

Study Abroad in Chemistry and Biochemistry

Department of Chemistry and
Biochemistry, UC San Diego
York Hall, Room #4010
<http://www-chem.ucsd.edu/>



Unique opportunities to study the chemical sciences for your major, minor or GEs are available at many host institutions worldwide through the University of California's Education Abroad Program (EAP), UCSD's Opportunities Abroad Program (OAP), or UC San Diego's new Global Seminars (GS). Every student in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry should consider an international educational experience through study abroad.

"Spending time in another culture can be an invaluable experience for students who may later work in the global chemical or pharmaceutical industry." Barbara Sawrey, Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry, UCSD

"My time studying in Costa Rica was amazing. Immersing yourself in a different culture forces you to see the world from a new viewpoint and challenges what you thought you knew about it. I learned a lot from the professors and my fellow students, but I learned as much outside the classroom as I did inside." --Chemistry Major, '03.

Why study abroad?

Regardless of your future career choice, study 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 and gained a new cultural perspective
- 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 résumés and/or applications for graduate school

What are my First Steps?

1. Attend a [First Steps](#) meeting at the International Center (call 534-1123)
2. Visit <http://programsabroad.ucsd.edu/> to find out more!
3. Start your research in the Programs Abroad Library
4. Meet with a Programs Abroad advisor
5. Complete your Academic Planning Form
6. Schedule a visit with Douglas Magde, (dmagde@ucsd.edu), the study abroad faculty advisor in Chem/Biochem.
7. Visit your college advising office

Requirements

Please see the advisor in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry for specific requirements regarding study abroad and your major.

What if I don't speak another language?

You will find that English is the language of instruction in the sciences at many top universities around the world. Additionally, you will find many programs available to you in English-speaking countries. The advisors in the Programs Abroad Office at UCSD can assist you in your search. Also, EAP has an Options in English page (http://eap.ucop.edu/prospective_participants/languages/) to help you in your research.



Students at Trafalgar Square, London

What classes should I take?

As with many things in life, careful planning is the key to success! The EAP [Course Catalog](https://myeap.eap.ucop.edu/Galileo/Service/CourseCatalog/CourseCatalog.aspx) (<https://myeap.eap.ucop.edu/Galileo/Service/CourseCatalog/CourseCatalog.aspx>) lets you search courses taken by UC students over the last 5 years. The department's undergraduate advisor will help you select courses that can meet major and minor requirements.

EAP/GS students automatically earn UC credit for the work they complete abroad. However, application of credit to major requirements is subject to the discretion of the department. OAP students earn transfer credit for the work they complete abroad, and application of credit to major requirements is also subject to the discretion of the department.

Classes continued

In addition to EAP and OAP, UC San Diego has **Global Seminars** in various countries throughout the world every summer. Each Global Seminar consists of two courses taught by a UCSD professor. You are required to take both classes for a letter grade. These courses transfer automatically to your UCSD transcript as though you took these courses on campus over the summer.

When should I study abroad?

While it is possible for Chemistry and Biochemistry majors to go abroad at almost any point in their academic careers, the particular quarter, semester, summer or year that you study abroad depends on your individual progress in your major and what courses you plan to take while abroad. Because of the sequential nature of many of your required courses in the major, timing of your study abroad program will be critical if you plan to graduate in four years. Careful planning with your department advisors will insure you are aware of all of the opportunities available to you in fulfilling department requirements. Please refer to the web page for a link to a sample four year plan for the General Chemistry major including a full year abroad.

Where should I study abroad?

You will find coursework relevant to your major in Chemistry and Biochem at many EAP study centers. **Course Catalog** (<https://myeap.eap.ucop.edu/Galileo/Service/CourseCatalog/CourseCatalog.aspx>) can help you find programs that meet your needs.

Locations for Global Seminars vary every summer. For complete information on programs being offered for summer 2009, visit the GS website at icenter.ucsd.edu/pao/gshome.html.

If you can't find a program, university or country that suits your needs through EAP or a Global Seminar, try OAP! Two sites that will help you in your search are <http://www.goabroad.com/> and <http://www.study-abroad.com/>.

Here are just a few of the universities where Chemistry and Biochemistry majors have studied.

- Yonsei University, Seoul, Korea
- Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, School of Science
- University of Queensland, Australia
- University of Sussex, England
- University of Reading, England
- University of Waikato, New Zealand

What happens when I return?

Students must bring all coursework material from their abroad program to the Chemistry and Biochemistry advisor with a general petition for each course. The Faculty advisor of the program will review the petitions and make final approval on coursework. If courses are approved the information will be transferred to the appropriate colleges.

You are strongly encouraged to be in touch with your advisor in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry while you are abroad. You may email course descriptions and syllabi while at your host institution which can be reviewed here at UCSD so that you know what courses you'll receive credit for upon your return. This, too, will speed up your petitioning process when you get back to UCSD.

What will it cost?

Study on EAP/OAP/GS can be comparable to the cost of study at UC. In some cases, it is less. EAP participants pay UC fees and continue to receive UC financial aid while abroad. Furthermore, EAP students are eligible for special grants and scholarships from UC, the host country, and other sources.

OAP students may retain all or some of their funding while abroad, including special study abroad scholarships, but because of the variety of the programs found through OAP, costs for individual programs can vary greatly.

Check here for specific information about scholarships and financial aid: <http://programsabroad.ucsd.edu/pao/funding.htm>

"My three study abroad experiences have undoubtedly changed my life both personally and professionally. They have had the following impact: gave me the opportunity to become fluently bilingual, made me change my major, influenced my graduate studies, affected who I married, introduced me to lifelong friends, and helped me obtain my current job as well as subsequent promotions. In more abstract terms, my study abroad experiences have affected my entire being (personality, opinions, beliefs, desires)."

- UC San Diego alum



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