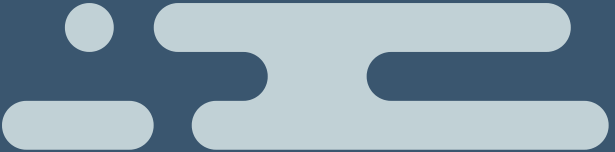


# Study Abroad Application Meeting





# All application materials need to be submitted via email

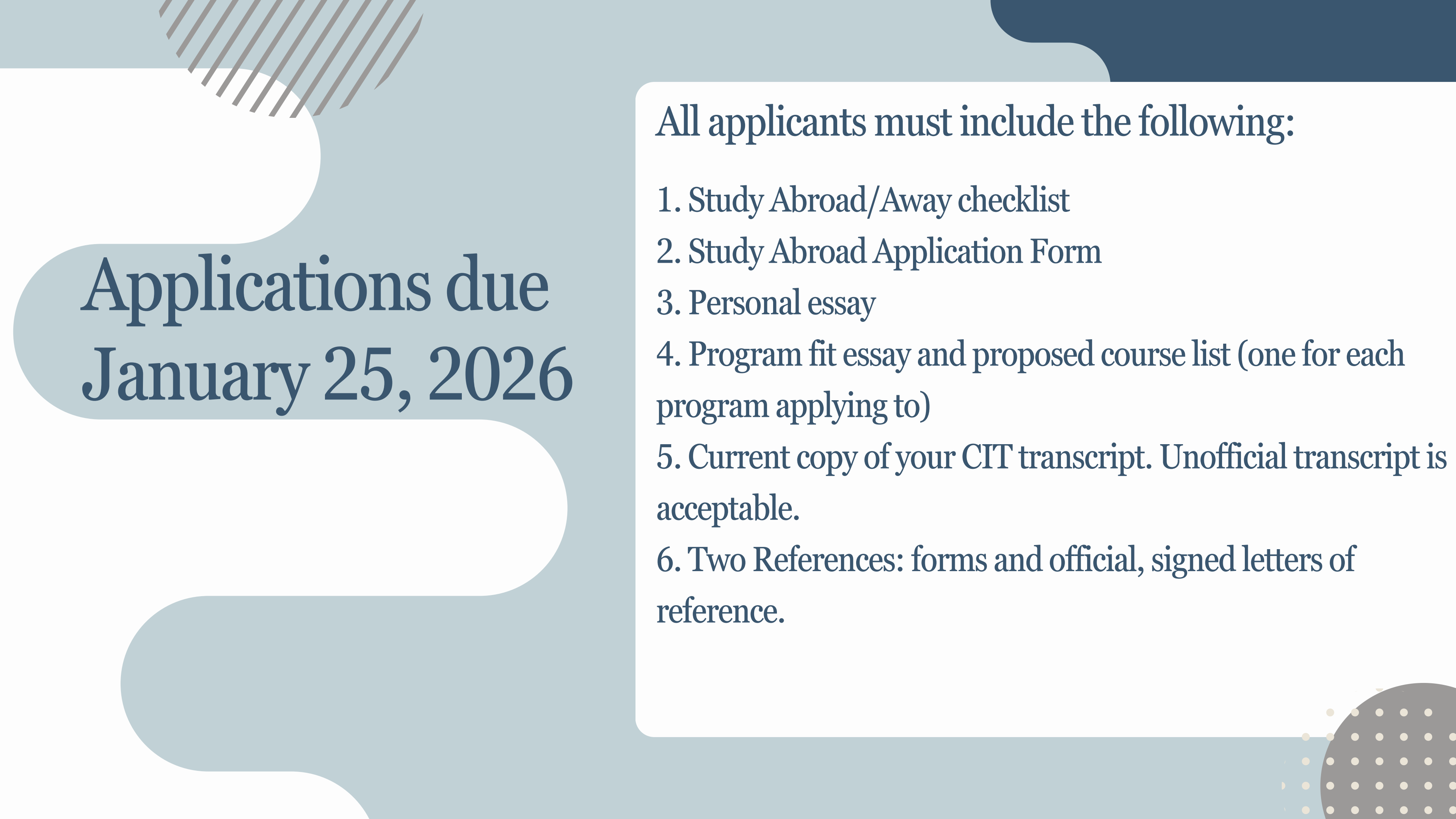


Digital versions of the application, directions, application checklist and reference forms will be available online and will be emailed to you.

