

Study Abroad in Ethnic Studies

Department of Ethnic Studies,
UC San Diego Social Sciences Building,
Room 201
<http://www.ethnicstudies.ucsd.edu/>



The Ethnic Studies major intensively examines the histories, languages, and cultures of America's racial and ethnic minority groups that combined created the U.S. a nation of nations. Studying abroad offers a rich perspective that allows one to look back at our country's groups in relationship to each other and particularly, in structural contexts of power. It helps to explore how other ethnic identities have been constructed in other countries and gives the student a different tool for drawing larger theoretical lessons from these comparisons. The Ethnic Studies department wholeheartedly encourages you to study abroad.

"Studying abroad is a life-changing experience. Students who return from study abroad say that it was by living outside the U.S. that they saw first-hand how other cultures constructed notions of race and ethnicity, and in turn, that allowed them to see things differently once they returned to UCSD." --Natalia Molina, Associate Professor, Department of Ethnic Studies, UCSD

"It was such a wonderful experience to go back to the town that I grew up in--Vitarte, Peru. I was able to walk and explore the streets in Peru on my own. I was able to hop on buses as I learned the communities. This was an experience that was so different from when my parents and I visited as a child." --Katherine Arias, Ethnic Studies Major, '07

Why study abroad?

Today's workplace requires you to be quick on your feet and highly adaptable. You will work for, and with, professionals from diverse backgrounds whose personal styles may be quite different from your own. Study Abroad is an outstanding way to build your skills, to see the world through another's eyes, and to demonstrate to employers that you are tested and ready to pursue the global workplace." --Andrew T. Ceperley, Director, Career Services Center, UCSD

Regardless of your future career choice, study abroad will help you develop skills that are critical to a liberal arts education. Former UCSD Ethnic Studies students are currently enrolled in graduate studies in such areas as public administration, political science and forced migration studies. They are in student affairs positions in higher education or working for nonprofit organizations around the world.

Consider your value to an employer or a graduate program if you've:

- Increased your understanding of the world and our society
- Improved your critical thinking and problem-solving skills
- Learned about your identity in a different historical and cultural context
- Increased your proficiency in another language
- Developed self-confidence and independence
- Prepared for a career in an internationally competitive world
- Enhanced résumés and/or applications for graduate school

When should I study abroad?

While it is possible for Ethnic Studies 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.

Considering the Honors program in Ethnic Studies? You may be able to do some great research while abroad that could apply to your Honors project when you return. Careful planning with your department advisor will insure you are aware of all of the opportunities available to you in fulfilling department requirements.



Local crafts sold by beach vendors, Barbados

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 and 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 are my first steps?

1. Attend a [First Steps](#) meeting at the International Center
2. Visit <http://programsabroad.ucsd.edu> to see what's in store!
3. Start your research in the Programs Abroad Library
4. Schedule a visit with the Ethnic Studies advisor (kwayne@ucsd.edu)
5. Meet with a Programs Abroad advisor
6. Complete your Academic Planning Form
7. Visit your college advising office

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.

What happens when I return?

Students must bring all coursework material from their abroad program to the Ethnic Studies 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.



Elmina, home to an old slave-trading fort, Ghana

Requirements

It is possible for you to transfer up to four upper-division courses for your Ethnic Studies major from abroad. Students are encouraged to take language courses, or to look to the Language, Ethnicity, and Institutional Discourse category for areas in which coursework from abroad may apply. Remember to gain a strong understanding of the type of material covered in your Ethnic Studies courses at UCSD so that you will know what is expected from the content of your courses abroad. It is crucial that any courses you are considering transferring from abroad, other than language courses, engage in some critical examination of American cultures or race.

Where should I study abroad?

You will find coursework relevant to your major in Ethnic Studies 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.

Another easy way to go abroad is by taking a [Global Seminar](#) for five weeks during the summer. For each GS, a UCSD professor teaches two courses in a city of their choice that allows them to incorporate excursions into their curriculum. The units transfer automatically to your transcript as if you took the courses on campus.

If you can't find a program, university or country that suits your needs through EAP or GS, try OAP! Two sites that will help you in your search are <http://www.goabroad.com/> and <http://www.studyabroad.com/>. Here are just a few of the universities where Ethnic Studies majors have studied:

- University of the West Indies, Barbados
- National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM)
- University of Guanajuato, Mexico
- University of Costa Rica
- University of Cordoba, Spain
- University of Barcelona, Spain
- Thammasat University, Bangkok, Thailand
- Vietnam National University, Hanoi, Vietnam
- University of Ghana
- Chinese University of Hong Kong

“My study abroad experience was likely the most valuable experience I pursued during my college years. It gave me the greatest cultural exposure and most rewarding form of education, and made me a more intentioned and passionate student when I returned. I'd also add that UCSD made getting credit for my OAP program very easy, and I was able to apply all my courses to my minors - the flexibility afforded by the International Center enabled me to study abroad in disciplines different from my major, and still graduate in four years.” - UC San Diego alum



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