

Guidelines for UCSB ES and HYDRO Majors Planning to Study Abroad through UC Education Abroad (UCEAP)

[2024]

If you're considering studying abroad via UCEAP, make sure to read this document before asking an ES Academic Advisor to sign your *EAP Academic Planning Form*

Each year, scores of Environmental Studies (ES) and Hydrology (HYDRO) students opt to study abroad in countries worldwide via UC's Education Abroad Program ([UCEAP](#)). With its 35+ countries and 160+ programs students have a wide range of abroad opportunities to participate in, including: an environmentally related thematic program, complete upper-division elective courses within an environmental studies or science department, take applicable environmental courses through traditional academic departments like biology, geography, and earth sciences to name a few, or choose courses from a non-environmentally related department to fulfill lower-div Preparation for the Major requirements or satisfy the 16-unit Area C Outside Concentration. Plus, UCEAP courses may fulfill certain GE requirements with approval from the College of L&S. It's because of the amazing curricular flexibility of the ES majors that Environmental Studies ranks as one of the top departments at UCSB to send students abroad!

Below, you'll find essential information for ES & HYDRO students considering attending a UCEAP study abroad program. Students should read this document carefully and encouraged to speak with an [ES Academic Advisor](#) (Bren Hall 4L, Rm. 4312 or 4313) or visit the [College of L&S](#) if they have any questions about how units earned may apply towards major or university requirements.

RULES FOR HOW MANY & WHERE STUDY ABROAD UNITS MAY APPLY:

ES & HYDRO majors are welcome to petition UCEAP study abroad units towards any part of their major assuming they are UC transferable, the right class level (i.e. lower vs. upper-division), and meet the following requirements:

Preparation for the Major:

For both ES and HYDRO majors, students can apply as many abroad courses for lower-division major requirements as they want. You just need to submit an [ES Major Degree Petition](#) proving the abroad course(s) content is at least 75% like the content of the lower-division UCSB course(s) you want to replace.

Upper-division for Environmental Studies Majors:

Area A - Themed Clusters (max 4 units or one cluster is allowed): This requirement focuses on current environmental challenges through the integration of knowledge across multiple disciplines with a critical, solutions-focused lens. One may petition to apply a study abroad course to substitute for just one Area A cluster if it is at least 4 quarter units and meets either of the following criteria:

- 1) The description of the abroad course is at least 75% the same as a course within a cluster.
- 2) The study abroad course content must align with the benchmarks for one of the following clusters:
 - An ***Ecosystems and Society*** substitution must examine social-environmental interactions through the lens of ecological systems, the services they provide to society, including supporting, provision, regulating and cultural services, local to global threats to ecological systems, and approaches to managing the intersection of ecological systems and social systems.
 - An ***Energy/Water/Climate*** substitution must examine social-environmental interactions through the lens of earth systems and cycles, including the water cycle, carbon cycle, planetary energy balance, the services these systems and cycles provide to society, local to global disruptions to earth systems and cycles, and approaches to managing the intersections of earth systems and social systems.
 - A ***Built Environment*** substitution must examine social-environmental interactions through the lens of built systems, related to the services such systems provide to society, including transportation, habitation, production, etc., the environmental and justice consequences of the creation, distribution, maintenance, and decay of built systems, & approaches to managing the intersection of built, social, and environmental systems.

Area B - ES Electives (max of 12 units): Up to 12 abroad units may apply to this area if they transfer to UCSB as upper-division and one of the following conditions are realized:

- a) Content and description are at least 75% the same as an existing UCSB ES elective course.
- b) Course is offered from a designated environmental studies or science department or program.
- c) Course title contains the word 'environment' or 'sustainability'.
- d) Can prove the course studies how *humans interact with their physical or natural environment*.

Note for ES B.S. students: You can apply 12 units to your Area B-2 following the above conditions. Or, you can apply abroad units to the Area B-1 STEM elective section only if you successfully demonstrate the course(s) integrates significant physical or natural science concepts while addressing an environmental topic.

Area C - Outside Concentration (max of 16 units): This is the most flexible part of the ES major with the option to fulfill up to the entire 16 UD units with abroad coursework using one of two options:

- a) Single department option: Complete any 16 upper-division units from any one department or program from a university abroad (B.S. majors may only pursue STEM departments).
- b) Interdisciplinary emphasis: Combine 16 upper-division units from more than one department or program to create a concentration of study that forms a coherent emphasis

Note: Students may combine units from both UCSB and abroad to fulfill either of these options.

Upper-division for Hydrologic Sciences & Policy:

Area A - Required Hydro Courses (max 8 units or two requirements): Abroad substitution must be at least 75% the same as one of the required courses.

Area B - Required Emphasis (max 8 units or two requirements): 8 abroad units may apply as long as minimum 75% is same material as the required emphasis course(s) you wish to substitute.

Area C - Emphasis Electives (max of 8 units): No more than 8 abroad units may apply if one can justify the course is either like one of the existing electives or a unique Hydrology topic within the emphasis.

ADDITIONAL RULES & REMINDERS:

- 1) Any study abroad units to be used to fulfill ES or HYDRO major requirements must be approved by Environmental Studies using the [ES Petition for Degree Requirements](#). Petitions can only be submitted after the courses have been completed, transferred to UCSB, and posted to your Course History on GOLD.
- 2) For GE and University requirements, petition separately through the [College of Letters and Science](#)
- 3) Check how the abroad units will transfer back to UCSB. Focus on the number of quarter units awarded and class level and remember, only upper-division courses can count for UD major requirements – no exceptions!
- 4) When taking classes through UCEAP the grade will transfer. Just like any course one takes at UCSB, if you want UCEAP courses to count towards your major, be sure to take it for a letter grade.
- 5) Retain all abroad course descriptions and syllabi as they can be helpful justification when petitioning.
- 6) When registering, if your desired EAP courses aren't available, select substitutes. If you follow the guidelines and rules listed above, you should feel comfortable with the classes you end up taking. One can always email advising@es.ucsb.edu to review any new courses you are considering.

STEPS TO STUDY ABROAD:

- 1) Read the above guidelines and rules for applying study abroad units.
- 2) Explore and find a suitable abroad program on the [UCEAP website](#).
- 3) Apply for your chosen abroad program before the application deadline (which can vary by country).
- 4) Complete the required Academic Planning Form (APF) listing potential EAP courses you might take. Recognize these are just potential courses one may take and only upon completion and posting of abroad courses to GOLD will you officially petition them to count toward major requirements.
- 5) Meet with an [ES Academic Advisor](#) to review your APF in person or by emailing it to advising@es.ucsb.edu.
- 6) Go abroad and have an amazing experience!!!
- 7) Upon returning from studying abroad, and the successful transfer of your abroad units to your Course History on GOLD, submit the appropriate petition(s) to apply courses towards the [ES major](#) and/or [GE requirements](#).