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 arts 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 domestic and international communities in the contemporary world 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.

Benefits of International Experience

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

Student Testimonial

Early academic planning is essential to a well-integrated study abroad experience. Due to the sequencing of the Batten major curriculum and yearly core course offerings, the best times to study abroad are spring of the third year, summer session, or J-term. Study abroad may be possible in fall of the third or fourth years if students take Batten core courses prior to matriculating at Batten.

While abroad, students may earn special topics credit toward the Batten major and minor, general elective credit, or second major or minor credit pending approval by the second major or minor department. Batten’s Assistant Director of Academic Programs and Registrar advises Batten students on study abroad planning and course selection and pre-approves all special topics credit for the Batten major and minor 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.
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
- **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 in Dominica: Social Entrepreneurship in Small Island Developing States

**Latin America**
- **Argentina**, School for International Training (SIT): Regional Integration, Development, and Social Change

**Europe**
- **Denmark**, UVA Commerce: Sustainable Practices in Denmark
- **France**, UVA Exchange: Sciences Po, Paris
- **Ireland**, UVA University Internship Program, Dublin*
- **Ireland & N. Ireland**, UVA in Ireland & N. Ireland: Policies for Conflict and Peace
- **United Kingdom**, Hansard Scholars Program*
- **United Kingdom**, UVA Exchange: University of Glasgow
- **United Kingdom**, UVA in Oxford

**Oceania**
- **Australia**, UVA Exchange: University of Queensland
- **New Zealand**, UVA Exchange: University of Auckland

**Multiple:**
- **Semester at Sea**

*Internship available
§Fieldwork/field study available