Email all materials to the  
Fellowships Advising &  
Study Abroad Office:  
**[SAapplications@caltech.edu](mailto:SAapplications@caltech.edu)**

References writers should  
email their recommendation  
forms and letters to:  
**[SAreferences@caltech.edu](mailto:SAreferences@caltech.edu)**





# Applications due January 25, 2026

All applicants must include the following:

1. Study Abroad/Away checklist
2. Study Abroad Application Form
3. Personal essay
4. Program fit essay and proposed course list (one for each program applying to)
5. Current copy of your CIT transcript. Unofficial transcript is acceptable.
6. Two References: forms and official, signed letters of reference.

# Study Abroad & Away Application Checklist #1

This checklist is also to guide you when compiling your application items.

Make sure your PDF application document is in this order.

Please, do not check off the boxes in the bottom section. You do need to write the name of your recommendation writers.

## Study Abroad & Away Application Checklist

Interview Date:

Interview Time:

Name of Student:

☐ Sophomore ☐ Junior

Option:

Second Option:

Minor:

\*\*\*\*This application is my own original work. I have not received professional assistance in writing or proofreading my essays.\*\*\*\*

**SIGN HERE**  Signature:  Date:

### Program(s):

- ☐ Cambridge, Michaelmas - Fall Term
- ☐ Cambridge, Lent - Winter Term
- ☐ Chicago, Fall Term
- ☐ DTU, Fall Term
- ☐ Ecole Polytechnique, Fall Term
- ☐ KU, Fall Term
- ☐ UCL, Fall Term
- ☐ Edinburgh, Fall Term
- ☐ Melbourne, Fall Term

First Choice:

Second Choice:

Third Choice:

Fourth Choice:

Fifth Choice:

**Put completed application in the order below** (Write the name of your recommender, **do not** check them off):

- ☐ Study Abroad/Away Checklist (this form, completed by applicant)
- ☐ Program Application
- ☐ Proposal (essay, program fit, and proposed courses)
- ☐ Recommendation #1 Referee name:  ☐ CIT Faculty
- ☐ Recommendation #2 Referee name:  ☐ CIT Faculty ☐ Grad TA
- ☐ Other, Specify
- ☐ (Optional) Recommendation #3 Referee name:
- ☐ Transcript (unofficial ok):

FASA notes:  Date Received (FASA will fill out):



# Caltech Scholars Program Application Form

## #2

The application is a writable PDF of application is available on the FASA website.

Download and complete this form. Please name the document with your name.

## Caltech Scholars Programs Application Form for Study Abroad & Study Away

**Due by 3pm, January 25**

Submit application and proposal to [SAapplications@caltech.edu](mailto:SAapplications@caltech.edu) / Submit references [SAreferences@caltech.edu](mailto:SAreferences@caltech.edu)

**Please follow these directions:**

- All application materials must be submitted as one continuous PDF to [SAapplications@caltech.edu](mailto:SAapplications@caltech.edu)
- Assemble your application in the order listed on the Study Abroad App. Checklist
- Title your application document First name.Last name (Sara.Smith)
- Put your name in the upper right hand corner of every page of the proposal.
- Put the page number in the lower right hand corner of every page of the proposal. Start your proposal as page 4 (or page 5 if applying for EPT).
- Minimum 3.0 GPA to apply for Study Abroad/Away-check GPA requirements below to ensure you meet the GPA minimum for each program you are applying to.

**What program(s) are you applying for? Check all that apply.**

- ☐ Cambridge, Michaelmas (Fall) Term, *minimum 3.6 overall GPA to apply, 3.7 GPA in Option*
- ☐ Cambridge, Lent (Winter) Term *minimum 3.6 overall GPA to apply, 3.7 GPA in Option*
- ☐ DTU, Fall Term *minimum 3.0 GPA to apply*
- ☐ KU, Fall Term *minimum 3.0 GPA to apply*
- ☐ Ecole Polytechnique, Fall Term *minimum 3.3 GPA to apply*
- ☐ Edinburgh, Fall Term, *minimum 3.0 GPA to apply*
- ☐ Melbourne, Fall Term, *minimum 3.0 GPA to apply*
- ☐ University of Chicago Program Fall Term, *minimum 3.5 GPA to apply*
- ☐ UCL, Fall Term, *minimum 3.3\* GPA to apply (Biological and Biomedical Sciences min. 3.5, Comp. Sci. Suggested 3.9) UCL only accepts ME, CS, Biological Sciences, Biomed, Molecular, Neuroscience(3.7), Chemistry (ChemEng can go in Chem), & Earth Sciences. No EE, Math, Applied Math, or Physics.*

