Bridgetown
University of the West Indies, Cave Hill
Atlantic Ocean
Caribbean Sea
Venezuela
Cuba Dominican Republic
Panama Colombia
Trinidad and Tobago
Jamaica Haiti Puerto Rico
Belize
Nicaragua
Mexico
Honduras
Costa Rica
Barbados
National Capital
Host City
UCEAP

BARBADOS
University of the West Indies
Fall, Spring, and Academic Year
2011-2012 Program Guide
The University of California, in accordance with applicable Federal and State law and University policy, does not discriminate on the basis of race, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity, pregnancy,* disability, age, medical condition (cancer-related), ancestry, marital status, citizenship, sexual orientation, or status as a Vietnam-era veteran or special disabled veteran. The University also prohibits sexual harassment. This nondiscrimination policy covers admission, access, and treatment in University programs and activities. Inquiries regarding the University’s student-related nondiscrimination policies may be directed to the campus Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action office.

*Pregnancy includes pregnancy, childbirth, and medical conditions related to pregnancy or childbirth.
YOUR UCEAP NETWORK

Local UCEAP Support

Campus EAP Office
The Campus EAP Office coordinates recruitment, student selection, orientation, and academic advising, and serves as your primary contact during the application process.

UCEAP Systemwide Office
The UCEAP Systemwide Office establishes and operates programs and coordinates UCEAP administration for all UC campuses from its headquarters in Goleta, California. You will work closely with the following Systemwide Office staff:

- **Program Advisors** communicate program information, both academic and operational, to students and campuses, and coordinate and provide academic and administrative support in all aspects of your participation.
- **Operations Specialists** coordinate the logistics of the program. Document requirements, visa application instructions, health and safety precautions, placement and acceptance by the host institution, arrival and on-site orientation, and housing arrangements are examples of program details the Operations Specialists coordinate.
- **Academic Specialists** advise on academic policies; review and record courses taken abroad for UC credit; process student registrations, petitions, and grades; and document and maintain students’ academic records.
- **Student Finance Analysts** assist primarily with UCEAP statements, program fee collection, and financial aid disbursements (in conjunction with your campus Financial Aid Office).

Contact Information

Operations Specialist
Jeanie O’Connell
Phone: (805) 893-5926; E-mail: jgoconnell@eap.ucop.edu

Program Advisor
Liam Brenner
Phone: (805) 893-5926; E-mail: lbrenner@eap.ucop.edu

Academic Specialist
Lisa Read
Phone: (805) 893-2810; E-mail: lread@eap.ucop.edu

Student Finance Accountant
Diana Oropeza
Phone: (805) 893-2761; E-mail: stufinance@eap.ucop.edu

UCEAP Systemwide Office
6950 Hollister Avenue, Suite 200
Goleta, CA 93117-5823
Phone: (805) 893-4762; Fax: (805) 893-2583
UCEAP Online

Bookmark your Participants program page; it contains vital resources and requirements you need to know before you go abroad, including the Predeparture Checklist, UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad, Program Calendar, UCEAP Student Budgets and Payment Vouchers, and policies.

Connect with us! Join our Facebook network via the UCEAP Barbados page.

UCEAP Liaison Office Abroad

Your program in Barbados is administered on site by a UCEAP Liaison Officer, who will be available to advise you on academic matters, assist with housing, and provide information on cultural opportunities.

Contact Information

UCEAP Liaison Office
Ms. Joan Cuffie, UCEAP Liaison Officer
University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus
UCEAP Study Center
Bridgetown, West Indies, Barbados
UCEAP phone: (246) 424-1841
Department phone: (246) 417-4491
Cell phone: (246) 245-7805
Fax: (246) 438-0199
E-mail: cuffiemill@gmail.com
Ms. Lisa Alleyne, Administrative Assistant
Cell phone: (246) 256-1264
E-mail: laalle9yne@gmail.com

UWI International Office
Mrs. Paula Jarvis, Administrative Assistant
Anthony Fisher, Director
International Office
1st Floor, CARICOM Research Building
The University of the West Indies
Cave Hill Campus
P.O. Box 64, Bridgetown, BB 11000 Barbados
Phone: (246) 417-4972
Fax: (246) 417-4542
E-mail: internationaloffice@cavehill.uwi.edu

Approximate Time Difference
Add 3 hours from mid-March to early November
Add 4 hours from early November to mid-March
EAP STUDENTS SAY...

"I appreciated being in a very different system—one that is more theory-based—and having lots of contact with students in other fields from law to management."

Visit the Barbados program page to learn more about UWI.

ACADEMIC INFORMATION

Registration

Upon completion of the on-site orientation (held after arrival), you will finalize your study plans and register for classes with the assistance of the UCEAP Liaison Officer. Although you are assigned to one faculty, you can select courses from any faculty at UWI providing you meet the course prerequisites. You register by signing up for courses with various faculties. UWI professors may determine that your background does not meet prerequisites and may prohibit registration. In addition, some courses (such as law and natural science courses) have quotas limiting the numbers of students.

