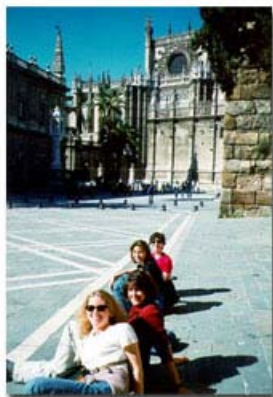




# Study Abroad in Political Science

*Many study abroad programs are open to you. All students in Political Science are encouraged to study abroad. Today's graduates will live and work in a world that is more culturally and globally challenging.*



"Studying Abroad was quite possibly the most exciting, depressing, exhilarating, and jubilant times of my life. As a political science major and French minor, I took courses in French constitutional law and language, and these experiences allowed me to develop my language skills and learn about the law in another country. Nothing in the world is quite like study abroad and in my lifetime, it is truly one experience that I will never forget."

Mark Bunbury Jr  
Political Science  
Fall 2005-  
Montpellier, France

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

## Study abroad can help you:

- Understand the field of Political Science from an international perspective
- Expand your cross-cultural communication and problem-solving skills
- Prepare you to work in an increasingly diverse and international workplace
- Find courses on topics not available at Penn State
- Broaden your academic horizons
- Globalize your world view
- Improve your language skills

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

## Set goals and plan for results

As a Political Science student you can study abroad at any time during your four years. 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 Political Science 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.

With proper planning study abroad can help you prepare for your professional life in today's global context.

## 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 Political Science 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](http://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 University. 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

- In the Political Science Major, you have 12 credits in the below 400 level, 15 credits in above 400 level courses, and nine credits in the related area.
- In your nine credit related area, you can use courses such as HIST 499, GEOG 399, ECON 399, SOC 499, and ANTH 399. This will give you a diverse collection of courses while you are abroad.
- The courses abroad can be any of the four areas: American, Comparative, International Relations, and Theory/Methodology. Study Abroad courses cannot be used to fulfill the distribution.

## NOW FOR THE FUN PART

Where do you want to study abroad? The rest of these pages will highlight some of the programs and universities that fit well for a Political Science 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>

## 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.



## South Africa

### CAPE TOWN

- This program is appropriate for students from all academic disciplines who have a strong interest in learning about contemporary South African life and society and the forces that have created that society.
- Opportunity to live and interact with and study alongside African students in a society in transition
- Community service and involvement through Ocean View homestay, CIEE and UCT community service programs, and independent study opportunities
- Cape Town provides students with a range of academic and intellectual experiences that enable them to reflect upon the complexities and challenges facing the new South Africa.

[http://ciee.org/program\\_search/program\\_detail.aspx?program\\_id=134](http://ciee.org/program_search/program_detail.aspx?program_id=134)

## Hungary

### BUDAPEST/CIEE

- The program is intended for students who have an interest in Hungary and Central Europe, as well as political, social, and/or economic transformation from state control to democratic market-based systems.
- This program is very suitable for a student who would like to do volunteer work or an internship.
- Experience a country adjusting to new alliances: NATO and the European Union
- Field trips and cultural activities, including a 4-day study tour of Transylvania

[http://ciee.org/program\\_search/program\\_detail.aspx?program\\_id=64](http://ciee.org/program_search/program_detail.aspx?program_id=64)

## Australia

### CANBERRA EA-EXCHANGE

- The Political Science program at the Australian National University reflects the broad base of the discipline by offering a large number of courses that span the major sub-fields within the discipline.
- As the national capital, Canberra provides an international atmosphere and allows students to observe Australian politics at close hand. Internships are also available on this program.
- Teaching of courses offered by the Political Science program is usually done through a combination of lectures and tutorials.

[http://info.anu.edu.au/StudyAt/010PP\\_Undergraduate/\\_AOI\\_Political\\_Sciences.asp](http://info.anu.edu.au/StudyAt/010PP_Undergraduate/_AOI_Political_Sciences.asp)

# Spain

## **Salamanca**

- Field trips are among the most exciting and distinctive parts of the Salamanca Program. Recent destinations have included Ciudad Rodrigo, Segovia, Madrid, and El Escorial.
- Penn State students on the intermediate track can fulfill most of the requirements for a minor in Spanish.
- Penn State students on the advanced track must enroll in a minimum of 15 credit hours per semester. At least one course must be a university course in which you will study alongside Spanish students at the University of Salamanca.

<http://www.iesabroad.org/salamanca.do>

# Ireland

## **Dublin / IES**

- Dublin preserves its history, evident in its architecture and in its political, religious, and social institutions.
- The city plays many roles for Ireland, as the Republic's political capital, the home of past and present writers of international stature, and the center of the island's phenomenal economic growth.
- IES Dublin offers a range of courses in the fields of anthropology, business, economics, history, literature, political science, sociology, and theater.
- The study of history and culture, particularly of rural Ireland, is balanced by the analysis of recent rapid economic growth and development, a flourishing Irish literary scene, dramatically changing roles for women, and the politics of post-colonialism.

<http://www.iesabroad.org/dublin.do>



## **For Further Information:**

Ms. Mary Cameron, Undergraduate Adviser, 202 Pond Lab, [marycameron@psu.edu](mailto:marycameron@psu.edu)

Dr. Michael Bernhard, Study Abroad Coordinator, Associate Professor, 211 Pond Lab, [mhb5@psu.edu](mailto:mhb5@psu.edu)

**This publication is available in alternative media on request.**

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

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