**Please list programs by preference.** If applying for Cambridge Michaelmas and Lent, list them separately. If applying to any Cambridge &/or UCL Programs, must have another alternative:

First Choice: \_\_\_\_\_  
Second Choice: \_\_\_\_\_  
Third Choice: \_\_\_\_\_  
Fourth Choice: \_\_\_\_\_  
Fifth Choice: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Student's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Nickname: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Pronouns (optional) : \_\_\_\_\_

3. Caltech email address: \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred ☐

4. Alternate email address: \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred ☐

5. Caltech UID: \_\_\_\_\_

6. MailBox number: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

7. Family Residence Address: \_\_\_\_\_

8. Current Class Year: ☐ Sophomore ☐ Junior

9. Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Age during term you will study abroad: \_\_\_\_\_

10. House Affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

11. Citizenship: ☐ U.S. ☐ Permanent Resident ☐ Int'l Student Country of citizenship: \_\_\_\_\_

12. Do you currently hold a valid passport\*? ☐ Yes ☐ No\* Date of expiration: \_\_\_\_\_

*\*If you do not have a valid passport, apply for one ASAP.*



Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Option(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Sophomore ☐ Junior

13. Cumulative G.P.A. \_\_\_\_\_ GPA for last terms: (spring term) \_\_\_\_\_ (fall term) \_\_\_\_\_

14. Option: \_\_\_\_\_  
2<sup>nd</sup> Option, if applicable: \_\_\_\_\_  
Minor, if applicable: \_\_\_\_\_

15. Are you a: ☐ Transfer student ☐ 3/2 student \_\_\_\_\_ year entered Caltech  
Previous institution \_\_\_\_\_ Transcripts from  
prior universities at which applicant was in a degree program should be provided

15. Please list the department in which you will be enrolled for each program below. This should be equivalent to your option at Caltech, depending on your course list and/or the terminology used abroad. For example, if you are in Computer Science at Caltech, you will be in Informatics at Edinburgh. See the application directions and individual program handouts for more information.

RANK #:

☐ CAMBRIDGE: Tripos/Subject: \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ DTU: Department: \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ UCPH: Department: \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Ecole Polytechnique: Programmed 'Approfondissement (PA) \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Edinburgh: School: \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Melbourne: Faculty \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ UCL: Admitting Department: \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Chicago : Department: \_\_\_\_\_

16. Have you ever worked, studied, lived, or traveled abroad? ☐ Yes ☐ No  
If so, please describe the type and duration of the experience.

17. List the sports and level (varsity, intramural, personal enjoyment) that you participate in on a regular basis. Include all active hobbies or activities such as hiking, musical pursuits, running, camping, etc.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Option(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Sophomore ☐ Junior

18. List the activities that you participate in at Caltech, in the local community, or for personal enjoyment, e.g., avid moviegoer. Include clubs, student government, committees served on, work, peer counseling, etc.

19. What clubs (societies) sports, performing, and musical arts do you intend to pursue at your host university while abroad?

20. Initial here to agree to the following statement: \_\_\_\_\_

By initialing, I confirm that I understand that I must attend all classes in person at my host university during my term abroad. Travel is permitted during official university vacation weeks. Travel is also allowed for weekend trips or day trips on days on which I have no academic classes or academic commitments, barring any host university residency restrictions. I also understand that if reading weeks occur in any of my subjects, I am to use the time for academic study and not travel unless my classes are canceled and travel will not cause me to fall behind in my academic work. No travel outside of the UK is allowed for Cambridge during the Full Term, the arrival period before the Full Term begins, or during the 9<sup>th</sup> week at Cambridge after lectures end as this is to be used to complete outstanding work or take examinations if required. Furthermore, I understand that no extensions are given for study abroad and all work must be turned in before I leave my host university. I also understand that due to the disruption of studies it is not possible for students to return to the U.S./home while studying abroad or to depart for employment or graduate/professional school interviews. Exceptions are made only for a family or medical emergency and must be requested from the director of study abroad.