Since you are simultaneously enrolled in UWI and UC, you are obligated to abide by both institutions’ policies and regulations. Any changes in your course schedule must be registered at UWI and with the UCEAP Liaison Officer.

University of the West Indies

The undergraduate degree at UWI, which generally follows the British system, is a three-year degree; local students are already specialized in their field by the time they enter second- or third-year courses. If you plan to take courses in your major at Cave Hill, you need to be familiar with the methodology of your discipline and you should have completed some upper-division courses in your field.

Substantial emphasis is placed on individual research. You will likely receive an extensive reading list and are encouraged to find and read several books related to particular subjects. UWI professors seldom give course readers or packets, so you will be competing with colleagues for library books, making it slightly more difficult to obtain written materials than it is at UC. Develop informal networks and study groups to share academic resources. UWI professors provide booklists for each course, which stipulate the required and recommended books. You may purchase these books from the UWI Bookshop.

Academic Culture

The Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs, and Sports is the government agency responsible for developing educational policies and administering and regulating education in Barbados. The Higher Education unit of the Ministry coordinates activities pertaining to scholarships, awards, and grants so that Barbadian students may pursue tertiary-level education locally, regionally, and internationally.

The typical student in Barbados has 13 years of education before entering college and spends approximately three years completing a bachelor’s degree. Admission to one of Barbados’ four universities is highly competitive and requires that students pass the Caribbean Examination Council exam at age 16 and earn the Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Certificate at age 18.

Flexibility and Independence

You may find increased expectations of academic independence at UWI. You may not get regular quizzes or exams to verify that you are completing the required readings, or that you understand the material. This means that a course grade can be entirely dependent on one or two big exams, so you will need to maintain very strong study habits.
“EAP STUDENTS SAY...”

The most remarkable part of my academic experience was from the Marine Resource and Environmental Management Program. The courses were challenging and interesting.

This was an educational experience that went far beyond the classroom. African and Caribbean studies are highly recommended. It’s a life-changing experience.

Be prepared for daunting reading lists. You will think you have nothing to do the first months of the semester and an impossible amount to do the last month.

The semester system is different—there’s a lot of weight on the final exams. Keep up throughout the semester.

For more information about grades, see the Academic Information chapter of the UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad.

Prepare yourself for the challenges of life in a Caribbean country and learn to be flexible as you adjust to academic conditions different from those found at UC. A few UCEAP participants have found UWI to be disorganized compared to UC. UWI has suffered from the funding issues that have plagued other universities in the region. As a result of scarce financial resources, some academic departments struggle to attract full-time teaching staff. Some instructors hold down multiple teaching commitments, some outside UWI, and these outside commitments can lead to faculty absenteeism.

While studying at UWI, you are expected to be more independent than you might normally be at UC. There is rarely immediate accountability for the material presented in lectures; students often demonstrate their mastery of material in exams at the end of the term. Since no regular tests and few assignments other than papers provide feedback, you may not know where you stand academically in some courses until completion of final exams at the end of the semester. You will need to work more independently than you have been used to, 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 you can set the agenda of your own education and tailor it to your interests.

Relationship with Faculty

Students and professors at UWI share respectful, polite, and appreciative relationships. Faculty members prepare students to be distinctive graduates of the 21st century, capable of thinking critically, communicating effectively, and engaging in socially and culturally responsible activities.

Experiencing anti-Americanism in the classroom is uncommon, although some instances have been reported. It is important to remember that these comments are not personal, but rather political in nature; students who report such issues to the Liaison Officer generally find that it does not adversely impact grades.

Final Exams

Under no circumstances should you make arrangements to leave Barbados before you know the date of your last final exam. Early or make-up exams are not possible.

The exam process at UWI is formal. The examination timetable is usually published about one month into the semester, but has occasionally been published later. Professors do not have the flexibility to offer early or make-up exams for any reason. In order to be admitted to the examination room at UWI, you need to collect an examination card just prior to the commencement of exams. This card will supply information on the dates of the exams. However, it is your responsibility to check notice boards to ensure that the dates have not changed and to determine the room in which the examination will be held.

The exam format usually consists of essay-type questions. Good writing skills are important. In many cases, the final exam counts as 60 to 100 percent of the course grade, and you need to know all of the material thoroughly in order to perform well. UCEAP alumni say it is important to keep up with readings and maintain good class attendance throughout the term to avoid unnecessary stress during exam time.
Classes are much more challenging than at UC. Be prepared to start working hard early. The first four weeks seem like a breeze, but the pace picks up at an unbelievable rate. Everything is much less organized. The first half of the semester seems laid back and the second half picks up as people prepare for finals. There are two-and-a-half weeks of finals instead of the one week at UC.

Your writing skills must be good. Grading is a lot harder.

Professors are very accessible. I often saw them on campus or in Bridgetown. They were always happy to answer my questions. Classes are small and usually tutorials are conducive to discussion.

Tutorial sections are good, but overall, classes are run differently. You receive a list of dozens of books, and you have to explore the topic for yourself.

Grades

For more information about grades, see the Academic Information chapter of the UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad.

