Study Abroad Application Meeting



Caltech
FASA Office
Fellowships Advising & Study Abroad

All application materials need to be submitted via email

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

Email all materials to the Fellowships Advising & Study Abroad Office: SAapplications@caltech.edu

References writers should email their recommendation forms and letters to: SAreferences@caltech.edu

Applications due January 25, 2027

All applicants must include the following:

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

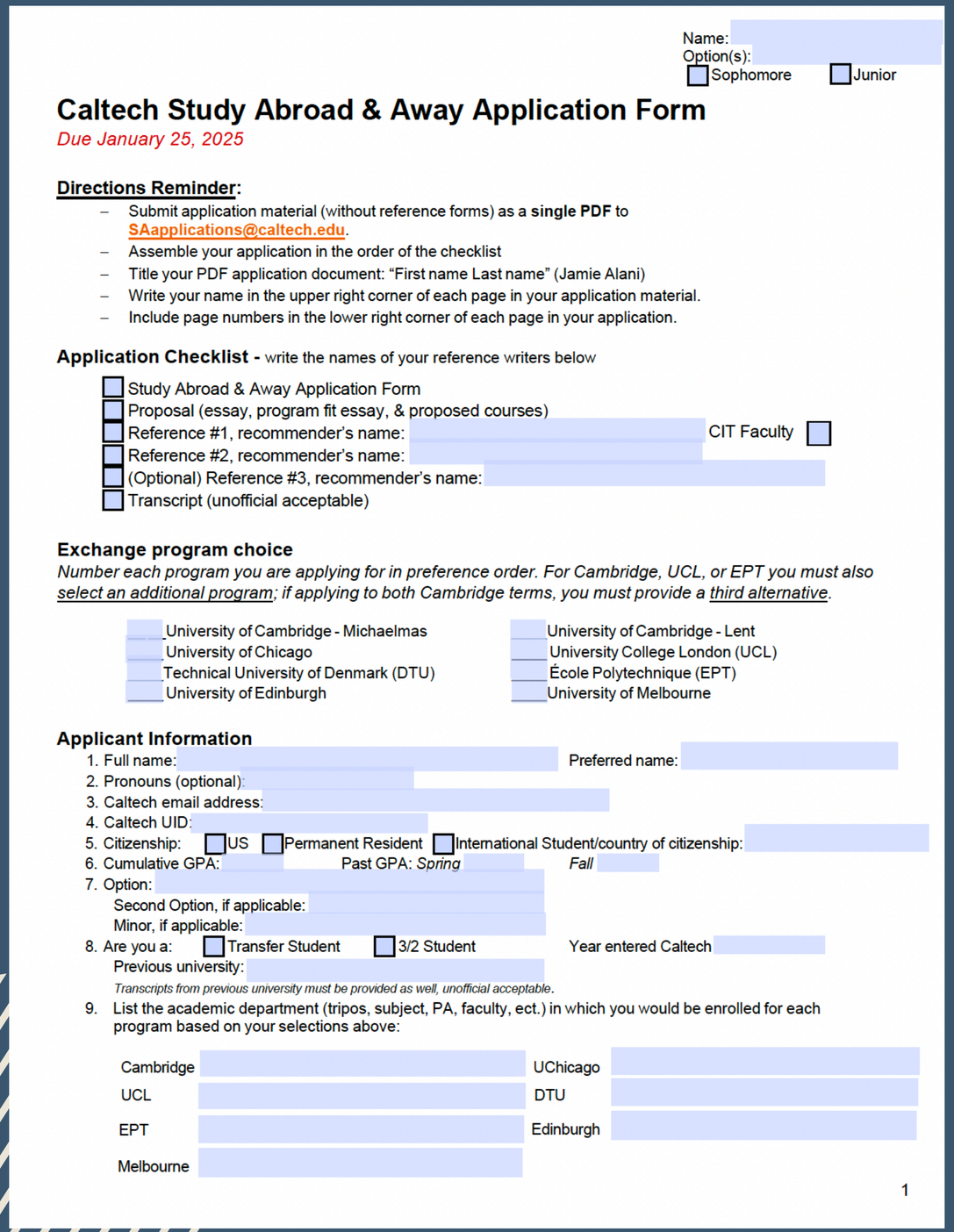
Caltech Study Abroad Application Form

#1

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

Download and complete this form.

