First Year and Pre-Major 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.

“I have come to have a new appreciation and kindness to people. This month has brought me to a place that allows me to open up easier then I ever have before. Not only have I been able to identify the better ways in which I can interact with people more, but the way to better present yourself to the world.”

-Kelsey Bolinger, 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 the programs offered through the UW, 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 200 programs offered by UW you are bound to find something that fits your needs. There are four types of programs offered:

**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

**Affiliated Programs:** Semester long programs organized by other groups or companies

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

**Internships Abroad:** Quarter long professional placements through IE3

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 affiliated 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.

Trang Tran, 2015, Rome, Italy

How do I get started?
Explore! The link at the bottom of this page will take you to the UWB study abroad home page, and from there you can look at the tips and resources on the website, search for programs, or set up an appointment to meet with a Study Abroad Advisor. Things to consider when looking for a program: What do I want to study? How long do I want to go? Where do I want to go?

“...I am what I am because of who we all are”. I find this aspect of South African culture very refreshing, and have immensely appreciated and enjoyed the selfless hospitality I have received since coming here.”

- Steven Kay, 2015
First Year and Pre-Major Programs of Interest

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

Scientific Explorations of Art and Architecture in France
A unique 6-credit study abroad program, based in Paris, France geared towards students with an interest in a novel exploration of art and architecture through a conceptual physics lens. This course welcomes students from all disciplines and levels to apply.

Summer Term A, France

When In Rome: Interdisciplinary Studio Art and Italian Culture
A 12-credit interdisciplinary studio art and Italian culture and cuisine program based in Rome, open to all majors, for all levels of art experience (including intro level), and no prior language requirement.

Summer Term A, Italy

Public Health England: Dark Empire - Race, Health and Society in Britain
Dark Empire is a four week Exploration Seminar based at the University of Greenwich, in Southeast London, England. We explore historical and contemporary factors that are responsible for the presence and well-being (health) of Black and other racial and ethnic minorities in Britain, with implications for diversity in America and the rest of the world.

Early Fall Exploration Seminar, London

Andes to Amazon: Biodiversity, Conservation and Sustainability
A 5-credit ecological exploration from the high mountains to the rainforest of southeastern Peru. In this seminar, we will explore the fascinating diversity of organisms and ecosystems of this region, while studying the conservation challenges confronting it.

Early Fall Exploration Seminar, Peru

Lessons From the Japanese Experience with Nuclear Power
An early fall course based in both UW Bothell as well as Japan. Students will explore lessons learned from the Japanese experience with nuclear power. This course also incorporates the cultural and social implications of nuclear power in Japan, as well as in the Pacific Northwest.

Early Fall Exploration Seminar, Japan

CHID Amsterdam: Visualizing the Invisible: Design and Creative Culture in the Netherlands
Following the Dutch model, our study in Amsterdam engages with design at multiple levels. Working with local artists and designers, students will visit galleries, studios and museums; they will study the history and witness the contexts, materials, concepts, and applications of Dutch urban design.

Summer Quarter, Amsterdam

CHID Prague: Discovering Central Europe
The Prague Program, which is the oldest CHID study abroad program at UW (since 1996), is all about immersing oneself in Prague and the other great Central European cities – Vienna, Krakow, Budapest, and Berlin, where students will go on 4-day trips each – in order to develop a complex understanding of the dynamic historical, cultural and political life of Central Europe as a whole.

UW Program Spring Quarter, Czech Republic

Business India - "Half the Sky": Women, Leadership and Social Entrepreneurship
This program will immerse students in the Subcontinent’s vibrant culture and entrepreneurial spirit as we visit with the new kinds of leaders who have found ways to bring prosperity to a country where most people live in poverty and -rooted customs and practices can block social change.

Early Fall Exploration Seminar, India

iSchool Denmark - Information Literacies & Instructional Design (Exploration Seminar)
The program will be held in collaboration with the Royal School of Library and Information Science (RSLIS) in Copenhagen, the capital and cultural center of Denmark. RSLIS has strengths in specific areas of information literacy research - such as the use of persuasive design, physical architecture, cultural contexts of information use and systems, and multimedia literacies - that complement the work we do at the iSchool

Early Fall Exploration Seminar, Denmark

SIT Study Abroad Jordan: Modernization and Social Change
Jordan has made enormous strides in healthcare, literacy, and democratic and economic reform. However, it remains challenged by a lack of natural resources, environmental concerns, economic and social issues, and the impact of Palestinian immigrants and refugees. Examine crucial issues in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, a moderate Arab state grappling with political responsibility, social change, modernization, the effects of the Arab Spring, and regional conflicts.

Affiliated Program, Semester, Jordan

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