The Environmental Sciences department views international education as an integral component to its students’ education. Students must be prepared to embrace both the challenges and the exciting opportunities of our global community and to be enriched by programs that involve them with the people, cultures, and environment of our neighbors worldwide.

Studying abroad can help Environmental Sciences students achieve these skills. There are a wide variety of opportunities offered to Environmental Sciences students and developed with the International Studies Office. Students can integrate a semester, year, or short-term program into their academic plan, earning both major credit or general elective credit towards their UVA degree.

Benefits of International Experience

The Environmental Sciences department views international education as an integral component to its students’ education. Students must be prepared to embrace both the challenges and the exciting opportunities of our global community and to be enriched by programs that involve them with the people, cultures, and environment of our neighbors worldwide.

Studying abroad can help Environmental Sciences students achieve these skills. There are a wide variety of opportunities offered to Environmental Sciences students and developed with the International Studies Office. Students can integrate a semester, year, or short-term program into their academic plan, earning both major credit or general elective credit towards their UVA degree.

Student Testimonial

“My decision to study abroad was one of the greatest choices I made with regards to my academic career. While in New Zealand, I enrolled in a marine science class that I received major credit for and that allowed me to travel to a marine conservatory where I spent a weekend on the water studying New Zealand’s aquatic habitats… I also travelled to the Great Barrier Reef in Australia where I embarked on a 3 day live-aboard trip. Finally, I ventured to Fiji where I was able to dive in coral reefs surrounding all the islands. Being able to travel to three new coral reef systems not only opened my eyes to environments outside of the Northern Hemisphere, but also allowed me to compare and contrast those environments with each other and other reefs I had been to in the U.S. and the Bahamas.”

- Jason Truwit, Environmental Science: UVA in the Bahamas and University of Auckland Exchange

Academic and Timing Considerations

The Department hopes that majors will take courses in Environmental Sciences beyond the number which are required, and that students will take advantage of course offerings abroad to enhance and expand upon the courses offered by the Department on grounds. EVSC students should bear in mind that their EVSC major is the sum of their experiences as they relate to a student’s interests in environmental sciences. Thus, each student defines and explains their personal major and the relevant experiences himself or herself.

The Environmental Sciences Department will allow up to six transfer credits earned abroad to be transferred towards major requirements. Direct credit courses are exempted from the six credit limit. Courses which students seek to take for major credit must be pre-approved by the Director of Undergraduate Programs of Environmental Sciences.
International Opportunities in Environmental Science

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

Africa
- Madagascar, SIT: Biodiversity and Natural Resource Management§
- South Africa, Arcadia: University of Cape Town
- South Africa, CIEE: Arts and Sciences Program
- Tanzania, SIT: Wildlife Conservation and Political Ecology§

Asia
- Cambodia, School for Field Studies: Conservation, Ethics, and Environmental Change§

Europe
- Netherlands, UVA Exchange: University of Amsterdam
- Scotland, UVA Exchange: University of Glasgow
- Sweden, UVA Exchange: University of Lund,

Latin America
- Bahamas, UVA in the Bahamas: Marine Biology
- Belize, UVA in Belize: Tropical Ecology & Conservation§
- Costa Rica, School for Field Studies: Sustainable Development Studies§
- Ecuador, SIT: Comparative Ecology & Conservation§
- Panama, SIT: Tropical Ecology, Marine Ecosystems, & Biodiversity Conservation§

Oceania
- Australia, UVA Exchange: University of New South Wales
- Australia, UVA Exchange: University of Queensland
- Australia, School for Field Studies: Tropical Rainforest Studies§
- New Zealand, UVA Exchange: University of Auckland
- New Zealand, UVA Exchange: University of Otago§
- New Zealand, EcoQuest§

Multiple
- SEA Semester

§ Fieldwork/Field Study Available