The UVA School of Nursing views global experience as an integral component to its students' education. Undergraduate nursing 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 in interactions with the people, cultures, and health care of our neighbors worldwide.

Once nursing students enter the workforce, they are entrusted with the care of their patients. These patients will represent human diversity in its rich variations, including race, ethnicity, culture, gender, sexual orientation and gender identity, socioeconomic status, language, spirituality, and physical ability. Gaining global experience will help students learn skills such as cross-cultural communication, respectful community engagement, critical thinking, empathy, and cultural humility.

Benefits of Global Experience for Nursing Students

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Student Experiences

Crystal Moses, CNL ‘16 student, at Clinica Esperanza in Roatán, Honduras, summer 2015

“My classmates and I were able to implement a community action plan at Clinica Esperanza to prevent the transmission of chikungunya (a virus spread by mosquitoes). Cases are relatively new to the island, with the first patient seen at Clinica Esperanza in December 2014. Upon our arrival, there were no existing protocols established at the clinic to address the increasing amount of infections. There is no known specific treatment of chikungunya, so prevention of mosquito bites through raising awareness of protective measures is an essential part of decreasing transmission.”

“Being in Roatán boosted my confidence as a future nurse by pushing me outside of my comfort zone. Not having technology to rely on not only enhanced my hands-on skills, but it also emphasized the importance of developing and using my nursing instincts. “

“I met professionals from around the world with many different backgrounds; each and every one taught me something new. There was a strong sense of camaraderie among the clinic staff.”

Funding Your Experience Abroad

- There is a program for every budget! Speak with an education abroad advisor to learn about your options.
- Financial aid is portable. If you receive any kind of financial aid or use a program such as the Virginia Prepaid Education Program (VPEP), tell your advisor early on in your planning.
- Scholarship deadlines are often earlier than program applications—research and apply early!
- Use the cost comparison worksheet on the Education Abroad Web site to compare programs, what is included in each program, and what meets your budget.
Semester Exchange Options for BSN Students (fall of fourth year of study)

An exchange is a relationship that allows reciprocal movement of students for a semester or year between UVA and a partner university abroad. You will attend classes taught by local faculty and study alongside local students. To be nominated as an exchange student, you first apply through the International Studies Office at UVA. The following sites are available to nursing students:

**Australia - University of Queensland**
While at UQ, students will have the opportunity to learn about Australia as a post-colonial society, which has a health care system that uniquely blends public and private services in a social and cultural milieu. Students will participate in clinical placements in acute medical-surgical and community settings.

**New Zealand - University of Auckland**
Continue your clinical experience in New Zealand’s largest city, Auckland. Students will be placed on a medical or surgical unit together with Auckland students and have a clinical rotation in a psych-mental health setting.

Academic and Timing Considerations
Because of the SON curriculum sequencing, students can only study abroad for a semester during the fall of their fourth year in a UVA exchange program (see below). These exchanges focus on the clinical portion of your degree program. Prior to exchange, the student will have completed the following courses:

- NUCO 3110 Adult- Gero Nursing
- NUCO 3310 Pediatric Nursing
- NUCO 3610 Maternal Child Nursing
- NUIP 3210 and 3420 Pathophysiology and Clinical Management I and II
- NUIP 2430 and 3430 Pharmacology and Clinical Management I and II
- NUIP 2310, 3320, and 3330 REAL I (Research, Ethics, Advocacy and Leadership) REAL II (Health Policy, Regulation, Delegation and informatics) and REAL III (Evidence Based Practice and Research)

Students will receive credit for these courses while on exchange via distance learning.

- NUCO 4110 Critical and Transitional Care (medical/surgical clinical) 4 credits
- NUCO 4310 Psych-Mental Health Nursing 4 credits or NUCO 4210 Public Health Nursing 4 credits
- NUIP 4340 REAL IV (Research, Ethics, Advocacy and Leadership) 2 credits
- Independent Study -2 credits

SON students do have the option to participate in a January-term or summer study abroad program for elective credit and language learning. Suggestions are on the following page. Volunteer opportunities and other non-credit options also are available. In particular, programs that combine education, research, practice, and service further enhance a student’s international experience as related to nursing.
UVA Short-term Programs

Short-term programs vary by year; visit www.virginia.edu/studyabroad for current offerings. Examples of frequently offered programs are below. UVA-directed programs are designed and operated by the University of Virginia. All students may be from UVA, or students from other U.S. higher education institutions may be included.

- **UVA Nursing in Nicaragua: Community Health Nursing Clinical**—NUCO 4210: Public Health Nursing and Population Health
- **UVA Nursing in Nicaragua: Trends and Issues in Clinical Nursing Practice**—NUCO 4440: Clinical for RN-BSN students
- **UVA in Valencia, Spain**—Global Health Track—Spanish language learning while taking “Comparative Health Care Systems” (taught in English)
- **January Term: UVA in St. Kitts and Nevis**: West Indies Health Care: Emergency Preparedness
- **January Term: UVA Nursing in Nicaragua**: NUIP 4559:—Focus on Social Entrepreneurship and Cancer Prevention

Outside Programs (summer only)

Outside programs are operated by a third party provider. Some facilitate direct enrollment at another university while others offer their own program for U.S. students focused on a specific topic. In addition to a UVA application, an application to the program provider is required. The following list is merely a starting point; you are not limited to these options.

- **Cyprus, Health Sciences, Global Learning Semesters**: Learn about the differences in health care management between the United States and Europe through classroom study and visits to 5 to 7 public and private hospitals and clinics in Cyprus. Practicum in a local private hospital is available.
- **Denmark, Danish Institute for Study Abroad (DIS): Health Delivery and Prioritization in Northern Europe**: DIS offers 3 sessions in the summer allowing students to take up to three courses (1/session). Students develop a solid knowledge of the provision and organization of public health in Northern Europe, providing context to present health care systems. Explore issues such as policy making and provision in the field of health care. Includes a study tour to the Netherlands during session 2. Other courses are available throughout the 3 sessions.
- **IES: Santiago, Chile: Health Studies**: Students with 4 semesters of Spanish learn through practical and direct experience in Chile’s community-centered public health care system. Participate in a direct clinical observation internship and learn medical Spanish. Perfect your Spanish even more through a homestay.

Non-credit Bearing Options

- **UVA Center for Global Health**: [http://globalhealth.virginia.edu/home-page](http://globalhealth.virginia.edu/home-page)
- **South Africa – Water and Health in Limpopo Province (WHIL)**