UC students find that the UWI system is far more structured than the UC system, and this formal structure can often seem intimidating. As is common with most British-derived educational systems, considerable emphasis is placed on final exam performance at UWI. If your performance falls short in an exam, the course grade will not be adjusted, even if you demonstrated substantial effort in the course. In the UWI system, professors often have little flexibility to manipulate grades, since the grades are based on the exam and are awarded after consultation with a second UWI professor, who is referred to as a second marker. Past students say that the laid-back aspects of Barbadian culture can be deceptive when it comes to academics. While the island atmosphere can be very relaxing, do not lose sight of your academic responsibilities.

Program Description

While the program at UWI emphasizes Caribbean studies and the African Diaspora, you may enroll in any course for which you meet the prerequisites. Courses are offered in most traditional disciplines; past students say that finding courses to match requirements for interdisciplinary programs at UC can be challenging, so be prepared to be flexible. All instruction is in English.

Course Information

You are required to take a full-time course of study on this program and enroll each term in at least four courses for a total of 24 UC quarter units. Financial aid and academic consequences may ensue if you do not complete the minimum required units.

Courses typically consist of two hours of lecture and one hour of tutorial each week. Lectures usually do not include discussion and students are required to take detailed notes. Tutorials are discussion sessions in which students present papers for discussion and critique. While methods of evaluation vary from subject to subject, expect to be graded primarily on course work submitted during the semester and written exams conducted at the conclusion of each semester.
Fields of Study: UCEAP students take courses in many fields at UWI, including gender studies, politics, chemistry, tropical plant biology, environmental studies, law and society, literature and art, African-American history, international economics, environmental law, and religious studies. Highlights of a few of these fields are listed below:

- Tropical plant biologists can take advantage of the university's program at the Andromeda Gardens, the island's botanical garden
- Global politics and economics students can learn about the special challenges facing small island states in today's competitive world
- Social sciences and African-American studies students can compare socio-economic and political realities of a black population living in a majority rather than a minority environment
- History majors can broaden their knowledge of settlement in the Americas
- Women’s studies students can examine the role of work and the family in Caribbean society
- Biology, environmental, and ecological studies majors will find living laboratories in which to investigate marine resource management and preservation and tropical horticulture
- Arts and humanities majors can study and experience the music, dance, and literature that make the Caribbean unique
- UWI also has special offerings in the study of the history and social significance of cricket, the game that serves as a living metaphor for life in the Caribbean and a focal point of interest across the region

Mentorships
A mentorship program is available to participants in the year program. The mentorship option would pair you with a faculty member in a particular field of interest. Practical opportunities are available in accounting, architecture, banking, biology, chemistry, computer science, law, human resources development, international business, physical therapy, and tourism. Inquire about mentorship opportunities after arrival if you are interested.
There is no option to shorten participation from a full year program to one semester. Such a request would be treated as a withdrawal from UCEAP.

EXTENDING UCEAP PARTICIPATION

Plan Ahead

You may request to extend your stay in Barbados from the fall semester to the academic year. To take advantage of this option, follow these steps:

- Before departure, submit a Departmental and College Pre-Approval to Extend (DPA) form to UCEAP.
- Once abroad, speak with the Liaison Officer about your interest in staying for the year program.
- Submit a Request for Final Approval (RFA) before the published deadline.

Your extension request will be considered if there is space at UWI. The request must be approved by UCEAP, your UC campus department, and the UC dean or provost.

Once your extension is approved, UCEAP will notify your UC campus registrar and Financial Aid Office. For information about the steps you need to take regarding finances, see the Extension of Participation chapter of the UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad.
CULTURAL AWARENESS

Recommended Course Preparation

You are encouraged to take at least one relevant course in Caribbean, Latin American, or Third World studies by departure. Other relevant predeparture courses include development economics, colonial histories, post-colonialism, or liberation and neocolonialism. You will attend classes almost exclusively with students from the region, and such preparation will enable you to become familiar with the context in which Caribbean issues are discussed.

Educate Yourself

Get acquainted with your new host city, country, and culture before you leave the U.S. Travel guides and travel-related websites, such as Lonely Planet and Urban Lowdown, are excellent resources.

Keep up with current events by reading articles in newspapers, magazines, and journals, and make an effort to understand the local culture and history. These sources can provide insight into the local culture and history and will help you prepare before departure.

Recommended Newspapers

- NationNews
- The Barbados Advocate

Recommended Books

Deere, Carmen Diana, et. al.

Knight, Franklin, and Teresita Martínez-Vergne, eds.

Nettleford, Rex

Payne, Anthony, and Paul Sutton, eds.

Segal, Ronald

Thomas, Clive Y.
ARRIVAL & ORIENTATION

Passport
All travelers to and from the Caribbean and Bermuda, including U.S. citizens, are required to have a passport. Without your passport you will face difficulty when reentering the United States. For more information, visit the U.S. Department of State website or the U.S. Department of Homeland Security website.

