



# Education Abroad in Women, Gender & Sexuality

## Benefits of International Experience

When asked what they benefited from by going abroad, one of the most common responses from students is that they learned more about their own country and culture through their study in, and of, another culture. Students interested in Women, Gender and Sexuality (WGS) can enhance their UVA education by gaining another perspective on the United States and in their academic discipline. Upon graduation, undergraduate students must be prepared to embrace both the challenges and the exciting opportunities of an interconnected world. As such, studying abroad is a critical step towards being able to navigate such an environment, both in the workforce and in everyday life.

Studying abroad can help you develop skills in cross-cultural communication, critical thinking, empathy, and tolerance. A multi-faceted perspective in your discipline will help you develop abilities to approach problems and tasks with different methods.

## Student Testimonial

"My time spent studying and volunteering with the Mariposa Foundation in the DR has been truly transformational. Theoretical concepts learned in the classroom at UVA play out every day in the lives of the girls this foundation seeks to empower and educate. Immersing myself in the DR made my education so much richer, and when I returned to UVA, I redirected my final year of studies to focus even more closely on adolescent girls and sustainable development.

-Anna Cait Wade, WGS major: Mariposa Foundation, Dominican Republic



Photo credit: Kimberly Wade

## Academic and Timing Considerations

Students who declare a major or minor in WGS can count up to six upper-level credits from their study abroad experience towards requirements. Since you will declare the major or minor in your second year, third year is likely to be the best time to study abroad. However, it may be possible to take WGS focused courses abroad before declaring the major or minor, but you should consult with the Director of Undergraduate Programs whether these classes can count towards requirements. All credits earned abroad will count as elective credits within the major or minor.

You may be able to count relevant independent study or internship credit while taken abroad, but this will count towards the 6 possible credits of independent study students can count towards the major overall, as well as the 6 credits allowed for study abroad.

If you are not a declared WGS major or minor student, but interested in taking courses in this area, this document may also be a good starting point for you. If you are only seeking general elective credit towards graduation (not a WGS major), you do not need formal approval from the department for your courses, but instead should see Abigail Holeman in Monroe Hall for elective credit approval.

There are a wide variety of education abroad opportunities offered through UVA, both through semester/year exchanges, faculty-led programs and internships, research, or service-learning experiences. The programs listed here are merely a starting point for your research.

### 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 Women, Gender & Sexuality major or minor course approvals, contact:

[wgsuva@virginia.edu](mailto:wgsuva@virginia.edu)

(434) 982-2961

For information about the WGS program, see <http://wgs.virginia.edu/>

For more information on education abroad 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](mailto:studyabroad@virginia.edu)  
[educationabroad.virginia.edu](http://educationabroad.virginia.edu)

Interested in other disciplines?  
Explore additional major advising sheets online at  
[educationabroad.virginia.edu/your-major](http://educationabroad.virginia.edu/your-major)

# International Opportunities in Women, Gender & Sexuality

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

## Africa

- [Senegal](#), University of Minnesota: Studies in International Development\*

## Asia

- [India](#), Alliance for Global Education: Contemporary India\*§

## Europe

- [Denmark](#), Danish Institute for Study Abroad§
- [Germany](#), UVA Exchange: Humboldt University
- [Germany](#), Wayne State University: Junior Year in Munich
- [Netherlands](#), UVA Exchange: University of Amsterdam
- [Sweden](#), UVA Exchange: Lund University



"[While on the St. Kitts and Nevis J-term program], we had an interactive and unique learning experience in which we worked closely with local authorities on the healthcare board, including the Minister of Health for both islands."

-Jasmine Brown, WGS and African-American Studies major, J-term UVA in St. Kitts and Nevis

\*Internship available

§Fieldwork/field study available

## Latin America

- [Argentina](#), IFSA-Butler: Argentine Universities Program§
- [Brazil](#), CIEE: Salvador da Bahia: Liberal Arts Program
- [Chile](#), SIT: Cultural Identity, Social Justice, and Community Development§
- [Dominican Republic](#), January Term: UVA in the Dominican Republic



Kelyn Gibson, WGS and History major, UVA in Australia

## North America

- [Canada](#), UVA Exchange: McGill University
- [Canada](#), UVA Exchange: University of British Columbia

## Oceania

- [Australia](#), IES Abroad: Macquarie University
- [Australia](#), The Education Abroad Network: Monash University
- [Australia](#), UVA Exchange: University of New South Wales
- [New Zealand](#), UVA Exchange: University of Otago