# Personal Essay Directions:

#3

**PERSONAL ESSAY:** please provide a brief personal narrative around one page, single-spaced. Express why you value a term abroad for your academic and personal growth. These should be thoughtful and personal statements and students selected to study abroad will have their statement reviewed by host university faculty.

**SECONDARY ESSAY for University of Chicago:** In the second essay, you need provide another brief personal narrative (at least 1/2 page single spaced) on the academic and personal value of a term away for you. Remember that students selected to study away will have their statement reviewed by the University of Chicago faculty.



# Program fit essay and proposed course list:

#4

Briefly describe how the program you are applying for fits in with your course of study at Caltech.

- a. You will need to make up a program fit essay and proposed course list for each program you wish to apply for
- b. Please put the program fit essay and proposed course list in the order with your first choice of program being listed first and so on.
- c. Examples of these are in the FASA office library for you to review.
- d. You will need to use the current year's course list at the partner university as next year's class list is not usually available till the summer months.
- e. Due to course availability, students selected to study abroad or study away may need to make changes to their course list during the summer or fall (this process will be reviewed later)



# Proposed course list

## Course List for UCL

Name - - - 2022

Computation and Neural Systems Option Caltech

Neuroscience UCL

UCL Credits: 60

CIT Units: 45

Date: September 24, 2022

**1. Course Name and Number:** Integrative Systems Neuroscience (NEUR0020)

**Level/Normal year taken:** FHEQ Level 6/7

**Faculty:** Faculty of Life Sciences

**Department:** Division of Biosciences

**Term:** UCL credits (15): 15

**Caltech units:** 9

**Type of Caltech credit (option, general, etc.):** Option

**State CIT equivalent course, if applicable:** NB/Bi/CNS 157. Comparative Nervous Systems

**Caltech evaluator:** Professor John Allman

**2. Course Name and Number:** Neurobiology of Decision-making in Animal Model Systems (BIOS0058)

**Level/Normal year taken:** FHEQ Level 6

**Faculty:** Faculty of Life Sciences

**Department:** Division of Biosciences

**Term:** UCL credits (15): 15

**Caltech units:** 9

**Type of Caltech credit (option, general, etc.):** Option (Advanced Electives)

**State CIT equivalent course, if applicable:** n/a

**Caltech evaluator:** Shin Shimojo

**3. Course Name and Number:** Greek Myth: Its Use and Meaning (CLAS0001)

**Level/Normal year taken:**

**Faculty:** Faculty of Arts and Humanities

**Department:** Term: UCL credits (15): 15

**Caltech units:** 9

**Type of Caltech credit (option, general, etc.):** Misc Hum

**State CIT equivalent course, if applicable:**

**Caltech evaluator:** Professor Dehn Gilmore

**4. Course Name and Number:** London before the Great Fire (ARCL0085)

**Level/Normal year taken:** This module is designed for Affiliate/JYA students

**Faculty:** Faculty of Social and Historical Sciences

**Department:** Term: UCL credits (15): 15

**Caltech units:** 9

**Type of Caltech credit (option, general, etc.):** Advanced Social Science

**State CIT equivalent course, if applicable:**

**Caltech evaluator:** Professor Luciano Pomatto

# Proposed course list

## Cambridge Proposed Course List

**Total CIT Units for term abroad:**  
**Course by Correspondence/Units:**

**1. Class/Module title**

**Tripes**

**Subject (if in Natural Sciences)**

**Part**

**Term (Michelmas or Lent)**

**Number of lectures**

**Lecture times, if available**

**Caltech units**

**Caltech evaluator**

**Type of Caltech credit (option, general, etc.)**

**State CIT equivalent course, if applicable**

**Course description (paste in paragraph)**

## DTU Proposed Course List

**Total ECTS (30-37.5 ECTS)**

**Total CIT Units:**

**Course by Correspondence/Units:**

**1. Name and number of course**

**Faculty and Department**

**Level/Normal year taken**

**Semester**

**(DTU) Block**

**Teaching period**

**ECTS (DTU, 5 or 10)**

**Caltech units**

**Caltech evaluator**

**Type of Caltech credit (option, general, etc.)**

**State CIT equivalent course, if applicable**

**Course description (paste in paragraph)**

## Edinburgh Proposed Course List

**Total Edinburgh Credits (60-80 Edin. Credits):**

**Total CIT Units:**

**Course by Correspondence/Units:**

**1. Course Name and Number**

**College (Science and Engineering or Humanities  
and Social Science)**