For information about applying for a passport, U.S. citizens should visit the Department of State website or call the National Passport Information Center’s toll free number at (877) 487-2778. Non-U.S. citizens should contact their respective government agencies to obtain passports.

You need to present your UWI offer letter upon arrival at the airport. Carry it with your passport and other important papers.

Packing
Climate
It is illegal in Barbados for civilians to dress in camouflage clothing or to carry items made of camouflage material. If you wear or carry camouflage, you will be stopped by the police, your items may be confiscated upon entry, and you could be fined or arrested.

In general, the climate is extremely hot. You will arrive during the hurricane season, which can last until October. However, almost all storms pass to the north of Barbados, producing only high winds and heavy rains in the local area.

Electrical Appliances
The electrical current used in Barbados is 110 volts and 60 cycles, the same as in the U.S. Take appliances you will need, such as a radio, MP3 player, or hair dryer. Electric clocks purchased in the U.S. do not work accurately when used in Barbados.

Travel to Barbados
Check e-mail announcements and updates from UCEAP regularly. Keep your contact information in MyEAP updated.

Last Date to Arrive
Check the program calendar for the “Last Date to Arrive.”

There is no prearranged group flight to Barbados, so you will need to purchase a flexible airline ticket to the Grantley Adams International Airport near Bridgetown, Barbados. Make arrangements to arrive on the mandatory arrival date indicated in the calendar link above.

Even if you are on full financial aid, you are responsible for reserving and purchasing your own airline ticket; the Financial Aid Office is not responsible for purchasing tickets. Standby tickets are not appropriate for this program; you must have a round-trip ticket when you arrive in Barbados.
If you arrive in Bridgetown on the “Last Date to Arrive” in the program calendar, you may request an airport pickup by a UCEAP representative. To arrange your airport pickup, send your flight itinerary to Lisa at laalleyne@gmail.com. If you arrive prior to the official arrival date, UCEAP cannot guarantee airport pickup. If you arrive ahead of the program date, be sure to inform the Liaison Officer or Administrative Assistant of your arrival in Barbados.

If you fail to arrive by the “Last Date to Arrive,” you are subject to dismissal from the program (Student Agreement, Section 10). If you are unavoidably delayed, contact the UCEAP Liaison Officer immediately. Refer to Your UCEAP Network in this guide for updated contact information.

Stay in close contact with your campus advisor and the UCEAP Systemwide Office for updates. The start date of the program can change due to unforeseen circumstances, and you will be responsible for adjusting your travel itinerary to accommodate those changes. UCEAP is not responsible for unrecoverable transportation charges incurred for travel arrangements, so it is best to purchase a changeable airline ticket.

Orientation Upon Arrival
The program begins with an orientation program. A variety of orientation activities introduce you to the University of the West Indies (UWI) and aspects of the culture that are not immediately evident or accessible to the casual visitor.

You will spend the first four nights of the program with the UCEAP group at a guest house near the Cave Hill campus. Since the cost of orientation accommodation is included in your UCEAP fees, no payment will be due to the guest house during orientation. Review the Arrival Instructions included in the online Predeparture Checklist, which can be found on the UCEAP Participants web page. More details will be provided about arrival and orientation shortly before your departure.

Early Arrival
If you arrive in Bridgetown before the program begins, you will need to make your own lodging arrangements and pay for accommodations independently.

Financial Aid Students
Your financial aid package is based partly on the UCEAP Student Budget for the program. The estimated round-trip airfare is based on the cost of a changeable student fare to Barbados. If your independent travel costs are greater than the airfare estimate in the UCEAP Student Budget, notify your financial aid counselor. Neither UCEAP nor the Financial Aid Office can guarantee that the additional cost will be funded by financial aid.
Travel Safety
When traveling, always keep your passport, visa, ticket, prescription medications, and money with you. Never put valuables in your checked luggage. Leave extra credit cards at home and carry only what is necessary. Do not ask others to carry any items abroad for you (laptop, camera, extra bags, etc.) and do not volunteer to do so for others. Airlines may not allow you to take them or customs abroad may charge you a high duty. This is particularly a concern with electronic goods.

Travel Insurance
Although the UCEAP Insurance Plan offers coverage on lost or destroyed property, you should assess the Personal Property Benefit provided in the policy and verify that it is adequate for your needs. You may decide to purchase additional coverage.

Return Transportation
You must be in possession of a return ticket, even if the date is open ended. Once abroad, if you have left your return date open, allow plenty of lead time to book a return date. The UCEAP Liaison Office can refer you to a local travel agency for information. Flights from Barbados to the U.S. fill up fast and economy-fare seats are booked early.
FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Understanding Your Finances

Understanding your finances before, during, and after EAP is crucial to having a successful time abroad. The following list outlines just a few of the many things you will need to know before departure.

Detailed information on the following topics can be found in the Money Matters chapter of the UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad:

- Contact information for finance questions
- How to estimate the cost of your program
- Budget instructions and information
- How to and who can make payments to EAP
- EAP student account information
- Banking before and after arrival
- Fees and penalties
- Loan information
- How financial aid works while on EAP (how do I get my financial aid from my home campus and how are my fees paid)
- Various forms (e.g., direct deposit, etc.)

