

Study Abroad in Political Science

Department of Political Science,
UC San Diego
Social Sciences Building, Room 301
<http://polisci.ucsd.edu/>



The Department of Political Science encourages you to study abroad. Poli Sci students can study all over the world through the University of California's Education Abroad Program (EAP), UCSD's Opportunities Abroad Program (OAP), or UCSD's Global Seminars. Study the Politics of Development in Barbados or Ghana. Debate International Relations, Political Economy, and Security Studies with students in Canada, France, Hong Kong, or Turkey. Learn through recent historical events the effects of democratization, state-building, and political transformation in Chile, Mexico, or Vietnam. Gain a new understanding of how ethnicity and national identity influence politics in the Czech Republic or the Republic of Ireland.

"No one has ever come back from studying abroad saying, 'I wish I had stayed at UCSD instead.'"

--Gary Jacobson, UCSD Professor of Political Science

"Studying abroad in Oxford was an experience I will never forget. It not only helped me grow as a student, it helped me grow as a person. I hope everyone gets to experience studying abroad."

-- Derek Bartlett, Poli Sci major, '04.

Why study abroad?

Political Science students are encouraged to take full advantage of the breadth of options that exist because study abroad can be an opportunity to complement political science courses offered at UCSD (by taking courses abroad which are not offered at UCSD). Students might also consider taking courses in archaeology, anthropology, history, economics, literature, or other subjects that may expand their liberal arts education. Regardless of your future career choice, study abroad will help you develop skills that are critical to a liberal arts education. However, Political Science majors who intend to incorporate their education into a career will find the benefits of study abroad invaluable. 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>
3. Start your research in the Programs Abroad Library
4. Meet with a Programs Abroad advisor
5. Fill out your Academic Planning Form
6. Drop off your Academic Planning Form at the Department of Political Science (SSB 301). Allow one week for review
7. Visit your college advising office

When should I study abroad?

While it is possible for Political Science 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. See Requirements section below for more information.



Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris

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 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>

When should I study abroad?

While it is possible for Political Science majors to go abroad at almost any point in their academic careers, the particular quarter, semester, Study Abroad in Political Science summer or year that you study abroad depends on your individual progress in your major and what courses you plan to take while abroad. See Requirements section below for more information.

What happens when I return?

You will find all the information you will need to TRANSFER CREDIT TO YOUR POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJOR OR MINOR, Please read the GUIDELINES FOR REQUESTING ACADEMIC CREDIT earned abroad after returning to UCSD.



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

"I interned at the Hungarian Human Rights Information and Documentation Center in addition to taking International Law, which was during the Kosovo crisis. This experience led me to go to law school and become a lawyer. Although I do not work in the area of international law as I thought I might, I have an incredible job at the Department of Justice I would have never pursued without my experience abroad."

- UC San Diego alum

Where should I study abroad?

You will find coursework relevant to your major in Political Science 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 programs and universities where Political Science majors have studied:

- NEW-- UCSD'S Mexican Migration and Field Research Training Program in Jalisco or Zacatecas, Mexico
- School for Political and Social Inquiry, Monash Univ., Australia
- Institute of International Relations, Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- UC-Fudan University Joint Program in International Studies, Shanghai
- Political Science Department, The American University in Cairo, Egypt
- Institute d'Etudes Politiques de Paris, France
- Political Science Department, University of Ghana
- Department of Government, National University of Ireland, Cork
- Global Studies Program, Meiji Gakuin University, Japan
- Mexico-U.S. Comparative Perspectives Program, EAP Study Center, Mexico City

Upcoming 2009 Global Seminars

Summer Session 1 - Amsterdam, Netherlands with Professor David R. Mares

NEW! - International Politics and Terrorism Poli 145A & 145L

Requirements

Students are advised to take one to three upper division courses at UCSD before they leave and to chart their major course requirements well in advance with an advisor. This is particularly important for students who must graduate in little more than four years, as well as those who anticipate writing a senior honors thesis.

Students who plan to write a senior honors thesis, but will be abroad during the spring quarter of their junior year, should plan ahead before leaving. This means completing some upper division courses at UCSD before going abroad, discussing possible thesis topics with faculty, and considering the possibility of using course work abroad as background for the thesis. For some students, it may be best to stay an additional two quarters of a fifth year during which they write the honors thesis. This allows more time to complete upper division courses in residence at UCSD and to work with faculty prior to the thesis.



UC SAN DIEGO GLOBAL SEMINARS



UC San Diego

--	--