Benefits of International Experience for Architects

The study and practice of architecture spans local to global scales and contexts. The School of Architecture at UVA believes that the future of its students will take them to all corners of the world, and therefore places value on providing varied and impactful international experiences for its students. These study abroad opportunities provide exposure to students in the areas of architecture, architectural history, urban and environmental planning, urban design, landscape architecture, and other design-related disciplines.

International programs in architecture are structured to create opportunities for students to explore and understand how design influences day-to-day life in various cultures with diverse customs and traditions. By studying the relationship the past has to the present through direct observation and experience of landscapes, buildings, and cities, students develop the ability to creatively imagine meaningful and purposeful design solutions in service of the public good. The international experience also enhances the student’s ability to think critically about how design is influenced by cultural, socio-political, economic, environmental, historical, and material factors.

Academic and Timing Considerations

Undergraduates in Architectural History, Architecture, and Planning may study abroad according to arrangements made after consulting their advisor.

Graduate students may study abroad in any summer while a student in the School and during a semester with the permission of the Program Director and the Chair of the Student’s department or discipline.

The School of Architecture recommends discussing options with your faculty advisor to determine the optimal time to study abroad.

Student Testimonial

"Studying sustainable city planning in Europe was incredible because I got to see all of the theories I’ve learned about in classes and read about in books put into action, from efficient and effective public transportation in Freiburg, Germany to the pinnacle of energy-efficient building design in Zurich, Switzerland. Strong cultural and structural differences exist between the European cities we visited and the United States, but their progress shows that with political will, it would prove possible to build more sustainable cities for the future here at home."

Love Jonson, Sustainable Europe
International Opportunities in Architecture
This list is a starting point; you are not limited to these options.

United Kingdom
UVA Exchange: University of Edinburgh
Fall, Spring, Year / Undergraduates Only

UVA Architecture: Courtauld Institute of Art
Fall / Graduate Students Only

Continental Europe
UVA Architecture in Italy: Venice
Fall

UVA Architecture in Italy: Vicenza
Summer

UVA Architecture: Barcelona
Fall

UVA Architecture: Sustainable Europe
Summer (not available Summer 2018)

UVA Exchange: University of Amsterdam
Fall, Spring, Year / Undergraduates Only

UVA Exchange: University of Lyon 2 / UVA in Lyon
Fall, Spring, Year / Undergraduates Only

UVA in Italy: Florence at the Palazzo Rucellai
Fall, Spring, Year, Summer / Undergraduates Only

UVA in Italy: Renaissance and Baroque Rome
January Term / Undergraduates Only

Asia and South Asia
UVA Architecture: China
Summer

UVA Exchange: National University of Singapore
Fall, Spring, Year / Undergraduates Only

UVA Exchange: Seoul National University
Fall, Spring, Year / Undergraduates Only

UVA Exchange: The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Fall, Spring, Year / Undergraduates Only

UVA Exchange: Yale-NUS College
Fall, Spring, Year / Undergraduates Only