MyEAP Student Account

Your MyEAP Student Account is similar to your home campus Financial account. It will be available as soon as you are selected for your program in MyEAP. The fees that you owe UCEAP are posted to your account, and you can make payments through this account using e-checks or credit cards (MasterCard or Discover). Fees will be applied after your program predeparture withdrawal date, which is listed in MyEAP.

UCEAP Student Budget

Carefully review your UCEAP Student Budget.

Your UCEAP Student Budget lists the fees you will pay to UCEAP and an estimate of the personal expenses you will need to plan for. It does not include the cost of recreational travel or personal entertainment. The fees due to UCEAP will be posted to your MyEAP Student Account after your program predeparture withdrawal date. Program fees are subject to change. View your EAP Student Budget frequently.

Instructions

- Download and print your EAP Student Budget and Payment Vouchers.
- Note the deadlines on the Payment Vouchers.
- Give the EAP Student Budget and Payment Vouchers to the person responsible for paying your EAP bills. Sign them up for Third Party Authorization so they can make payments online.

For further information see the Money Matters chapter of the UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad and the Money Matters tab of your Participants Portal. If you are on financial aid, see also the EAP Financial Information web page.
Handling Money Abroad

The local currency is the Barbadian dollar. Most goods are imported to the island and are more expensive; you will need to learn how to economize. The dorm itself is relatively inexpensive. Consult the UCEAP Student Budget for an estimate (to find the budget, go to the UCEAP Participants web page and select the Money Matters tab). Food and staples cost about two times more than in the U.S. During the first semester in the dorm, you can learn from Caribbean students how to minimize food and other expenses and live reasonably in this upscale economy. Do not plan to buy major personal items in Barbados; take them from home.

U.S. dollars are readily accepted throughout Barbados and there is no need to convert American currency before arrival. Request information on the cost of taxis from the vendor in Barbadian dollars; vendors will readily accept the U.S. equivalent, but they will not generally be in a position to give change in U.S. dollars. Make the mental conversion to ensure that vendors and taxi drivers are being accurate and fair.

The conversion of U.S. drafts and other transactions at local banks can take up to six weeks and may require that you hold an account with that banking institution. Use an international ATM credit card and Western Union facilities, which are available on campus and at several convenient locations throughout the island. Be aware, however, that these facilities will only deliver local currency due to exchange control regulations.

Travelers Checks

Take enough money with you in travelers checks to cover expenses for the first two months abroad, since it usually takes that long to become established financially. Long delays in receiving mail and clearing personal checks abroad are more often the rule than the exception.

Travelers checks can be exchanged easily at favorable rates, although they involve bank charges. These checks can be converted into the local currency at banks, foreign exchange offices, airports, some tourist information centers, and sometimes at travel agencies. A passport is usually required to exchange money.

ATM Card

Money can be transferred to you in Barbados through an ATM. ATM cards, Visa, or MasterCard may be used at the Royal Bank of Canada, which is linked to the Plus and Cirrus systems. ATM cards provide a convenient way of getting cash, making deposits and transfers, and verifying account balances. To get an ATM card you must first open an account at a bank or credit union in the U.S.

Most U.S. banks and credit unions offer ATM cards. They are usually connected to a checking or share draft account. The bank will issue an ATM card and a personal identification number (PIN). This should be all that is needed. Once abroad, you can use your ATM card and PIN to withdraw money from your U.S. account. There is no waiting period; money deposited in the U.S. is immediately available for withdrawal abroad. There may be limitations on the amount of cash accessible per transaction, and there may be fees. Check with your bank to see what options are available.
Banking
You can open a bank account with a wire transfer of funds or any other deposit. The Royal Bank of Canada has the largest number of branches of any bank in Barbados, including a branch near the UWI campus.

Credit Cards
Major credit cards such as Visa, MasterCard, and American Express are accepted in most restaurants, stores, and at UWI for payment of dorm deposits or other university-related charges. Funds can be drawn from a local bank with a credit card. Check with your bank to see what services are offered and where.
COMMUNICATIONS ABROAD

Mail
If you are living in Frank Worrell Hall or Sherlock Hall, you can be contacted at the following address during the semester:

[Your name]
Frank Worrell Hall or Sherlock Hall
The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus
PO Box 64
Bridgetown, BB11000
Barbados

If you live elsewhere, you can have mail sent to you in care of the UCEAP Liaison Office in Barbados:

[Your name]
c/o Ms. Joan Cuffie
The University of the West Indies, Cave Hill Campus
PO Box 64
Bridgetown, BB11000
Barbados

Phone
Approximate time difference: add 4 hours (3 hours when California is on daylight saving time)

Barbados has a reliable phone system and a multitude of public phones. Local calls are free except those made from call boxes, which average 25 cents. The residence halls have phones, but there are not many and there is substantial competition for phones. You may opt to purchase a cell phone in Barbados or have yours connected locally. Barbados has GSM service only. A long-distance operator (including international directory assistance) can be accessed by dialing 0.

