

-UCSB-

EDUCATION ABROAD PROGRAM

A Study Abroad Guide for LGBTQIA Students & Allies

Why Study Abroad?

Studying abroad during your college career allows you to experience a new culture, learn a new language, expand your network, add an international perspective to your academics, and further understand your identity within a global context.

A rewarding and safe international experience starts with being knowledgeable of how one's gender and/or sexual orientation will affect interactions in foreign environments.



WITH UCEAP, YOU CAN:

1 EXPERIENCE A NEW CULTURE

2 LEARN A NEW LANGUAGE

3 ADD AN INTERNSHIP TO YOUR RÉSUMÉ

4 CONDUCT RESEARCH

Why UCEAP?

The University of California Education Abroad Program (UCEAP) is the official study abroad program at UCSB. In addition to guaranteed UC units and the ability to use your financial aid, UCEAP students are supported by a network of people throughout the world. Your study abroad experience will be guided by trained staff that are there to support you as you prepare to study abroad, when you arrive, throughout the program, and upon your return.

Earn UC credit

All courses abroad award UC credit and will appear on your UC transcript.



Stay enrolled

Your UC enrollment continues abroad, and you won't pay tuition at another university.



Use financial aid

Your scholarships, grants, financial aid, and loans will apply to UCEAP study abroad programs.



YOU CAN STUDY ABROAD

"I would much rather make exciting plans that may get changed instead of guaranteeing being shut out of studying abroad by not applying."



Note regarding COVID-19

Where could YOU be next year?

We understand concerns surrounding COVID-19 and what the future may hold. As of now, UCEAP programs with start dates before March 15, 2021 have been suspended, and programs starting after this date are scheduled to proceed as planned. UCEAP is continually

monitoring the pandemic and will take action based on the best interest of our students' health and safety.

Things To Consider

The LGBTQIA community faces a complex mix of risks anywhere in the world, so many factors must be considered before traveling.

Laws

- What are the laws regarding sexual orientation and gender identity in the host country?
- Is it safe to express your sexual orientation and/or gender identity in the host country and/or region? Are certain relationships or sexual practices illegal in the host country?
- You are subject to the country's laws, even though they may be discriminatory.

Health

- Where can you find LGBTQIA-inclusive medical care in the host country?
- Can you access transition-related care in the host country or will you need to bring enough prescription medication for the entirety of your stay? Can you bring that much medication into the host country?
- Is psychological counseling for mental health available at the host campus/institution?
- Are sexual health products (e.g. condoms) readily available in the host country?

Finding Community

- What are the general attitudes toward LGBTQIA people in your host culture?
- How open will you be with your teachers, peers, friends, host family, and others about your sexual orientation and gender identity?
- How important is it to you to find other LGBTQIA students and friends while abroad?
- Is there an active LGBTQIA community in your host country and more specifically in or near the city where you will be living?

Transgender Students Abroad

Identification documents are important for transgender, nonbinary, or gender non-conforming students going abroad. The federal government has policies in place that allow trans-identifying Americans to travel with identification (i.e. passports) congruent to their identities. It is possible to apply for name changes as well as gender marker changes.

Visit the [U.S. Department of State website](#) for additional information.

Student Voices

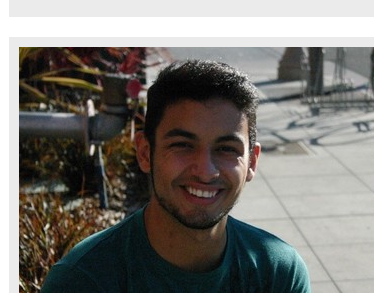
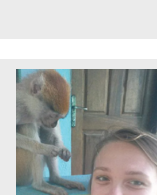
"Regarding my identity as a lesbian, I knew that realistically I could go anywhere and there was just the possibility that I'd have to hide my identity. I grew up in a pretty conservative area and wasn't able to really be out until I went to college, so personally I didn't want to go back to hiding who I am. While searching for a program, I did keep in mind what places I would most likely have to hide my identity, thinking about cultural norms and laws relating to LGBT+ folks. I think that a lot of LGBT+ folks think that they can only travel abroad while out in countries in Europe, which isn't true." - Jenna M., UCSB EAP Japan

Read more about Jenna's experience [here](#).



"It's been years since my experience in the Middle East began, but not a day passes that I don't reminisce about the people I met, the places I found, and the exhilarating feeling of adventuring through the chaotic streets of Amman. I think the general misconception is that the region is harsh and unaccepting of outsiders, particularly queer people like myself, and I can't lie to you and say I wasn't a little fearful. But as I made myself a home in my new city, I quickly found people just like me, and not just in the queer sense. I found a sense of community that has remained unmatched." - Romteen B., UCSB EAP Jordan

"While my experience in Ghana is hard to put into words, I was able to experience the subtleties of a non-visible LGBTQ community based on private networks of relationships. While my ideas of queerness and morality were constantly challenged, I had the privilege of engaging with individuals on these topics and, often, having my views heard." - Brooke K., UCSB EAP Ghana



"My experience in Lyon, France was indescribable. Studying abroad allowed me to have the once-in-a-lifetime experience of simply moving to another country and allowing myself to be immersed into their culture. I built friendships with people from all around the world, learned about different cultures and tested my boundaries as a person. The opportunity to interact with people from different cultures from all around the world opened my eyes to how different our experiences are as people and it allowed me to become more aware of and compassionate towards others' unique experiences.

Being in a different country made me realize that there are many unique aspects to American culture that I was not aware even existed. I noticed very drastic differences in things from academic culture to queer culture. These experiences allowed me to grow drastically as a person. I learned things about myself that I would have never gotten the opportunity to otherwise. If I had to describe studying abroad in one word it would be 'transformative.'" - Ogui G., UCSB EAP France

Resources

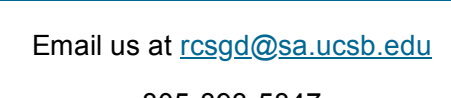
- [UCSB Resource Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity](#)
- [UCSB EAP LGBTQ Students](#)
- [Diversity Abroad LGBTQ+ Students Abroad](#)
- [U.S. Department of State LGBTI Travelers](#)
- [NAFSA Rainbow Special Interest Group](#)
- [Equaldex](#)
- [ILGA World Map on Sexual Orientation Laws](#)
- [WorldAware LGBT Travel Security Concerns](#)
- [GlobalGayz](#)
- [ManAboutWorld LGBTQ Guide to Travel Safety](#)

Contact Us!

[UCSB Education Abroad Program](#)

Virtual Open Hours: Monday-Thursday 9:30am-4:00pm Friday 10:00am-2:00pm

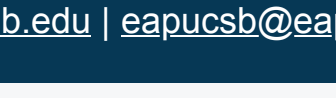
Meet with us via [Zoom/phone](#) or email us at eapucsb@eap.ucsb.edu



[UCSB Resource Center for Sexual and Gender Diversity](#)

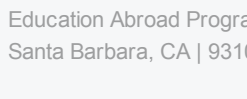
Email us at rcsgd@sa.ucsb.edu

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