

Study Abroad in Environmental Systems

The Environmental Systems Program,
UC San Diego
Galbraith Hall, Room #188
<http://esys.ucsd.edu/>



There can be little doubt that in the twenty-first century the global human community is facing a substantial growth in the environmental consequences of providing food, energy, materials, and basic services to a population of more than six billion inhabitants. The Environmental Systems Program recognizes the growing demand for environmental specialists and is designed to prepare undergraduates to enter a broad spectrum of environmental careers and graduate programs in, for example, the natural sciences, the social sciences, public policy, law, and business. Study abroad can greatly enhance the knowledge of an Environmental Systems major by allowing access and opportunities for students to experience these issues the global community is facing firsthand. Environmental Systems students will find many programs to integrate themselves into one of the many different cultures and countries through the University of California's Education Abroad Program (EAP), UCSD's Opportunities Abroad Program (OAP), or UC San Diego's Global Seminars (GS).

"In addition to cultural, social and language enhancement, Environmental Systems majors who study abroad benefit from the opportunity to experience and learn in new natural environments. For example, our majors have explored biodiversity on the Great Barrier Reef, conducted tropical biology projects in the rain-forests of Costa Rica, and analyzed ecotourism projects in Ghana. In doing so, our students have greatly enriched their curriculum and gained important insight, skills and perspective in their major." Jane Teranes, Associate Director and Professor of Environmental Systems, UCSD

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
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 the Environmental Systems advisor cduncanson@ucsd.edu/ 858-534-8157 or Pam Buads extension 124604
7. Visit your college advising office

Requirements

Environmental Systems majors should plan to go abroad before they begin their senior internship/project. Please see the advisor in Environmental Systems for specific requirements regarding study abroad and your major.

NOTE: Seniors can study abroad in the Fall quarter if willing to finish Senior project in summer.



A research hike in Monteverde Cloud Forest Reserve, Costa Rica

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.

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](http://eap.ucop.edu/prospective_participants/languages/) page (http://eap.ucop.edu/prospective_participants/languages/) to help you in your research.

Classes continued

In addition to EAP and OAP, UC San Diego has **Global Seminars** (<http://pao.ucsd.edu/pao/GSHome.html>) in various countries throughout the world. 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?

ESYS majors have a wide variety of options and a lot of flexibility in planning their study abroad. Several of the elective courses in each track, and potentially some of the required courses, could be fulfilled while abroad. Students should plan to study abroad before beginning their senior internship/project. The senior internship/project requires sequential enrollment during fall, winter and spring quarters of senior year. As always, careful planning with your department advisor is recommended and will insure you are aware of all of the opportunities available to you in fulfilling department requirements.

Where should I study abroad?

You will find coursework relevant to your major in Env Systems 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 programs ESYS students have gone on or to:

- Semester at Sea
- Marine Biology and Terrestrial Ecology Program, University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia
- University of Ghana
- University of Tasmania, Environmental Science and Marine Biology Program, Hobart, Tasmania
- Tropical Biology and Conservation Programs, Monteverde, Costa Rica
- Sea Semester

What happens when I return?

Students must bring all coursework material from their abroad program to the Environmental Systems 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 ESYS 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.

Hint: If you took courses in another language while abroad, have your proficiency tested immediately upon return.

What will it cost?

Study on EAP/OAP 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://pao.ucsd.edu/pao/funding.htm>

"I believe that living/studying abroad helped me find a 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 other countries. Regardless of the professional impact though, the professional impact it has made on my outlook on the world and my own country has been profound."



UC San Diego