Prepaid phone cards purchased in the U.S. do not work in Barbados. Your best bet is to buy a phone card in Barbados.

Skype
Many students use Skype for long-distance calls. Family and friends in the U.S. can call you, at low rates, using Skype from their computers. You can Skype family and friends from any computer with Internet access. Computer-to-computer Skype calls are free. You will need a headset or a microphone.

Computer Access and Use

E-mail
You will have access to an e-mail account while in Barbados. Most staff, professionals, and people in the community subscribe to local service providers (Caribsurf, Sunbeach, and TeleBarbados) who offer full Internet connectivity. Wireless connection is accessible at various locations on campus. You will receive additional information when you arrive.
Computers

Many students bring their own laptops. The UCEAP Liaison Office also has four computers that you may use to prepare papers and access e-mail. You will receive an electronic key to the office and may work at your discretion. Office hours are 6 a.m. to 11 p.m.; thereafter campus security will lock the facility. If you are using the computer facilities in the Liaison Office, be aware that you will have a limitation on the number of copies you can print there.

UWI’s computer center consists of several computer labs with many microcomputers. You must register with the computer center directly to use these facilities. The UWI facilities are open as follows:

- **During the term**: Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- **During vacation**: Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Although these computers are available for the entire student body, they are booked for classes much of the time. For this reason, it’s a good idea to take a laptop.


**HOUSING & MEALS**

**Where Will I Live?**

- Guests may not stay in the dormitories overnight under any circumstances. If you wish to have overnight guests, plan to live off campus.

**Q: What are the housing options during the program in Barbados?**

**A:** You can choose to live in a UWI residence hall or seek accommodation off campus in private apartments or shared rental houses.

**Q: How can I reserve a space in the UWI residence hall?**

**A:** The housing application process works as follows:

- The UCEAP Systemwide Office will e-mail you an Application to Reside on Halls of Residence.
- Complete the form and return it to the UCEAP Systemwide Office.
- Submitting this form does not obligate you to live on campus at UWI; however, if you do not return the preliminary application, you will lose eligibility for on-campus housing—even if you desire it at a later date.
- If you receive a space in one of the residence halls, UWI will issue you a housing contract.
- Read the housing contract carefully before signing, and be aware that financial penalties are applicable if you cancel the contract.
- Sign and return the housing contract to UWI housing management.

**Q: How will I pay my housing costs?**

**A:** If you receive a spot in on-campus housing, the UWI housing office will bill you directly. Two deposits will be due and payable directly to UWI upon receipt of the contract:

- The advance deposit (non-refundable) holds your place at the UWI residence hall.
- The security deposit (refundable) is held against damages and the safe return of your room key.

If you choose to live off campus, you will make payment arrangements directly with your landlord.

**Q: What are the residence halls like?**

**A:** Frank Worrell Hall consists of a cluster of ten modern buildings on a ridge overlooking the campus. The halls house approximately 180 students. Each hall has three floors, and each floor has six bedrooms, two bathrooms, and a kitchen that is equipped with a gas stove, refrigerator, sink, and cupboards. Each bedroom has a single bed, a desk and chair, a sink, and cabinets.

There is an alternate residence hall called Sherlock Hall; it houses approximately 90 students. You are more likely to be placed in Frank Worrell, however, as it has more spaces for international students.

**Q: Do I need to take linens for the residence halls?**

**A:** Yes, you need to take sheets for a single bed, pillowcases, pillows, and towels.
**EAP STUDENTS SAY...**

Sharing housing with five other students was good exposure to students from other islands. I had some difficulty because four of the five already knew each other and I was the outsider.

Living on campus was a good way to meet people and I'd recommend it—but then living off campus gives more freedom, privacy, silence, and phone use!

I lived on campus and it was inexpensive to live there. The experience was amazing and there were always events happening on campus.

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**Q: What about meals?**

**A:** Frank Worrell Hall is self-catering, with no dining commons attached. You can prepare meals and snacks in the common kitchen areas described above. The student cafeteria, located on the ground floor of the Sherlock Hall dorm, serves breakfast, lunch, dinner, and snack items daily. Meals are international and the cuisine varies each day.

**Q: Should I bring my own utensils and cooking equipment?**

**A:** The residence halls are not equipped with pots and pans, cooking utensils, dishes, or cutlery. You will have to pack or buy locally what you need. Bear in mind that local prices are likely to be significantly higher than those in the U.S.

Caribbean roommates may have cookware to share. Many students buy and prepare meals on a cooperative basis.

**Q: How do I go about getting an apartment or flat?**

**A:** The UCEAP Liaison Officer at the Cave Hill campus will help you view appropriate rentals during the initial arrival/orientation period. The Liaison Officer can also answer general questions about rental contracts, standard payment arrangements, etc. Although the apartment-hunting process can be hectic and somewhat stressful during the first few days, past students have reported that, in the end, it is easy to find suitable and comfortable housing. Though assistance is provided in locating possible housing options, you are ultimately responsible for your housing decision and must follow through with the finalization of a rental contract, arrangements for use of utilities, and all subsequent payments. Most students who live off campus end up sharing a flat or apartment with other UCEAP participants.

