Why Should I Study Abroad?

“While studying abroad is both fun and looks good on a resume, those reasons don’t come close to justifying why students should study abroad, nor do they describe what it actually feels like to have a study abroad experience. Studying abroad is one of the most amazing experiences you will ever have! You will learn more about yourself than you ever imagined possible. You will laugh, cry, sing, dance, play, and get tested in ways you never could have, had you not left the borders of the United States. My advice to students who are considering studying abroad is to simply do it. It will be the most fundamentally transformative experience you will ever have.”

-Michael Wells
Anthropology major
Studied abroad in Yeditepe, Turkey

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GEO Major Specifics:

When is the best time to study abroad?
Geography students can study abroad at any time during their four years, but students should keep in mind that the best time to go may depend on certain prerequisites, personal interests, and other factors. Begin planning your study abroad experience early and graduate on time!

What courses can I take abroad?
Studying abroad is a great way to fulfill major, GEC, and elective requirements. The department recommends that students take a variety of area studies, culture, and geography courses to broaden their understanding of geography and its different aspects and concentrations, the world, and perhaps most importantly, their understanding of themselves. In addition, students have the option to study abroad on summer programs. Speak with IPC and GEO advisors to begin planning your study abroad experience!

Do I need to know a foreign language?
Almost all of our international partner programs offer extensive coursework in English available to exchange students. However, the department highly recommends students consider taking a foreign language and culture course while abroad. This is a great way to enhance the study abroad experience and will benefit students personally and professionally.

Other benefits...
Simply studying abroad in any country waives a Global marker, and depending on the program, a Global Non-Western marker. Speak to an IPC adviser for more information.

Will I Graduate on Time?
YES! Students receive UNCG credit for classes taken abroad, so there is no need to prolong graduation.

Can I Afford It?
YES! On semester or year-long exchange programs, students pay regular UNCG tuition and fees. Housing and meal costs are typically equivalent to a semester in residence at UNCG. Any financial aid received at UNCG can be applied to the program costs. In addition, students are eligible to receive travel grants to help offset the costs.

Getting Started!
IPC is dedicated to finding the right program for each student, and our huge array of partner universities allows us to do just that. Call (336) 334-5404 or stop by 207 Foust to schedule an appointment with a study abroad advisor. This meeting will provide you with more information on appropriate programs, finances, application procedures, and more.
Featured Exchange Programs*

AUSTRALIA

University of Southern Queensland
USQ offers two impressive concentrations in its special science program, which are available for exchange students. These include geographic information systems and surveying.
www.usq.edu.au

James Cook University
JCU offers an impressive geography program with concentrations in geography, planning, and environmental studies. Field work is an integral part of geography coursework and includes visits to the Great Barrier Reef, rainforests, wetlands, and the savannah; field work also includes vegetation surveys, mapping, and research.
www.jcu.edu.au

CANADA

Brock University
BU offers coursework in its three geography concentrations, including human geography, physical geography, and geomatics (geographic information science).
www.brocku.ca

CHINA

Chinese University of Hong Kong
CUHK offers an extensive array of course options in various fields, such as landscape ecology, geography of China, third world development, culture and history courses, and more.
www.cuhk.edu

DENMARK

University of Southern Denmark
At USD, students can take a variety of courses in areas such as Scandinavian studies, European studies, Middle Eastern studies, tourism, and more.
www.sdu.dk/en

POLAND

University of Wroclaw
At UW, students can take a variety of humanities courses, such as the history of Poland, European studies, political and cultural courses, psychology and business coursework, and more.
http://international.uni.wroc.pl/en/study-english/timetable

SOUTH AFRICA

University of Cape Town
In its environmental and geographical sciences department, UCT offers a wide range of courses, including: sustainability, the environment, urban challenges in South African cities, climatology, and more.
www.egs.uct.ac.za

University of Stellenbosch
At US, students can take courses in applied geoinformatics (geoinformatics, spatial information, computer skills, geographic information technology, and mapping skills), earth sciences, and environmental studies.
www.maties.com

SPAIN

Universidad de Castilla La Mancha - Toledo
At UCLM, students can take courses in regional, physical, and human geography. In addition, coursework includes spatial planning, theory and methods, and geography skills and language. A minimum of SPA 301 is required.
www.uclm.es/english

UNITED KINGDOM

University of Plymouth
UP offers an impressive geography program with courses available in the areas of human and physical geography. In addition, the program focuses extensively on field work, which is available in all years of study.
www.plymouth.ac.uk

University of Hull
UH offers an impressive geography program with coursework available in the areas of human geography, physical geography, and environmental geography.
www.hull.ac.uk

University of Ulster
In its school of environmental sciences, exchange students can take a variety of courses in the geography program. Courses include human geographical systems; social, economic, and political geography; environmental planning; geographical information systems, and more.
www.science.ulster.ac.uk/envsci

Manchester Metropolitan University
At MMU, students can take courses in the areas of human and physical geography. Concentrations and further areas of study include environmental sciences, ecology and conservation, and various area studies options.
www.mmu.ac.uk/study/undergraduate

*While these are featured programs for the Department of Geography, students are by no means limited to these opportunities. For all available programs, please visit http://studyabroad.unco.edu.