



Education Abroad in SOCIOLOGY

Benefits of International Experience for Sociology Majors

For students in sociology, an international experience can add deeper insight to the discipline and their studies at UVA. Students must be prepared to embrace both the challenges and the exciting opportunities of our global community and the diverse systems, institutions and organization our world presents. Education abroad can enrich students through studies and carefully designed programs that involve them with the people, cultures, and environment of their host country.

Studying abroad exposes sociology students to new perspectives and ideas, allowing you to be better equipped in research and applying theory. There are a wide variety of opportunities available for coursework abroad in sociology. Students can integrate a semester, year, or short-term program into their academic plan, earning both major credit or general elective credit towards their U.Va. degree.

Student Experiences

Kaye Stansbury, UVA Exchange at American University in Cairo, spring 2012

"I went into Egypt simply wanting to do something different for study abroad than the typical Europe or Australia trip, but my time there has affected me so much greater than I could have imagined. Before I went to Cairo I was interested in a career that would help students get abroad, but since my program, my career goals have become much more focused. No longer is my goal to simply get students abroad, but rather get them to places that will completely shake up their sense of what normal is and get outside their comfort zone..."



Steps to go abroad

1. Get a passport.
2. Watch the Education Abroad Workshop
3. Meet with an education abroad advisor and explore opportunities.
4. Talk with your academic advisor about timing and course requirements.
5. Research programs and apply online.
6. Participate in cross-cultural seminars (CORE).
7. Experience Education Abroad.
8. Participate in events for returnees.
9. Showcase your experience on your CV.
10. Share your experience with your peers.

Contact for major course approvals:

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Make an appt. online with an Education Abroad Advisor according to the country or region of your interest.

International Studies Office
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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 VPEP, make sure to 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 website to compare programs, what is included in each program and what meets your budget.

Academic and Timing Considerations

The programs on this list are well-suited for any student wanting to take sociology coursework abroad. For the major, the Sociology Department will allow up to six credits earned abroad to transfer towards requirements. Students seeking approval for major credit must meet with the Director of Undergraduate Programs of Sociology on a case-by-case basis. Please note that the courses which are considered for transfer cannot be substituted for SOC 3020, 3120, or 4000 level courses.

Students with a declared sociology minor may not use study abroad credit for their minor requirements.

To ensure a well-integrated study abroad experience, the Sociology department and the International Studies Office recommends planning early in your academic career. Speaking with an education abroad advisor and your Sociology academic advisor as early as first year will help you find the best program with the best coursework suited for your goals while still allowing you to graduate on time.

Education Abroad Programs in Sociology

UVA Exchange Programs (semester, year)

Asia

UVA Exchange at University of Hong Kong

Engage with Hong Kong's fusion of cultures, diverse peoples and natural beauty while taking courses in English. There are options to learn Mandarin or Cantonese. Live with local and other international students on one of 13 different residence halls, which make up an important aspect of life at UHK.

Europe

France, UVA Exchange at University of Lyon II

Sociology is one of this university's strongest departments. Students must have completed FREN 3032 or the equivalent to study in Lyon and take integrated courses.

Netherlands, UVA Exchange at University of Amsterdam

This exchange offers students the chance to take an array of coursework in English through the social sciences. As an exchange student, you will take courses alongside local Dutch students and live in student dormitories.

Scotland, UVA Exchange at University of Glasgow

Study in Scotland's largest city and one of UK's top ranked sociology departments taking an array of courses, many with global and cultural perspectives.

North America

Canada, UVA Exchange at McGill University

McGill is an English-speaking university located in the vibrant city of Montreal. The Sociology department is one of the oldest in Canada and offers a wide range of courses in Sociology and other related disciplines.

Canada, UVA Exchange at University of British Columbia

UBC is another top-notch research institution located in Vancouver on the west coast. The city boasts more than 190 parks and is ranked as one of the most livable cities. Applications to UBC for any term must be submitted in the spring prior to going abroad.

Oceania

Australia, UVA Exchange at University of Melbourne

Melbourne is a vital and dynamic capital city. As the gateway to Victoria, Melbourne enjoys an international reputation as a global city on a path to growing prosperity. The humanities and social sciences department (or faculty, as they say in Australia) offers numerous courses in criminology and sociological theory.