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**Selecting the Right Housing**

Whether you choose to live on or off campus depends on your preferences. There are advantages and disadvantages to each option, and UCEAP participants have been happy with both.

**On-Campus Housing**

**Advantages:**

- You can meet Caribbean students
- It is conveniently close to classes
- You can move in directly after UCEAP orientation is over (no apartment search)
- You will probably receive confirmation of space before departure

**Disadvantages:**

- Facilities are older and have fewer amenities than is typical at UC
- Dormitory rules must be followed and are generally stricter and more conservative than you will be used to
- New student initiation, which mostly takes place in the dorms, has made some students uncomfortable. Keep the following in mind about initiations in the UWI dorms:
  - Hazing: Nobody will force you to participate
  - Security guards are present in the residence halls
Some students find initiations at UWI harmless, and even find that they create a unique bonding experience with other students. The initiations that occur at UWI do not involve any type of physical abuse. Traditionally, they focus on waking students up early for some sort of group exercise, dancing suggestively in front of a crowd, or getting dubbed with a nickname.

During new student initiations at UWI, be sure to tell the UCEAP Liaison Officer immediately if you feel that you are being pressured against your will to participate.

**Off-Campus Housing**

**Advantages:**
- There is a wide choice of relatively inexpensive options near the beach, downtown, etc.
- Living off campus allows for more independence and privacy
- Facilities and amenities can be of high quality depending on how much you are willing to pay (although even nice places are often much less expensive than the equivalent in coastal California)

**Disadvantages:**
- You will have less contact with Caribbean students
- Typically it is not as convenient as on-campus housing for classes and student activities
- You will have to deal with landlords, rental contracts, utilities, and furnishings (although it is also possible to find furnished apartments)
- You will have to consider the security of the neighborhood when making your selection
- It can be stressful to find housing during orientation, although typically students find that it ultimately works out well
The people are nice, especially once you go into the rural areas. Participate in the events and don’t be afraid to introduce yourself.

Extracurricular Activities

➤ The UCEAP Student Budget does not include funds for recreational travel or the purchase of clothing abroad.

Get Involved

Participating in extracurricular cultural and social activities while abroad is an excellent way to meet people and integrate more fully into the community.

Join sports, musical, theater, or arts groups; volunteer at local organizations, attend lectures and receptions held in academic and community circles, and get the most out of your time abroad.

The UCEAP Liaison Office has information on cultural and social events and will arrange various activities and excursions for the group during the year.

➤ Contact the Barbados embassy or consulate for information about working abroad.
**HEALTH**

**Seeking Medical Attention**

Medical care in Barbados is generally good, but medical transport can take hours to respond and ambulance attendants are prohibited from applying lifesaving techniques during transport. Minor problems requiring a visit to the emergency room can involve a wait of several hours; private clinics and physicians offer speedier service.

If you become sick, go to the student clinic. For more serious conditions, go to the emergency section of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital or the private FMH Emergency Clinic located in St. Michael. The Sandy Crest Medical Centre in Holetown, St. James is also available 24 hours. Doctors and hospitals expect immediate cash payment for health services.

In addition to seeking medical attention when you are sick, contact the Liaison Officer immediately. The Liaison Officer can recommend a clinic to visit, advise which medical insurance claim forms you need to complete, and make arrangements with your professors if extended absence from class becomes necessary.

**Prescription Medication**

Carry any prescription medication in your hand luggage, in its original packaging for identification by Barbados customs officials.

**Accessibility**

While in Barbados, students with disabilities may find accessibility and accommodation very different from what is found in the United States. There are no laws that specifically prohibit discrimination against persons with disabilities in employment, education, or the provision of other state services, other than constitutional provisions asserting equality for all. While no legislation mandates provision of accessibility to public thoroughfares or public or private buildings, the Town and Country Planning Department set provisions for all public buildings to include accessibility to persons with disabilities. As a result, many new buildings have ramps, reserved parking, and special sanitary facilities for such persons.

However, in general, access to buildings, pedestrian paths and transportation is extremely difficult for persons with disabilities. Sidewalks (if they exist) are very uneven and will only occasionally have ramps at intersections. Pedestrian crossings are also very infrequent. Many restaurants, hotels, and residential buildings have stairs at the entrance without wheelchair ramps, except perhaps major hotels and retail areas. Buses and taxis do not have special accommodations for disabled persons.
“EAP STUDENTS SAY...
Females beware! Not everyone is your friend. Avoid stopping and chatting with men here—most think that you’re here for a good time like other female tourists.”

SAFETY

Protecting Against Crime

Crime in Barbados is characterized primarily by petty theft and street crime; however, incidents of violent crime, including rape, do occur. Be especially vigilant on the beaches at night; never walk alone at night.

If approached by an assailant, surrender all valuables without resisting. Recently tourists have been targeted during daytime hours on isolated beaches such as Long Beach, Christ Church and Maycocks Beach, St. Lucy. Avoid these beaches or exercise caution if you visit these and other isolated beaches alone or in a small group. Use caution in populated areas, particularly in the poorer sections of Bridgetown, such as Black Rock and Lower Bay Street. Petty thieves are also active on beaches and at tourist attractions.

