



Study Abroad in International Politics

Many study abroad programs are open to you. All students in the major of International Politics are encouraged to study abroad. Today's graduates will live and work in a world that is more culturally and globally challenging.



Education Abroad



"As an international politics major, studying abroad was one of the best opportunities I could have taken in college. Not only are you able to fulfill major and general education requirements with the courses you take abroad, but you also gain a wealth of cultural, linguistic, and political knowledge in the country and region in which you study."

**Melinda Kuritzky,
International Politics Major**

Study abroad can help you:

- Expand your career opportunities; prepare for an increasingly diverse and international work-place
- Develop an international perspective
- Develop in-depth knowledge about another country
- Fulfill your degree and major requirements while learning about another culture
- Enhance your critical thinking skills
- Broaden your academic horizons
- Globalize your world view
- Improve your language skills

By its nature, International Politics takes place in a cultural context. There is much to be gained from understanding the history and traditions of cultures outside your own. Studying abroad is an exciting way to begin to discover new approaches and build your professional skills.

Set goals and plan for results

As an International Politics student, you can study abroad at any time during your four years here at Penn State. The process of selecting a study abroad program is similar to selecting your major or minor.

- Begin your planning right away. It is never too early to start planning.
- Set some goals. There is not one program best suited for International Politics students. There are many good study abroad programs, and the best one for you depends on what you want.
- Prioritize your goals. Consider your long-term academic and professional goals, as well as your on-campus degree requirements.
- Consider short-term and long-term programs.
- Prepare academically. You may need to take language or other prerequisite courses for your chosen program.
- Give yourself time to research and talk to advisers and students who have studied abroad.

Can I afford to Study Abroad?

YES! Early planning for study abroad helps you make cost-effective program decisions, and it also helps you prepare your finances through savings, scholarships, and financial aid. You may apply most financial aid that you have at Penn State to your study abroad program.

Penn State offers scholarships for study abroad, and the College of the Liberal Arts has enrichment funds that can be applied to study abroad. Furthermore, scholarships for particular geographical areas or particular groups of students are available. The Education Abroad office provides resources on financial aid. See also the list of scholarships posted on the Education Abroad Web site.



What are my next steps?

Attend a session of Study Abroad 101, on the first Wednesday of every month from 4:30 to 5:15 p.m. in 410 Boucke Building. Or meet with or e-mail a Peer Adviser in 412 Boucke Building, Monday–Friday, 10:00–4:00 p.m.

Investigate programs by browsing the Education Abroad Web site, by attending information sessions on specific subjects or geographical areas, or by looking at the catalogs available in the Education Abroad Resource Room (412 Boucke). Find a program that fits your goals.

Discuss studying abroad with your academic adviser to determine which kinds of courses would best fit with your academic program. If courses taken abroad are to be used to fulfill major or minor requirements, get approval from the academic adviser in that subject. A list of courses previously taken by Penn State students can be consulted on the Education Abroad Web site. You will receive Penn State credit for any course successfully completed on a Penn State approved program.



Academic Considerations for International Politics Students

Seek Cultural Immersion

- Look for programs that offer significant cultural integration. Deep involvement in the host culture leads to personal growth and instills cross-cultural skills.
- You are encouraged to consider programs that get you into classes with host-country students at a host university and programs that get you out of the classroom and into the community.
- Seek a program that houses you with a family or host-country roommate, or look for systematic experiences outside the classroom such as internships, service-learning, or research opportunities, or the option to take some courses in a host-country university.



Fulfill General Education and Bachelor of Arts requirements

- Plan early to apply study abroad credits to the University's General Education and Bachelor of Arts requirements. Decide early which requirements you want to satisfy through courses taken abroad so you don't fulfill them on campus.
- You may want to take a course on the history or literature of the country where you study (such a course might satisfy a humanities requirement), or its arts (which might satisfy an arts requirement), or its society or economy (which might satisfy a social and behavioral requirement). Unless you have particular strengths or interests in math and science, you should plan to take those Gen Ed requirements at Penn State, because it is sometimes difficult to judge the level at which courses in those areas are offered abroad.
- Study abroad will automatically fulfill the International Cultures (IL) requirement. Studying abroad will NOT fulfill the B.A. Other Cultures requirement, unless you take a course abroad that fits the definition of that requirement. Generally, that means that the course must deal with some aspect of a culture other than those of Europe and North America.
- Consult the Web site of courses previously taken by Penn State students:

www.international.psu.edu/ea/course_accredit_list.htm

Develop or improve second language skills

- Beginning or intermediate level students: consider a program where you can study a language and be surrounded by it. You might be able to fulfill your BA language requirement while abroad.
- Students with advanced language skills: consider a program taught in the language.
- Plan your language course sequence carefully or you may find yourself out of sequence upon return to Penn State. French, German, Italian, Latin, and Spanish are the only languages at Penn State which offer each of the first three courses both Fall and Spring Semester. For all others, only the first and third courses are offered Fall Semester and the second in the Spring.