UVA Short-term Programs

UVA in Oxford

This summer program offers a variety of complementary courses for Sociology students focusing on comparative culture and society in Britain, Europe and America with courses in literature, economics and commerce, history, politics, law and health care.

University Internship Program: Dublin, Ireland or Sydney, Australia

Internships are available in a variety of professional fields: private sector business, political parties, law, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), hospitals, lobby groups, professional associations, and many more. Internship placement is determined by your interest, studies, experience, and professional and academic plans.

Outside Program Providers

Africa

South Africa, School for International Training: Community Health and Social Policy

Students on this program examine the issues surrounding health care and social policies in South Africa. Based in Durban, students live with host families and interact with local NGOs.

Asia and India

Kunming, China: SIT: Language, Cultures, and Ethnic Minorities

This program is highly experiential, focusing on the 50+ minority groups represented in China. Following a period of coursework, students partake in a field study and independent research project. No previous Chinese language is required.

Tokyo, Japan: IES: Society and Culture

Use Tokyo as your classroom to study the nuances of traditional and modern Japan. Students take a Japanese language course and study in English at the IES center and Kanda University. No previous language required.

Pune, India: The Alliance for Global Education: Contemporary India

Students on this program focus their studies on a variety of social, political, economic and environmental issues India faces today. Courses are interdisciplinary and include a culminating directed research project, internship, or documentary film project based on your interests and goals.

Europe

Copenhagen, Denmark: Danish Institute for Study Abroad (DIS)

The core program in Sociology takes a comparative perspective into cultural diversity and social capital in Scandinavia and Turkey. The study tours to Istanbul and Southern Sweden provide students with a field experience to complement the course. Students choose from a variety of electives, such as sociology, Anthropology, politics, public health, etc.

London, United Kingdom, London School of Economics

Join students from all over the world at this highly ranked institution for either a year or summer term. Choose from courses in Accounting, Finance, Law, Economics, and International Relations, and Government.

Vienna, Austria: European Society and Culture at IES Abroad

Use Vienna as your classroom. Take courses in English and/or German at the IES study center in Vienna or alongside local students at the University of Vienna depending on your German language ability. Course themes center around German Language; European Business, Economics, and Politics; Society & Self; and the Arts.

Latin America

Santiago, Chile: Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile through [IFSA-Butler](#) or [IES abroad](#)

Students enroll directly at PUC through one of the program providers. PUC has special sociological expertise in the areas of development and social justice. All instruction is in Spanish through both programs. 4-5 semesters in Spanish required.

Salvador de Bahia, Brazil: Council for International Education and Exchange (CIEE)

Beginning with intensive Portuguese language training, students immerse themselves in local culture through homestays and taking classes with local students. 4 semesters of Spanish or 2 semesters of college-level Portuguese is required. The core course examines the socio-anthropologic nature of the relationship between gender and other aspects of Brazilian society.

Havana, Cuba: Arcadia University at the University of Havana

Study along side local Cubans and in addition to the Arcadia core course and Spanish language course. Many courses in Sociology, History, and Philosophy are available. Advanced Spanish is required. Applicants considering Cuba must meet with an Education Abroad Advisor prior to application.

Oceania

Sydney, Australia: University of Sydney with IES abroad

This is a direct enrollment program at the University of Sydney with the support of IES Abroad. As the oldest university in Australia, U. Sydney offers students the chance to study at a member of the prestigious Sandstone universities (equivalent to the Ivy Leagues).

Melbourne, Australia: Monash University with Education Abroad Network (EAN)

Monash is a top ranked university in Australia located in Melbourne, a vibrant, diverse city in Victoria. This direct enrollment options offers students the ability to take a wide range of courses and the university is particularly strong in Sociology coursework.

Samoa: School for International Training, Pacific Communities and Social Change

Examine the social, economic, and political impacts of and responses to westernization and globalization in the Pacific Islands through interdisciplinary coursework, field study, and independent research. There is no language pre-requisite for this program, but students do take a beginner course in Samoan.