You may experience some harassment from drug dealers and street vendors in tourist areas. Be courteous but firm when turning them down. Barbados enforces laws prohibiting the purchase, possession, transportation, sale, or use of illegal substances. Regardless of nationality, violators will be placed under arrest and held for trial if bail is not paid. Convictions carry fines and/or jail time.

Your experience abroad is too valuable to carelessly open yourself up to harm, so learn to be accountable for your own safety while abroad. Use common sense and follow normal personal protective measures. Island life is beautiful, but don’t be lulled into abandoning sound judgment. For example:

- Go to the beach in groups.
- Avoid isolated areas, both during the daytime and at night.
- Whether living on or off campus, take responsibility for the security of your living quarters; lock doors and windows just as you would in a U.S. residence.
- Use discretion when making new friends, especially when they are not UWI students.
- Avoid the company of anyone you suspect might be involved with drugs or any other illicit business.

Along with personal safety behaviors, consider having a good-quality, loud, rescue whistle easily accessible to enhance your safety. The loud sound of a self-defense whistle or alarm may cause temporary disorientation and it can also signal for help, giving you the necessary time to get away.

Note for females: In this small society, foreign women stand out and female students might find themselves targets of unwanted attention and theft. Female students need to secure their homes and take special precautions when they travel.

Police Response

There is a strong police presence in many of the tourist areas. The Royal Barbados Police are well trained and attuned to the needs of travelers. There is much less of a police presence in the rural areas, and emergency response time is relatively slow.

Campus Security Services are responsible for security at UWI. The campus is patrolled 24 hours a day by a highly trained staff of security officers, senior security officers, a chief security officer, and the Director of Security.
Criminal Penalties
While you are in Barbados, you are subject to its laws despite your U.S. citizenship. Persons violating Barbados laws—even unknowingly—may be expelled, arrested or imprisoned. Penalties for possession, use, or trafficking in illegal drugs in Barbados are severe, and convicted offenders can expect long jail sentences and heavy fines.

Road and Transportation Safety
Do not drive cars, mopeds, or motorcycles while abroad. Driving conditions differ markedly in the West Indies and accidents are frequent. Drivers proceed on the left side of the road in Barbados, as opposed to the right, as in the U.S. If you choose to drive, become familiar with traffic regulations and road signs before you drive. Be aware that wearing a seat belt while driving is mandated by law, as is the use of a helmet when operating a moped or motorcycle. Be extremely careful when riding in a vehicle (wear a seatbelt), or crossing roads on foot.

Registered taxis and large public buses are generally safe. Private vans and small buses are often crowded and tend to travel at excessive speeds. You are cautioned against riding in private mini-buses, known as “Z buses”, as the owners frequently drive erratically.

Pedestrian Safety
Always use the footpath where available and keep away from the edge of the road.

Walk in single file, if there is no footpath, walk facing the oncoming traffic.

Always use the pedestrian crossing while crossing the road. If there is no pedestrian crossing, cross from a point where you have a clear view of the traffic on both sides of the road.

Hurricanes
The Eastern Caribbean is occasionally victim to hurricanes with the season lasting from June until November. Barbados was hit by hurricane Tomas in November 2010, the most significant hurricane since 1955.

Fire Safety
For information on fire safety, refer to the UCEAP Guide to Study Abroad and the Barbados Fire and Rescue Service.
**Emergency Contacts**

**What Constitutes an Emergency?**
Emergencies are circumstances out of the ordinary, unplanned, or unexpected, which threaten the health, safety, and well-being of you and/or your fellow students. The following are considered true emergencies:

- Any situation that places a student or students at risk, including illness or harm, or other traumatic incidents that require immediate response
- A student who has been arrested
- Civil unrest or a natural disaster in the host country

**In an Emergency**
Contact local emergency services first and then contact the following:

**If you are in the U.S.**
- During office hours (8 a.m.–5 p.m. Pacific Time): Contact the Operations Specialist at the UCEAP Systemwide Office
- After office hours: Call the 24-hour emergency phone number at (805) 893-4762

**If you are abroad**
Carry the local emergency contact information at all times. If you have a health or safety emergency call the UCEAP Liaison Officer, Joan Cuffie, listed on Page 2 of this guide. If you do not have access to local or UCEAP Liaison Office emergency contact information, call the UCEAP 24-hour emergency phone number at (805) 893-4762.

Useful phone numbers while on Cave Hill campus:
- Police/Emergency ....................... 211
- Police/Hotline ......................... 429-8787
- Fire ...................................... 311
- Ambulance .............................. 511
- Campus Security ...................... 417-4159
- Police/Black Rock Station .......... 417-7500

**Embassy of the United States**
Wildey Business Park, Wildey
St. Michael BB 14006
Barbados, W.I.

- **Main switchboard:** (246) 227-4000
- **Consular section:** (246) 227-4399