

Study Abroad in Environmental Systems

Environmental Systems Program • Galbraith Hall • Room 188 • <http://sioundergrad.ucsd.edu/>

Programs Abroad Office • International Center • Second Floor • <http://pao.ucsd.edu/>



"I believe that living/studying abroad helped me find my job with a European renewable energy company in California. I think it demonstrated an interest and knowledge of international affairs, and the ability to relate to people from different countries. Regardless of the professional impact, the impact it has made on my world outlook is profound." –UCSD alumni

What are my First Steps?

- Attend a First Steps session
- Research the program that is right for you
- Meet with a Programs Abroad advisor
- Search for courses you can take abroad that may fulfill major/minor/GE requirements to add to your Academic Planning Form
- Meet with your major/minor advisor
- Meet with your college advisor

88% of ESYS students who took courses in their major abroad received or are in the process of receiving major credit.

Science and Math Majors' Who Studied Abroad Four-Year Graduation Rate

• 71%

Science and Math Majors' Who Did Not Study Abroad Four-Year Graduation Rate

• 57%

Picture yourself here! You're talking on the phone with your friend back in the U.S. She frantically says. "Oh my gosh! You **HAVE** to go zip-lining! And horseback riding though the Monteverde Cloud Forest, and visit the bat jungle! Don't forget the butterfly garden! Did you know that there are 26 species of frogs in the forest?! –oh and the **CHEESE** shop..."

You interrupt your friend, "Hold on, I do do that –almost on a daily basis, the Monteverde Cloud Forest Biological Reserve is my backyard."

Studying at the Monteverde Institute in Costa Rica so far has been a daily adventure. As a class, you and your professor have gone on numerous field trips out in the reserve to conduct your very own research. In a group project, you have the ability to document natural phenomena in the tropical environment itself and see it firsthand.

From the warm family atmosphere (and delicious *Olla de carne* beef stew) you receive at your homestay from your Costa Rican "mom and brother" to the reserve's beautiful and lush landscape, it's pretty easy to call this your "second" home.

Why Study Abroad?

Regardless of your future career choice, studying abroad will help you develop skills that are critical to a liberal arts education. Consider your value to an employer or a graduate program if you've:

- Participated in a different educational system
- Increased your proficiency in another language
- Improved your critical thinking skills
- Expanded your worldview by experiencing another culture firsthand
- Developed self-confidence and independence
- Prepared for a career in an internationally competitive world
- Enhanced resumes and/or applications for graduate school

Some highlighted programs...for more options in ESYS, see pao.ucsd.edu



SEA Semester

Topic: Environmental Systems
Program: OAP at Sea Semester
Date: Fall/Spring Semester
Info: sea.edu



Costa Rica

Topic: Tropical Biology & Conservation
Program: EAP at Monteverde Institute
Date: Fall/Spring
Info: eap.ucop.edu



Field Studies

Topic: Exotic Ecosystems, Ecology, Field Research
Country Programs: OAP in Kenya & Tanzania, Mexico, Costa Rica, Australia, Turks & Caicos
Date: Semester, Summer
Info: fieldstudies.org



Australia

Topic: Marine Biology and Terrestrial Ecology
Program: EAP at University of Queensland
Date: Fall/Spring
Info: eap.ucop.edu



How Much Does it Cost?

Study abroad may be more affordable than you think. The cost of studying abroad can be comparable to staying at UCSD and may even be less expensive.

Financial Aid

In almost all instances, students can use most or all of their financial aid packages for study abroad. Over half of UCSD's study abroad participants are financial aid recipients.

Scholarships

UCSD students were awarded about \$500,000 in study abroad scholarships last year. The Programs Abroad Office offers regular workshops to help students prepare a competitive scholarship essay.

Visit Our Website to Learn More:

<http://pao.ucsd.edu/pao/funding.htm>

What Happens When I Return?

The support of the Programs Abroad Office does not end when you return. We continue to help you with the process of getting credit for your classes and also provide opportunities to reflect on your time abroad and connect with other returnees and prospective students.

To Petition Courses for Major Credit

- Bring all course work from abroad to the ESYS advisor (notes, tests, quizzes, syllabi, etc.)
- Wait for courses taken abroad to post to your UCSD transcript
- Fill out an undergraduate student petition for each course you would like to satisfy a major requirement
- The ESYS faculty advisor will review courses for final approval

To Use What You've Learned Abroad:

<http://pao.ucsd.edu/pao/uponreturn.html>