**School**

**Level (SCQF 7, 8, 9, 10)**

**Semester/Period**

**Credits (10 or 20)**

**Caltech units**

**Caltech evaluator**

**Type of Caltech credit (option, general, etc.)**

**State CIT equivalent course, if applicable**

**Course description (paste in paragraph)**

## Ecole Polytechnique Proposed Course List

**Total ECTS**

**Total CIT Units:**

**Course by Correspondence/Units:**

**1. Name and number of course**

**Department**

**Number of ECTS**

**Caltech units**

**Caltech evaluator**

**Type of Caltech credit (option, general, etc.)**

**State CIT equivalent course, if applicable**

**Course description (paste in paragraph)**

# Transcript

#5

- Unofficial Transcript
- Must have 2025 Fall grades
- Students are advised to clear up any extensions by your interview date in February
- Please write in your proposal any grade issues reflecting challenges or struggles.



# Reference Form: must must be submitted with reference letter

#6

**Caltech Scholars Programs Reference Form**  
Official Reference Form for Study Abroad/Away Applicants  
Please return by January 25  
Send completed reference form and reference letter to  
[SAreferences@caltech.edu](mailto:SAreferences@caltech.edu)



**\* This section to be completed by student \***

Name of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Option: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Sophomore ☐ Junior Please check if transfer or 3-2 student: ☐ Transfer ☐ 3-2

**Program(s): Check all that apply**

- ☐ Cambridge University (Michaelmas - Fall Term) ☐ University College London (Fall Term)  
☐ Cambridge University (Lent - Winter Term) ☐ University of Edinburgh (Fall Term)  
☐ University of Copenhagen (KU) or ☐ DTU (Fall Term) ☐ University of Melbourne (Fall Term)  
☐ Ecole Polytechnique (Fall Term) ☐ University of Chicago Study Away (Fall Term)

☐ This is a **CONFIDENTIAL** evaluation. I hereby **waive my access to this evaluation** as per the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974.

Applicant's signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Information for applicant:** Students are required to submit two references. The **first reference** must be from a Caltech professor, instructor, professor or postdoc research supervisor, or the applicant's academic advisor. All first referees must be in the student's primary STEM option. The **second reference** can be from a Caltech professor, instructor, academic advisor, grad TA, university-based research supervisor at Caltech or at another university or national laboratory in the student's primary STEM option or a highly related area. Note the focus of the reference is on your academic ability in the classroom and not on research.

An optional third reference can be submitted only if this referee can discuss academic attributes not covered by the first or second referee and could come from any individual noted above or from an HSS professor, RA, employer, coaches, etc. Note well that the focus of all letters must be the academic ability of the applicant for study abroad and the applicant's preparation to succeed at their host university.

Name of the reference writer: \_\_\_\_\_ Reference letter # \_\_\_\_\_

☐ CIT STEM Professor/Instructor/Advisor ☐ Other Faculty \_\_\_\_\_ ☐ Other, specify \_\_\_\_\_

Letters may be sent to the FASA Office via campus mail, regular mail, or hand delivered by the letter writer. If the reference is delivered by the student, it must be in a sealed envelope with the letter writer's signature on the seal. Open letters delivered by the student will not be accepted.

**\* This section to be completed by reference writer \***

**Information for recommender:** This reference will be helpful in evaluating the applicant's qualifications for participating in one of Caltech's official study abroad programs. Please reference the applicant's academic and personal qualifications as well as character. Students participating in a study abroad program will take courses in or highly related to their Caltech option. Note that this recommendation is not just for internal selection but will also be forwarded to the university abroad if the student is accepted into the Caltech Scholars Program. Please complete all portions of the form as requested and

include a signed letter. Incomplete evaluations cannot be considered. An electronic version of this form is available at <http://fasa.caltech.edu>. Letters may be sent to the FASA Office via campus mail, regular mail, or you may hand deliver it. If the reference is delivered by the student, it must be in a sealed envelope with your signature on the seal.

**1.) In addition to this form, please attach a Letter of Recommendation commenting on the student's qualifications, both personal and academic, for study abroad. This reference will be read by faculty at the study abroad university as well as the Caltech selection committee. Please be sure to sign your letter.**

2.) How long have you known the applicant? \_\_\_\_\_ In what capacity? \_\_\_\_\_

3.) How does the applicant compare with the better Caltech undergraduates you have taught? Please complete the evaluation chart below. Check the box that best indicates your opinion of the applicant's qualifications. Please compare the applicant with other Caltech undergraduates at a comparable level of education and research experience.

	Exceptional	Outstanding	Unusual	Good	Above Average	Average or below	Inadequate opportunity to observe
	Top 5%	Next 5%	Next 10%	Next 15%	Next 15%		
1. Mastery of basic knowledge in student's option							
2. Familiarity with and ability to use laboratory techniques							
3. Ability to express self orally and in writing							
4. Originality and imagination in academic work							
5. Capacity for conscientious, hard work							
6. Potential for future growth in science and engineering							
7. Ability to get things done independently							
8. Adaptability to new situations							
9. Reliability							
10. Impression applicant will make abroad academically and socially							

**5) From my knowledge of this applicant, I am willing to give my:**

☐ Full Endorsement ☐ Qualified Endorsement

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_  
Department \_\_\_\_\_  
Title /Position \_\_\_\_\_  
University (if not Caltech) \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please email both pages of this complete form and your signed reference letter to [SAreferences@caltech.edu](mailto:SAreferences@caltech.edu)

2 references are needed:

**First Reference:** This reference must be from a member of the professorial faculty at Caltech or from a Caltech or postdoc instructor (not a TA) in the student's option or a closely related field who has taught the student, officially advised the student, or supervised the student's research.

In the case of transfer students or 3/2 students, this letter may also be from a faculty member at their previous university. Professorial faculty includes those with the title of assistant, associate, or full professor.


**Second Reference:** This letter may be from another professor or instructor from Caltech or any university who has taught the applicant in a class related to their STEM option, who supervised them in their STEM option, or from an advisor in their STEM option. This letter may be from a non-professorial Caltech faculty member, an instructor, faculty/professionals from other universities who have advised the student, taught the student or supervised the applicant's research or work in a field related to their STEM option.

- Also acceptable is a letter from a postdoc who has supervised the student's research or a graduate student who has been a TA or who has helped supervise research that relates to the applicant's STEM option.
- Letters from undergraduate TA's, from employers, or from any HSS faculty will not be accepted as a required letter. If an applicant has a second option under HSS, the required letters must be from someone who has observed the applicant in a STEM capacity.



