedish students and regular department faculty.

Courses in the regular university are excellent. Class size is small compared to UCB and faculty are very informal (on a first-name basis) and approachable. Work in class often involves group work with other students and practical application of theory.

Block Courses: Students are required to take a normal course load, 3 or 4 courses per semester. Courses are taught in block periods. The semester is divided into two 8-week periods. One or two courses can be taken during each block period.

Housing Deposit Required Before Departure for Fall/Year or Spring Programs-: There is a **sizeable up-front cost for the housing deposit, currently about \$1400, that is required in May or November**, before departure for the program. Students must plan to have a way to pay this: credit card, loan from parents, etc.

Swedish Dormitories

UCB students live in dormitories or in off-campus housing. Students make their selections in the housing application. The student can potentially choose to live near the faculties the student will be taking classes in. Spoletorp is the international dorm, but other dorms will have a mix of Swedish and international students. Floors or “korridors” contain multiple single rooms all grouped around a common kitchen & common living room area.

Swedish students can be quite reserved and so social occasions are needed to get them to be more outgoing. If you live on a corridor in a dorm the “tour de chamber” is a way to get your flat-mates. It’s held once a semester. Each participating flatmate decorates his or her room according to a theme, has a game to play and a special drink. Flatmates visit each room, play the game and sample the drink and in this way become friendly. Meeting Swedes in a ‘Nations’ (see below) is also a good way to make friends.

The Nations Social Clubs

Since Sweden is an expensive country relative to the United States it’s important to find ways to eat and to socialize cheaply. Outside of the dorms the Nations Clubs provide places to gather socially for lunch and dinners each week and to have inexpensive social activities and weekend musical events. Students can also run for office within the club or volunteer as bartenders and in exchange for work receive discounts on meals or drinks.

Internships and Research Projects

Internships are something students will look into once they have arrived in Lund and have started the semester. These would be arranged directly between the student and whichever department, professor or entity potentially offers an internship or research opportunity. Students can use the help of the Study Center Program Coordinator or the Lund Univ. Career Services to find a good match.

To date we have had a lot of internships/research projects in the sciences, biology and engineering. Fewer students have attempted internships or research in the humanities and social sciences, although a student recently completed a research project with the Political Science Department and an independent research group focusing on Israeli-Palestinian relations. A student who is determined to pursue an internship opportunity is typically able to secure one, particularly if they are somewhat flexible.