

Study Abroad in Literature

Department of Literature,
UC San Diego
Literature Building, Room 3110
<http://literature.ucsd.edu/>



The Department of Literature strongly encourages you to study abroad. You will find programs in which to improve your language skills or integrate yourself into one of many different cultures and countries through the University of California's Education Abroad Program (EAP), UC San Diego's Opportunities Abroad Program (OAP), or UC San Diego's new Global Seminars.

"Students who study abroad show dramatic improvement in my Spanish classes when they return. Study abroad will change your life...and your grades!" --Misha Kokotovic, Professor of Spanish Literature

"There's nothing like traveling to broaden your mind. Studying in South Africa helped me to understand peoples and cultures like and unlike my own, and by understanding this it enabled me to understand myself--where I fit into the world politically, socially, and economically. In a time where increased globalization is met with equal misunderstanding, ignorance, and arrogance, it is not only beneficial to see yourself historically, but necessary." --Christine Kwon, Literatures in English Major, '06.

Why study abroad?

"I would say is that it is an eye opening experience, that it changes you and makes you a more open-minded person and a more critical thinker..." --Annette Venegas, Literatures in English Major, '06

Regardless of your future career choice, study abroad will help you develop skills that are critical to a liberal arts education. Study abroad can significantly enhance your major, particularly in ways in which it relates to international issues. The knowledge and firsthand experience of a different culture and secondary language provides Literature majors with a decided career advantage. Former UCSD Literature students are currently enrolled in graduate studies in such areas as literature theory, law, and public policy. They are teachers, doctors, working in higher education, or working for nonprofit organizations around the world.

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 an appointment with the section head of your particular literature track (contact information is available at <http://literature.ucsd.edu/sections.html>)
7. Visit your college advising office



A village in Transylvania, home to Bram Stoker's Dracula

Requirements

The Department of Literature allows students who take EAP/OAP/GS courses to use up to five upper-division courses to satisfy major requirements or a total of three toward a minor. For dual majors in literature, six courses from abroad may apply, with no more than four toward either one of the two concentrations.

What classes should I take?

The key to success is planning and pre-approval! The Literature Department's undergraduate advisor will help students select courses that can meet major and minor requirements. Be sure to take your completed Academic Planning Form with you to your meeting, as well as course descriptions of courses you would like to take. When selecting courses you are interested in, please make sure that they have a literature focus. You must take all courses towards your major and minor for a letter grade.

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. Additionally, you can find courses that have been previously approved for literature majors [here](#).

Classes continued

EAP students automatically earn UC credit for the work they complete abroad. 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.

In addition to EAP and OAP, UC San Diego has **Global Seminars (GS)** <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?

While it is possible for Literature students 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. Literature students are encouraged to study abroad before their senior year. Students are advised to take one to three upper division courses at UCSD before they leave. See Requirements section for more information.

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

What happens when I return?

Once your grades from abroad reflect on TritonLink you will pick up an Undergraduate Student Petition from the Literature Undergraduate Office. List all the courses you plan to receive credit for (up to 5 courses for your major or 3 for your minor) on one petition per section. List each course by transfer course number, the number of units received, and when and where you took the courses. Take your petition and all the work you've brought back with you (papers, syllabi, reading lists) to the faculty advisor for your section. The faculty advisor of the section will review the petition and make final approval on the coursework. Once approved, bring your signed petition to the Literature Undergraduate Office to have it approved by the Director of Undergraduate Studies. Your petition will then be forwarded on to your college.

Where should I study abroad?

"It may sound awfully cliché, but if you're a writer, studying and living in Paris pretty much guarantees unlimited inspiration. But I imagine that this will be the case studying abroad in any big city, and faced with a new situation." Gaelle Faure, Literature/Writing Major, '06

You will find coursework relevant to your major in Literature 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.

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 Literature majors have studied:

- University of Queensland, Australia
- Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- Peking University, China
- University of London, Queen Mary, England
- University of Lyon, France
- Georg-August University, Göttingen, Germany
- University College Dublin, Ireland
- University of Padova, Italy
- National Autonomous University of Mexico
- University of Maastricht, the Netherlands
- University of Otago, New Zealand
- University of KwaZulu-Natal, Pietermaritzburg, South Africa

Check the **Global Seminars** webpage (<http://programsabroad.ucsd.edu/pao/GSHome.html>) for info on the 10 programs being offered in summer 2009.

"My study abroad experience has impacted me personally in several ways. First of all, I learned a great deal within my major--English Literature--by seeing how a different (though similar) culture taught and understood literature, especially American Literature."

- UC San Diego alum



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