



Education Abroad in PUBLIC POLICY & LEADERSHIP

Benefits of International Experience

The Batten School hopes that all Batten majors will study abroad during their undergraduate careers. International experience – as part of what some now are calling “global literacy” – is an important part of a first-class liberal education, of the sort that UVA takes pride in offering.

For students interested in public policy, the case for study abroad is even more compelling. The policy issues confronting communities in the contemporary world – whether cities, states, or nations, and whether in the U.S. or abroad – are increasingly complex and controversial. Addressing them effectively benefits greatly from a comparative perspective, learning how other societies have dealt with those same issues, how successful they have been, and what lessons can be drawn from those successes and failures. At the same time, those same policy issues – from pandemics to terrorism and from climate change to human trafficking – no longer respect national boundaries. As the problems become more global, so too are the solutions, which will require cooperation among nations and often the construction of new regional and global institutions. Solving transnational issues obviously requires greater global literacy.



Student Testimonial

“Studying abroad at the Institut d’Études Politiques de Paris (Sciences Po) provided the perfect complement to coursework within the Public Policy and Leadership major. Exposure to the perspectives and expertise of international lecturers, paired with formal and informal interaction with students from across the globe, only heightened my interest in the field of U.S. foreign policy and diplomacy. Batten did an incredible job of preparing me for the experience; armed with the theory and skills covered in Batten courses, I felt more capable of genuinely contributing to class discussion and group work. Batten and studying abroad are undoubtedly two of the best decisions that I have made here at UVA.” Casey Duggan, UVA Exchange: Sciences Po Paris

Academic and Timing Considerations

To ensure a well-integrated study abroad experience, the Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy and the International Studies Office recommend early academic planning. Due to the sequencing of the Batten major curriculum, the best time to study abroad is spring of the third year, during a summer, or J-term. Study abroad may be possible in fall of the third or fourth years, especially if students take Batten core courses prior to matriculating at the School in the third year. The Director of Academic Programs advises all students on study abroad planning and course selection.

While abroad, students may earn special topics credit toward the Batten major, general elective credit, or second major or minor credit pending approval by the second major or minor department. Batten’s Director of Academic Programs pre-approves all special topics credit for the major pursued outside the Batten School. When approved, majors may take up to 6 non-Batten credits in total (two courses) toward the special topics requirement. Courses must be the UVA equivalent of 3000-level or higher and must address issues related to public policy or leadership.

The Batten School hopes that majors will take courses related to public policy and leadership beyond the required number. Batten majors are strongly encouraged to take advantage of course offerings abroad to enhance and expand upon their learning on Grounds.

Steps to go abroad

- Get a passport
- Complete the online Education Abroad Workshop
- Talk with your department about timing and course requirements
- Meet with an ISO education abroad advisor and explore opportunities
- Learn about funding resources (financial aid, scholarships)
- Research programs and apply online
- Participate in cross-cultural seminars (CORE)

For academic advising and course approvals, contact:

Amanda Crombie, Director of Academic Programs
Garrett Hall
ajcrombie@virginia.edu
(434) 243-9976

For more information on program options, make an appointment online with an education abroad advisor according to your country or region of interest.

International Studies Office
208 Minor Hall
studyabroad@virginia.edu
educationabroad.virginia.edu

Interested in other disciplines?
Explore additional major advising sheets online at educationabroad.virginia.edu/your-major

International Opportunities for Batten Students

This list is a starting point; you are *not* limited to these options.

Asia

- [Hong Kong, UVA Exchange: Hong Kong University of Science & Technology](#)



Batten Global in India

- [India, UVA Batten Global in India: Social Entrepreneurship in Action](#)
- [Singapore, UVA Exchange: National University of Singapore](#)
- [Vietnam, School for International Training \(SIT\): Ho Chi Minh City: Culture, Social Change, and Development](#) §

Caribbean

- [Dominica, UVA Batten Global in Dominica: Social Entrepreneurship in Small Island Developing States](#)



Batten Global in Dominica

Europe

- [Denmark, UVA Commerce: Sustainable Practices in Denmark](#)
- [France, UVA Exchange: Sciences Po, Paris](#)
- [United Kingdom, Hansard Scholars Program*](#)
- [United Kingdom, UVA Exchange: University of Glasgow](#)
- [United Kingdom, UVA in Oxford](#)



Kate Stanley in Rwanda

Latin America

- [Argentina, School for International Training \(SIT\): Regional Integration, Development, and Social Change](#) §

Oceania

- [Australia, UVA Exchange: University of Queensland](#)
- [New Zealand, UVA Exchange: University of Auckland](#) §

Multiple:

- [Semester at Sea](#)

"As students of public policy we learn the theory of leading in the public arena. I was fortunate to intern/study abroad in Dublin, Ireland and put theory into context. Working in an international setting for a former Lord Mayor, I was able to expand my thinking and problem solving skills past what could be learned in a classroom setting. Even more, I was able to actively contribute to a global conversation with leaders from all over the world including London, Somalia, and Italy. My experience abroad gave me an appreciation for the complexity of our world and a new perspective for looking at the problems we face."

-Katharine Sadowski, UIP Dublin

*Internship available

§Fieldwork/field study available