Please name the document with your name.



Name:
Option(s):
☐ Sophomore ☐ Junior

Caltech Study Abroad & Away Application Form

Due January 25, 2025

Directions Reminder:

- Submit application material (without reference forms) as a **single PDF** to SAapplications@caltech.edu.
- Assemble your application in the order of the checklist
- Title your PDF application document: "First name Last name" (Jamie Alani)
- Write your name in the upper right corner of each page in your application material.
- Include page numbers in the lower right corner of each page in your application.

Application Checklist - write the names of your reference writers below

☐ Study Abroad & Away Application Form
☐ Proposal (essay, program fit essay, & proposed courses)
☐ Reference #1, recommender's name: CIT Faculty ☐
☐ Reference #2, recommender's name:
☐ (Optional) Reference #3, recommender's name:
☐ Transcript (unofficial acceptable)

Exchange program choice

Number each program you are applying for in preference order. For Cambridge, UCL, or EPT you must also select an additional program; if applying to both Cambridge terms, you must provide a third alternative.

___ University of Cambridge - Michaelmas
___ University of Chicago
___ Technical University of Denmark (DTU)
___ University of Edinburgh
___ University of Cambridge - Lent
___ University College London (UCL)
___ École Polytechnique (EPT)
___ University of Melbourne

Applicant Information

1. Full name: Preferred name:
2. Pronouns (optional):
3. Caltech email address:
4. Caltech UID:
5. Citizenship: ☐ US ☐ Permanent Resident ☐ International Student/country of citizenship:
6. Cumulative GPA: Past GPA: *Spring* *Fall*
7. Option:
   Second Option, if applicable:
   Minor, if applicable:
8. Are you a: ☐ Transfer Student ☐ 3/2 Student Year entered Caltech
   Previous university:
   Transcripts from previous university must be provided as well, unofficial acceptable.
9. List the academic department (tripos, subject, PA, faculty, ect.) in which you would be enrolled for each program based on your selections above:

Cambridge		UChicago	
UCL		DTU	
EPT		Edinburgh	
Melbourne			

1

Personal Essay Directions:

#2

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. Students selected to study abroad will have their statement reviewed by the CEPSA Committee and host university faculty.

This perosnal essay should be about one page, single spaced, and 12 point font.

Program fit essay and proposed course list: #3

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 (1/2 a page) and proposed course list for each program you wish to apply to. (Cambridge, UCL and EPT have limited spots and you will need to apply to a back up program)
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 and website 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
Tripos
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

#4

- Unoffical Transcript
- Must have 2026 Fall grades
- Students are advised to clear up any extenstions by your interview date in Febuary
- Please write in your peronsal essay any grade issues reflecting challenges or sturggles.

Reference Form:

Caltech Study Abroad & Away Reference Form

Caltech

Please return by January 25, 2025

Send completed reference form to SAreferences@caltech.edu.

This section to be completed by student.

Reference writer's name:

Applicant Name: **Option:**

Exchange Location(s), check all that apply:

- ☐ University of Cambridge (Michaelmas/Fall)
- ☐ University College London (UCL) University of Edinburgh
- ☐ University of Melbourne
- ☐ University of Cambridge (Lent/Winter)
- ☐ University of Chicago
- ☐ École Polytechnique (EPT)
- ☐ Technical University of Denmark (DTU)

Applicant's signature:

This section to be completed by recommender

Information for reference writer:

This reference will be helpful in evaluating the applicant's qualifications for participating in one of Caltech's official study abroad or study away programs. Please reference the applicant's academic and personal qualifications as well as character. This recommendation may also be forwarded to the university abroad if the student is accepted into the Caltech study abroad & away program. Please complete all portions of the form as requested. Students selected to attend a term at Cambridge will need a full reference letter on letterhead for admission, at a later date.

