



Individuals & Societies Study Abroad



Why study abroad?

Studying abroad expands your understanding of the world and helps you develop usable skills, such as adaptability and intercultural communication, that are in high demand by employers and graduate programs.



Kelsey Bolinger, Norway, 2014

Can I afford it?

Absolutely! Program fees vary greatly depending on the program, but with good planning an affordable study abroad experience is possible. Most types of financial aid can be applied to UW-approved programs, and there is a list of scholarships available to students studying abroad on our website. Be sure to plan ahead! Make an appointment with us and we can help you start your scholarship search, both Study Abroad Advising and the UWB Writing and Communication Center can help polish up application essays.

What kinds of programs are there?

With over 500 programs approved for UW students you are bound to find something that fits your needs.

UW Faculty-Led Programs:

- Short-term (2 weeks)
- Early Fall Exploration Seminars (3-4 weeks)
- Summer Term A or B (4-5 weeks)
- Quarter-long

Partner Programs: Summer or semester programs organized by non-UW organizations

University Exchanges: Semester / year long programs at UW partnering universities

Internships: Quarter long professional placements through IE3, Omprakash, CIEE, IES, etc.



"I see how lively and friendly the people are. From the taxi drivers to the cashiers to the street vendors to the people at the beaches. I have experienced the genuine hospitality that my host family has provided for me."

Esther Ndungu, Brazil, 2017

When can I study abroad?

You can study abroad any time during your college career and we have programs ranging from a couple weeks to a full year, all of which guarantee UW credits. We encourage students to consider studying abroad early in their college career so the opportunity is available to study abroad again if they desire. There may be more flexibility in course scheduling during a student's first couple of years while they complete the general area of knowledge requirements. It is important to meet with your academic advisor to make sure your study abroad credits will fit well with your academic schedule. If you love it the first time, you may want to consider an IE3 internship.

Do I need to know a foreign language?

Not necessarily. While many exchanges and partner programs may have a foreign language requirement, there are plenty of programs primarily in English. Study abroad does provide a fantastic chance to start learning a new language as you will practice the native language when speaking with locals. A lot of programs also incorporate introductory language lessons into their curriculum.



Helen Kapitonenko, Sahara Desert, 2016

How do I start?

Explore! Follow the link at the bottom of this page to review the tips and resources, search for programs, or set up an appointment to meet with a Study Abroad Advisor. Questions to consider when looking for a program:

What do I want to study?
How long do I want to go?
Do I prefer to go with a UW group or have an independent experience?
What degree requirements can study abroad fulfill?

Individuals & Societies* Programs of Interest

Please note that the programs listed are just a sample of what the UW offers

*All UW Faculty-led programs listed below fulfill the I&S credit requirement for UW degrees.

Weaving Stories - Fabric and Feminism in South India

[UW Faculty-Led Program](#) | [Summer A-Term](#) | [India](#)

To better understand how social change takes place, this program explores the weaving arts as an entry point and lens. Students will study the art of how sarees, carpets, clothing, and handicrafts are made, opening their eyes to a discussion about who makes them, how the chain of production has changed over the decades, and what globalization has meant to the people who work in these industries.

Americans in Europe: Exile & Belonging

[UWB Faculty-Led Program](#) | [Summer B-Term](#) | [Europe](#)

Following in the footsteps of artists, revolutionaries, exiles, and travelers before us, this program will take students from Madrid to León to Paris in an exploration of transnational cultural exchange, migration, and belonging. Our focus on the politics of travel and study abroad, the Spanish Civil War, and Black cultural production in Paris will allow us to situate ourselves as embodied travelers, thinkers, and cultural producers alongside the writers and artists we study.

Sexual Politics, Culture & Justice in Norway

[UW Faculty-Led Program](#) | [Early Fall](#) | [Norway](#)

Frequently lauded as one of the happiest, healthiest, and most gender equitable places in the world, students will explore the ways that sexual politics, feminist thought, and movements for social justice shape contemporary Norwegian institutions, culture, and daily life. Overall, students will gain a deeper sense of how Norwegian (vs. American) cultural and ideological positions produce different logics of sexuality, the body, rights, citizenship, personhood, and social & global responsibility.

Disability, Ageing and Development in Jamaica

[UW Faculty-Led Program](#) | [Early Fall](#) | [Jamaica](#)

Exploring the lived experiences of persons with disabilities and older persons in Jamaica, this program is journey across the island. Students examine what it means to be "left behind" in the context of a developing country. Students will directly learn from these disadvantaged groups by coming together, advocating for their rights, and addressing the problems that they face.

Urban Studies South Africa: Racism, Education and Development

[UW Faculty-Led Program](#) | [Early Fall](#) | [South Africa](#)

Racism, Education, and Development in South Africa examines the role of education and community development within drastically unequal communities. Students will work in teams at township-based schools and Community-Based organizations, gaining an understanding of the complexity of racism, the lack of basic resources and infrastructure, the impacts of violence and trauma, and the power of hope and healing.

CIEE Arts + Sciences, United Arab Emirates

[Partner Program](#) | [Customizable Terms](#) | [Sharjah, UAE](#)

Named "the capitol of Islamic Culture" for its efforts to preserve and promote culture, Sharjah is a great place to explore how tradition and modern life converge. Develop your Arabic language skills with courses taught in English at CIEE's partner school, American University of Sharjah (AUS), across an array of subjects, including communications, literature, history, philosophy and more.

CIEE: Russian Area Studies

[Partner Program](#) | [Customizable Terms](#) | [Russia](#)

Learn the Russian language while exploring Russian Culture with this CIEE program in St. Petersburg, Russia! Select coursework across a range of academic areas, in English, while integrating yourself into the local community through volunteer work, or an "alternative" break. All courses are complemented with CIEE co-curricular activities and excursions beyond the city to enhance classroom learning and provide intercultural understanding.

Hokkaido University

[Exchange](#) | [Customizable Terms](#) | [Japan](#)

Hokkaido University is one of the top universities in Japan. Established in 1876, it follows the philosophies of "Frontier Spirit," "Global Perspectives," "All-round Education," and "Practical Learning." Sapporo is the birth place of miso ramen and home to historical sites such as the Miaynomori Art Museum and the Hokkaido Shrine, making this university an ideal place to immerse yourself in Japanese culture and student life.

SIT: Migration, Borders, and Transnational Communities

[Partner Program](#) | [Customizable Terms](#) | [Mexico](#)

Discover the contemporary realities of international undocumented migration and border enforcement and their immense human impact and political and social tension in the context of Mexico, Central America, and the United States. Learn about the factors that lead to undocumented migration, while seeing firsthand the difference of US and Mexican borders.

Contact us:

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