

# London School of Economics & Political Science

## General Course (Year)

### 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>

#### Curriculum

The LSE General Course is a **year-long** program, with courses taking place in the Michaelmas (Fall) and Lent (Spring) terms, and examinations in the Summer term. The year-long structure means that students are able to cover topics in considerably more depth and breadth than in an equivalent single-semester course. General Course students will take four (4) [courses](#), and may pick and choose these from across the 250+ options in [18 academic disciplines](#). You may notice that a small number of courses are listed as "[not available to General Course students](#)". Please do not select any of these courses as you will be asked to change them at a later date. If you are considering studying Economics at LSE, please read the additional course selection notes on [Studying Economics](#), [Studying Econometrics](#) and [Non-Technical Economics Courses](#).<sup>ii</sup>

The majority of courses at LSE are year-long, however, when looking at the course guides you will notice that some courses are designated with (H) or "half-unit". These courses are semester-long so you will need to take two of these in place of one of the year-long courses. Typically, teaching for these courses takes place only in one term, either Michaelmas or Lent. **All courses, including half-unit courses, are examined in the Summer term.**

Yearlong course = 1 LSE unit = 8 UC semester units  
Semester-long (H) course = .5 LSE unit = 4 UC semester units

When reviewing potential courses, pay attention to the level of the course, and any pre-requisites that you must have taken in order to be eligible to enroll. There are three levels for undergraduate courses at LSE, designated 100, 200 and 300 level. General Course students predominantly take 200 level courses (intermediate level courses taken by LSE students in their second and third/final years), and LSE does not usually recommend that students take more than one 300 level course (advanced-level courses equivalent to senior or master's level courses in US) as they are exceptionally demanding. For perspective, note that most LSE degree-seeking undergraduates typically do not take more than one or two 300 level courses during their degree programs, and many will complete their degrees without taking *any* 300 level courses.<sup>iii</sup>

### Academic Culture

You are expected to be more independent than you might normally be at UC. There is rarely any immediate accountability for the material presented in lectures; students will demonstrate their mastery of material in exams at the end of the year. There are no regular tests, and few assignments other than papers provide feedback. As a result, you may not know where you stand academically in some courses until completion of final exams at the end of the academic year. You will need to work with less direction, fewer in-term assessments, and less sense of how your performance will finally be judged. The advantage of such a system is that you can set the agenda of your own education and tailor it to your particular interests.

### Eligibility

- Berkeley applicants to LSE General Course must have a 3.5 UC GPA at the time of application and maintained through departure.
- Applicants must have Junior or Senior class standing by departure. Units earned through AP exams, and/or community college units earned during high school cannot count towards the class standing requirement.
- Note for Transfer Students: Students must be matriculated at the University of California for at least one year before being eligible to attend the UCEAP LSE General Course program.

### Space Limitations

The LSE Year program is administered through UCEAP; **however, this program is exclusively open to UC Berkeley students**. Space is limited on this program. Admission may be competitive if we get more applications than our allotted number of spaces. Please do not let the space limitations deter you from applying! Students interested in the LSE General Course are highly encouraged to speak with the BSA Adviser prior to applying. You will be notified of your selection in February. If you are not selected for the program, you will have the opportunity to submit an application for another Fall or Academic Year UCEAP program.

### Selection Process

The selection criteria we will use for this program include:

- GPA and Academic Record
- Class Standing
- Strength of Statement of Purpose
- Strength of Recommendation Letter
- Whether the student intends to take courses for major related requirements abroad
- Quality of overall application

Your application will go through a preliminary review by the Berkeley Study Abroad Office and will be forwarded to UC Berkeley faculty for further review, ranking and selection. Selected applicants will have their applications forwarded to the UCEAP Systemwide Office and the UC Study Center in London. You will be contacted by the UC Study Center in London when your application has been referred to the London School of Economics. At that time, you will be asked to complete the LSE Host University Application. Instructions and details will be provided at that time. Students are expected to follow the application instructions and application timeline provided by UCEAP.

### Students with Disabilities

We encourage you to speak with the BSA Adviser for this program prior to applying. Advice for students with disabilities is available and you are encouraged to contact the [Disability and Well-being Service](#) at LSE with any questions.

### Travel and Visa

You may not travel to or through the Republic of Ireland on your way to the United Kingdom. Do not book your flight on Aer Lingus, as it will make a stop in Dublin on its way to the U.K.

Due to lengthy Tier 4 visa processing times, **travel after the UC term ends and before this EAP program is highly discouraged.** Please discuss any potential pre-program travel plans with your BSA Adviser.

Your visa will be valid for up to 2 months after the program ends. Additional instructions on travel and entry clearance will be provided in your UCEAP Pre-Departure Checklist, which will be available to you after you have been selected for the program.

Notes for Non-US Citizens: See this [UKVI tool](#) for non-US citizens to find out if there are any restrictions or additional requirements for your country of citizenship. Non-US citizens may be required by the host university or program provider to submit an English Language Certificate (no more than 2 years old, showing your English language level of B2 or above), before they will issue the CAS number needed for the Tier 4 Student Visa. The UKVI is no longer accepting ETS tests (TOEFL) as evidence of English language ability. You should take a test with an alternative provider from this [official list](#).

### Program Calendar

Since you are a UCEAP student, your program will begin with a mandatory, multi-day, comprehensive on-site orientation offered by UCEAP. This orientation will precede LSE's own orientation. Please do not purchase your plane tickets until the official program calendar, and orientation and arrival instructions, have been posted to your UCEAP Pre-Departure Checklist.

### Housing<sup>iv</sup>

You will be guaranteed housing in one of LSE's central London Halls of Residence, provided that you apply before the Accommodation deadline (usually 30 June each year).

LSE offers a variety of styles of [accommodation](#), all of which is within walking distance of the School. There will be a diverse mix of students in your Hall: undergraduates and postgraduates, local and international, men and women. All rooms feature high-speed internet access, and the vast majority of rooms are single, although there are a limited number of twin rooms available for those who prefer to share.

<sup>i</sup> <http://www.lse.ac.uk/study/generalCourse/prospectiveStudents/whyTheGC/academicProgramme.aspx>

<sup>ii</sup> <http://www.lse.ac.uk/study/generalCourse/prospectiveStudents/apply/choosingYourCourses.aspx>

<sup>iii</sup> <http://www.lse.ac.uk/study/generalCourse/prospectiveStudents/apply/choosingYourCourses.aspx>

<sup>iv</sup> <http://www.lse.ac.uk/study/generalCourse/prospectiveStudents/prospectiveStudents.aspx>