Expand your career opportunities

- Consider a program with an internship opportunity
- Students can earn three credits towards their major
- An education abroad internship can greatly impact both your academic and career paths.

Fulfill Major Requirements Abroad

- Think about possible Political Science courses in either in **Comparative or International Relations**. Also think about advanced Languages beyond the 12th credit level that can be used for supporting courses in the International Politics Major.
- Depending on the study abroad program you select, you can receive credit for your European History course, Comparative Politics, Geography of International Affairs, International Relations Theory, and American Foreign Policy. In addition, any course with a description of Comparative politics and International relations courses can be used in the supporting courses in your major requirements.

NOW FOR THE FUN PART

Were do you want to study abroad? The rest of these pages will highlight some of the programs and universities that fit well for an International Politics Major. They are meant to be examples and a starting point; do not confine your search to this list. Feel free to explore the opportunity of any abroad program that may be of interest to you.



Departmental-Sponsored Program

Maastricht

Summer Program

- All six credits can be used in your major requirements.
- This program is an in-depth exploration of the process of European integration.
- The stops on last year's study tour included Amsterdam, Frankfurt, Strasbourg, Paris, and Brussels.
- You will be immersed in the subject matter through readings, lectures, and class discussions.
- You will also explore contemporary issues such as the eastward expansion of the EU and the question of European identity.

<http://www.outreach.psu.edu/summerabroad/getlocation.asp?country=Netherlands&ID=13>



Lille

SPRING SEMESTER EXCHANGE PROGRAM

- Spend the spring semester at the Institute of Political Studies (Science PO) in Lille, France.
- Science PO offers an extensive curriculum in a prestigious institution in a large French city.
- Broad range of political science, economics, and history courses in French and a small number of courses offered in English.
- Located in the heart of northwest Europe, less than two hours from Paris, Brussels, and London, convenient to the Benelux countries and Germany.



United Kingdom

CANTERBURY THE UNIVERSITY OF KENT EA-EXCHANGE

- Academic staff includes several internationally renowned experts who have helped shape the discipline and younger colleagues whose academic reputation is rapidly rising.
- A fast-growing department covering a broad spectrum of the field of Politics and International Relations.
- Draws on a rich portfolio of courses blending rigorous scholarship and relevance to the challenges of today's increasingly complex world.
- A typical course (called a module) at the University of Kent earns 15 credits which is equivalent to 4 Penn State credits. Students should plan carefully for the number of credits they will earn on this program when selecting courses.

<http://www.kent.ac.uk/politics/>

Argentina

Buenos Aires

- The Beginning Spanish Program is designed for students with less than 4 semester of college-level Spanish. A 9-credit block of language courses balances reading, writing, listening, and grammar skills. The Intermediate Spanish program is designed for students with 4-5 semesters of college-level Spanish. A 9-credit block of language courses balances reading, writing, listening and grammar skills. Students select area studies courses taught in Spanish and courses at select Argentine partner universities. The Advanced Spanish Program is designed for students who have completed 6 semesters of college-level Spanish.
- This program offers courses at the IES Center and direct enrollment options in five of Argentina's major universities. There are a wide variety of courses available, as follows: University of Buenos Aires: anthropology, history, literature, philosophy, (advanced only) architecture, design; Universidad del Museo Social Argentino: business, economics, education, journalism, law, psychology, studio arts; Universidad Torcuato di Tell Honors Program: business, economics, government/political science, history, international relations, and law.



http://www.international.psu.edu/students_study_abroad/programs_iesbuenosaires.htm

Senegal

Dakar (AESOP-MINNESOTA)

- The program aims to put students in direct contact with the social and economic realities of actual African communities and of people working within them to address complex problems.
- The MSID curriculum explores the theoretical and practical implications of international development and intercultural issues. Field experience is an integral part of all courses.
- Senegal has long been seen as a crossroads where black African, Islamic, and European civilizations have met, clashed, and blended.
- Through classes, field trips, internships, and research, MSID strives to establish a continual dialogue linking experience with theory and critical analysis.

<http://www.umabroad.umn.edu/programs/AFRICA/msidSenegal/about.shtml>

Turkey

Ankara (CIEE)

- Live and study in a country that is a synthesis of “East” and “West”—rich in history and tradition and at the same time undergoing rapid social transformation.
- Intensive Turkish language courses, including elementary, intermediate, and advanced Turkish—a language that is spoken in some form from Western China to the Balkans.
- Community involvement through internships or volunteer work and excursions to Cappadocia, Konya, and other parts of Turkey.
- Elective course on Contemporary Islam for CIEE students which includes visits to religious sites and ceremonies.

http://ciee.org/program_search/program_detail.aspx?program_id=133&type=part



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This publication is available in alternative media on request.

Penn State is committed to affirmative action, equal opportunity, and the diversity of its workforce.

03/07
U.Ed. LBA 07-201

<http://www.international.psu.edu/>