Students with incomplete evaluations cannot be considered for placement at an exchange university. Please use the text boxes below to complete this form. An additional blank page at the end is provided for text that will not fit in the boxes below.

1. How long have you known the applicant? _____ And in what capacity? _____

2. How does the applicant compare to other undergraduate students you have taught and/or supervised?

Please address the following:	Exceptional	Good	Average	Below average	Have not observed
Mastery of basic knowledge in student's option	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Familiarity with and ability to use laboratory techniques	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ability to express self (oral and written communication)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Potential for future grown in science and engineering	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Ability to work independently with follow-through	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Adaptability to new situations and reliability	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

3. Below please write a reference letter on the student's qualifications, both personal and academic, for study abroad:

4. Based on my knowledge of this applicant, I am willing to give my:
   ☐ Full endorsement ☐ Qualified endorsement

Name (please print/type): Department/Option:

☐ Caltech STEM faculty ☐ Non-STEM faculty ☐ Other, specify:

Title: University (if not Caltech):

Signature: Date:

Please email this completed form to SAreference@caltech.edu.

Please use the next page to continue any responses from the previous pages that did not fit in the provided text box.

#5

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.

Post-application timeline:

Jan 25, 2027

After your application has been submitted you will recevie an email to sign up for your interview time

February
All candidates with completed applications will be interviewed by the FASA office

Early March
Caltech CEPSA committee convenes to determine study abroad placements

Mid-March
All applicants will be notified via email. You are required to either accept or decline the nomination

March - May
Nominees apply to schools for admission as an exchange student and apply for Visa if applicable

Mandatory location-specific orientations, Course Credit Agreements, MOU, and FA meetings held.

June - September
Student roundtrip flight information due to FASA office, food money sent out, course list finalized, study abroad programs start

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, UCL or EPT 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 10 positions
- Ecole Poly Techniquie - TBD positions
- University of Edinburgh - up to 20 positions
- University College London - up to 7 positions
- University of Melbourne has no limit

MINIUM REQUIRED GPA

- **Cambridge** - 3.6 overall, 3.7 in option
- **University College London** - 3.3 overall,
- **University of Edinburgh** - 3.0 overall
- **Danish Technical University** - 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.

- please check the handout and the UCL website for your options requirements.

**__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
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, we are here to support you!
3. Please review program specific handouts to ensure that you fully understand each programs requirements - These are located on our webiste
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 then their normal Caltech fees

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

Pleases finish your application for financial aid on time!

Next Meeting

Course Choice Meeting - November 9th at 12pm

Cookies and Questions @ Red Door:

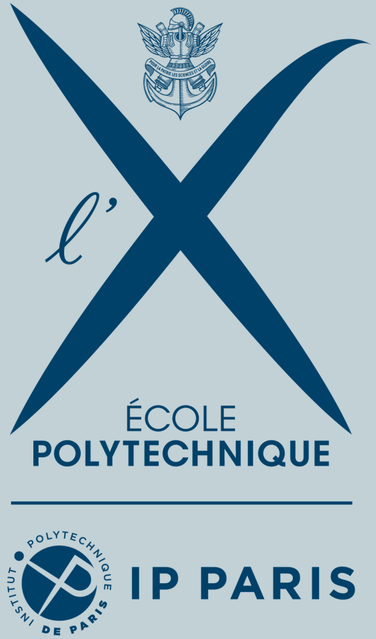
11/5 @11:30am
11/10 @10am
11/12 @1pm
11/16 @11am
11/18 @10am
12/1 @11:30am
12/2 @2pm
12/9 @11:30am

Questions?


DTU


THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
cres cat sci entia
Vita exco latur
1890


THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH


ÉCOLE
POLYTECHNIQUE
IP PARIS


UCL




POSTERA CRESCAM LAUDE
THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE