

# Taiwan

## 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>

### See what EAP Alumni Say About Studying Abroad in Taiwan

Fall 2014 NTU student blog: <http://fallintaipei.tumblr.com/>

### Citizenship and Passport Considerations:

Taiwan citizens may apply to the **Language & Culture Summer Sessions, National Taiwan Normal Univ.** program. Students with Chinese nationality are not eligible to apply. Students who hold dual citizenship (for example, hold both China and US passports) ARE eligible to apply using their non-PRC passport.

If you have only Taiwanese citizenship, you are not eligible for the Lab Research Summer program, or semester and year options at **National Taiwan University**. However, you are eligible if you hold dual citizenship. Dual citizenship holders (for example, hold both Taiwan and US passports) ARE eligible to apply using their non-Taiwanese passport. PRC citizens may apply.

Taiwan-born men between the ages of 18 and 40 who return to the country may be required to serve in the Taiwanese military. Fully investigate all matters pertaining to your citizenship and military service obligations before leaving the U.S. You may obtain additional information from the Overseas Compatriot Affairs Commission and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office.

Non-U.S. citizens should contact the Taipei Economic and Culture Office (TECO) now to determine visa requirements for your country of citizenship. Contact the U.S Citizenship and Immigration Services if you have questions about re-entering the U.S.

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.

**Intensive Chinese Language Options in Taiwan:**

Berkeley students can participate in the UCEAP **Language & Culture Summer Sessions, National Taiwan Normal Univ.** program. This program offers intensive Chinese language study from beginning to advanced levels through the Mandarin Training Center (MTC). Students spend 9 weeks in Taipei and earn 7 semester units on the program.

The UCEAP **Language & Culture, National Taiwan Normal Univ. Fall** program is unfortunately not available to Berkeley students because it is a quarter-length program.

The Berkeley Summer Abroad program offers an Intensive Mandarin course, “Business Chinese,” each summer. The course is taught through the ICLP program at NTU. Interested students should go to: <http://summer.berkeley.edu/summerabroad>

**National Taiwan University (NTU):**

The minimum 1 year Chinese language requirement has been removed for Management, Economics, and Engineering majors.

NTU provides one of the least expensive EAP options in Asia at one of the top-ranked research university partners with whom EAP works.

NTU courses taught in Mandarin are for students with native or near-native language ability. Regular NTU subject offerings taught in Mandarin Chinese using traditional characters. Occasionally NTU courses will offer lectures in Chinese with text books and other materials in English.

NTU Courses taught in English are in a range of fields and are open to all EAP students regardless of language ability. Students can look for courses taught in English at this website: <https://nol2.aca.ntu.edu.tw/nol/guest/index.php>

EAP students can take one Chinese language course offered through the Chinese Language Division (CLD) at NTU.

All courses available to EAP students operate on the regular NTU calendar. Fall courses run from **September to mid-January** and spring courses run from **February to mid-June**. It is not possible to make arrangements to take exams early for NTU courses; therefore it is not possible to depart Taiwan earlier than mid-January or mid-June, respectively. For Fall students, it is possible to complete final exams at NTU in mid-January and return to Berkeley in time for the beginning of the spring semester.

Students going to NTU Fall or Spring must complete a Medical Examination Report as part of their host university application, including a chest x-ray. This medical exam is in addition to the regular EAP Health Clearance (instructions will be provided after selection to the program) and can cost between \$200 and \$300 to complete at the Tang Center. The cost of the health clearance is factored into the EAP budget for the program, but financial aid recipients must plan carefully for pre-departure expenses that occur before the release of financial aid for EAP. The exam can also be done upon arrival at NTU.

**NTU Lab Research Program:**

The Lab Research, Engineering & Science, National Taiwan University program offers a variety of research opportunities. Available departmental labs include: College of Science, College of Electrical Engineering & Computer Science, College of Engineering, College of Bio resources and Agriculture, College of Life Science, College of Public Health, and School of Veterinary Medicine. [Click here](#) for a list of participating labs from Summer 2017.

Students earn 4.0 semester units for research and 1.3 semester units for a culture course, for 5.3 total semester units. To qualify for summer financial aid at Berkeley a student must enroll in a minimum of 6.0 semester units, therefore this program **DOES NOT QUALIFY FOR SUMMER FINANCIAL AID** as a stand-alone option.

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 NTU 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.

**Satisfying Minimum Language Prerequisites at UC Berkeley:**

Please be aware that programs with a language prerequisite also have an associated *minimum language GPA*. Therefore, **if you have taken any Chinese language courses on a P/NP basis**, begin making arrangements for a letter from the department stating what the letter grade(s) would have been. You will be required to provide this information with your EAP application.

The preferred way to satisfy the minimum language requirement for a program is to take Chinese language course work at Berkeley (or the equivalent course work at another institution). If you have never taken a college-level course in Chinese, but are confident that you have the equivalent language proficiency, an EAP language evaluation can be arranged for you *after* you submit your application to the program (see the application for more details).

**Housing Options for UCEAP Programs in Taiwan**

The information below provides a brief description of housing options for each program:

- **NTU Semester/Year:** NTU dorms with local or other UC students; students can also make their own housing arrangements off campus
- **NTU Lab:** NTU dorms with local or other UC students; students can also make their own housing arrangements off campus
- **NTNU:** rooms available at NTNU Residence Hall; students can also make their own housing arrangements off campus

**Considerations for LGBT Students**

Taiwan is included on UCEAP’s list of tolerant destinations for LGBT students. Nations on this list are included based on recognition of same-sex unions and the existence of human rights laws prohibiting discrimination against gay individuals. This resource considers potential risks as they specifically affect members of the LGBTIQ community, and not necessarily the overall threats posed to all students traveling and studying abroad. 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 2016](#) from the U.S. Department of State for more information.

Taiwan poses a low threat to LGBTIQ individuals. Social acceptance is mixed, with attitudes generally split between younger, progressive generations and older, more conservative ones. Reported instances of violence against LGBTIQ individuals were rare, and the police response was adequate.

Existing Taiwanese law poses a low threat to the LGBTIQ community. Homosexuality is explicitly legal, as is being transgender, although it requires a six-month consideration period. Taiwan outlawed surgical requirements for transgender individuals in January 2015.

**Graduating Seniors:**

If you are a graduating senior who is applying to a spring semester program, please be advised that the finals period may stretch into June or July. Returning to Berkeley to walk in a commencement ceremony is an unrealistic expectation for Spring participants. If walking in graduation is very important to you, we recommend that you apply to NUS in Singapore or possibly Thammasat University in Thailand, as there is a better chance these programs will end before commencement. As an alternative to walking in a Spring ceremony, there is also a UCB "December Graduates Convocation" if you would like to have the experience of walking in graduation (not department specific). Similarly, you can wait and walk in the following Spring departmental ceremony.

Graduating seniors participating on a spring semesters program can add to the Spring degree list via CalCentral 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. *This policy is subject to change.* 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.