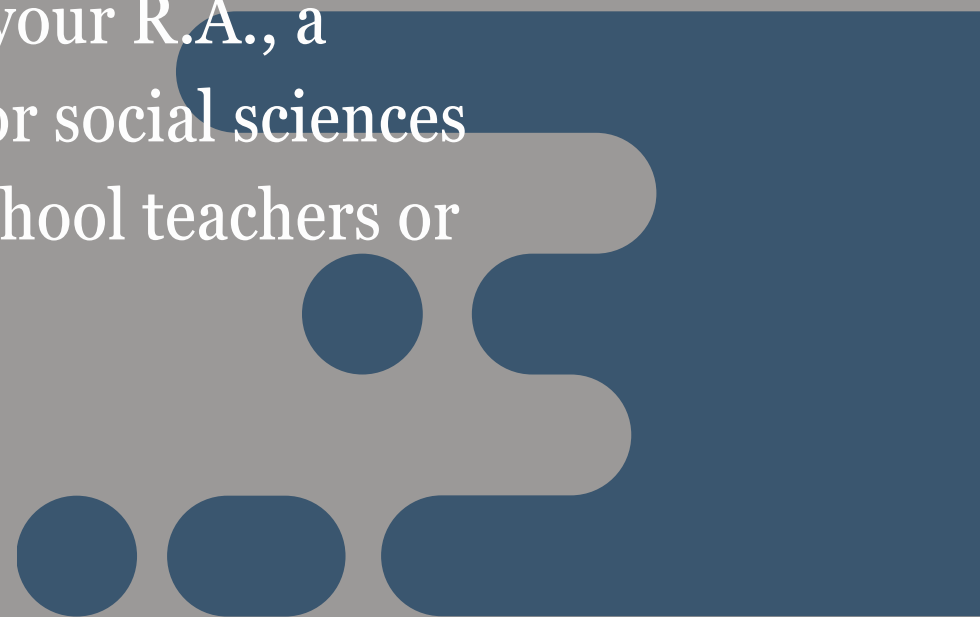


# Optional Third Reference:




Students may submit a third letter ONLY if the third letter can tell the committee about some aspect of your experience that the first two letter writers have no knowledge of, especially academic. This is not required and students with three letters are not viewed more favorably than those with two letters.

A third letter should only be submitted if you feel your two required letters are from people who do not know you as well as the author of the third letter. Letters from your R.A., a Caltech administrator, dean, an employer, or instructor in the humanities or social sciences are acceptable for the third letter. Please do not submit letters from high school teachers or counselors, peers, or family friends.







applications in  
by FASA office

# Caltech CEPSA committee convenes to determine study abroad placements

Nominees apply to schools for admission as an exchange student

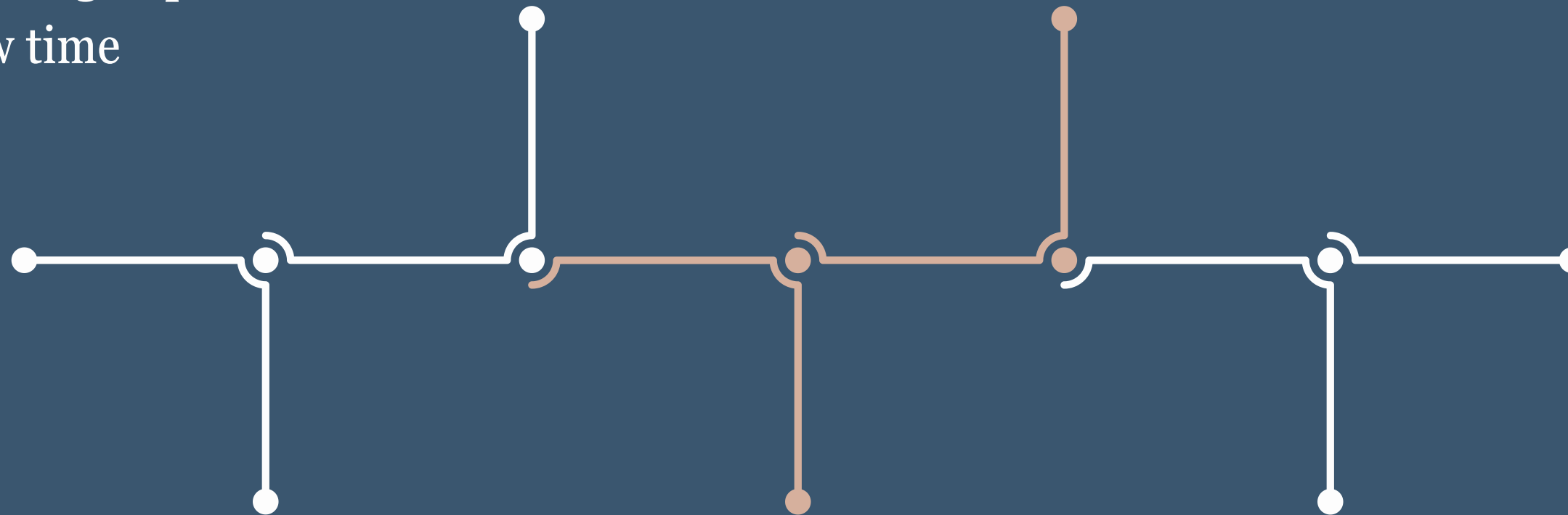
Mandatory location-specific orientations, credit transfer, and FA meetings held

All candidates with complete applications interviewed by FASA office

All nominees with  
placement notified and  
required to  
either accept or decline  
nomination

All students accepted to schools complete financial aid and health insurance requirements

Student roundtrip flight information due to FASA office





# BENEFITS OF STUDY ABROAD

- Access unique courses—take classes not offered at Caltech, including humanities, social sciences, and specialized STEM topics
- Engage in global scientific collaboration—research doesn't stop at borders, and neither should you
- Have an unforgettable experience—explore new cultures, travel, and make lifelong memories while studying in an exciting new and historical setting
- Strengthen your application to fellowships, grad school or jobs—study abroad/away can demonstrate initiative, adaptability, and Broader Impacts in STEM

# How many programs should I apply for?

If you are applying to Cambridge you must have a second choice.

- University of Cambridge - 10 positions  
(6 Michaelmas/fall term, 4 Lent/winter term)
- University of Chicago - up to 5 positions
- Danish Technical University - up to 20 positions
- University of Edinburgh - up to 15 positions
- University College London - up to 10 positions
- University of Melbourne and École Polytechnique have no limit



# MINIMUM REQUIRED GPA

- **Cambridge** - 3.6 overall, 3.7 in option
- **University College London** - 3.3 overall, Bio/Biomed min 3.5, CS min 4.0
- **University of Edinburgh** - 3.0 overall
- **Danish Technical University** - 3.0 overall
- **University of Copenhagen** - 3.0 overall
- **University of Melbourne** - 3.0 overall
- **Ecole Polytechnique** - 3.3 overall
- **University of Chicago** - 3.5 overall

**\*UCL:** While UCL states 3.3 GPA minimum GPA to apply, some subject areas require at least a 3.7 and may have additional prerequisites.

- Computer Science majors require a 3.9 GPA minimum and very strong reference letters, and
- Biological and for Biomedical Sciences majors requires a minimum 3.5 GPA.

**\*\*Cambridge:** Strong letters of reference are especially pertinent when applying to Cambridge and faculty references preferred from faculty in your option.

- **3.6** and up in option classes/tripos classes.
- Math at Cambridge **3.8+**.
- Chemistry Part III – need **3.8 +**. (Chem Part III are master's level classes – need background.)



# Other key points

- 1 All students studying abroad must be enrolled in 36 credit while abroad and enrolled the following term
- 2 Learning/test taking accommodations do not automatically transfer to study abroad universities and services may differ at each location - please look into your specific need
- 3 Please review program specific handouts to ensure that you fully understand each programs requirements
- 4 Creating each proposed course list is the most time-consuming part of the application - you may need to contact faculty at the study abroad location
- 5 Please follow formatting requirements that are listed in the directions



# Financial Aid



A meeting will be held in the spring for those who are on financial aid

Students on financial aid in previous years have not had to pay more than their normal Caltech fees

Financial aid has the ability to loan money out for transportation to and from study abroad/away locations

Please finish your application for financial aid on time!



# Next Meeting

General Course Choice Meeting -  
November 19<sup>th</sup> at 12pm



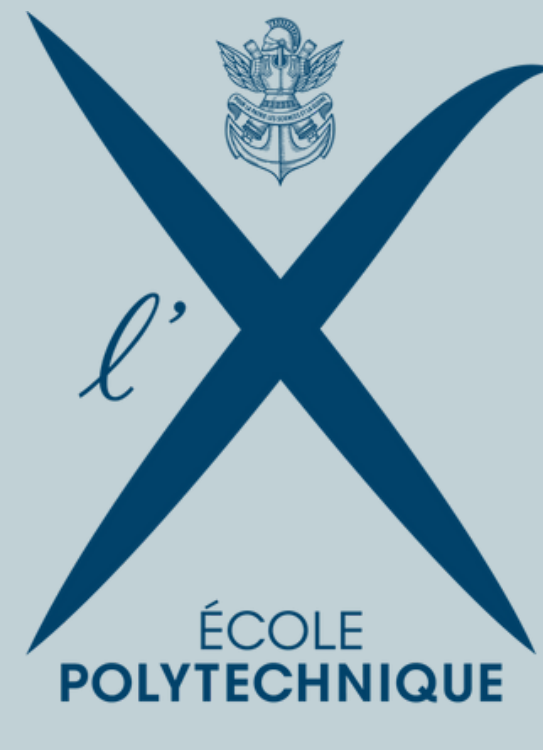
Cambridge Course Choice Meeting -  
November 20<sup>th</sup> at 12pm



Please sign up today!

# Questions?

DTU



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
MELBOURNE