The Youth and Social Innovation (YSI) faculty believe that education abroad provides unparalleled perspective-enhancing experiences that increase graduates’ effectiveness in the field. Education abroad allows students a cross-cultural perspective that enriches their understanding of cultural, social and educational factors and environments that influence youth. In addition, study abroad can provide the opportunity to take classes or participate in other programs not available at UVA.

There are diverse study abroad programs available to Youth and Social Innovation students that are 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

“Studying abroad with IES Barcelona during the fall of my third-year was an incredible experience. Not only did I get to take exciting classes, live with a host family, make Spanish friends, and travel throughout the country and Europe, but I was also able to further explore my interests as a YSI major. My Cultural Perspectives in Psychology class counted for the YSI multicultural requirement. Additionally, during my time abroad, I had the option to complete an internship rather than taking another traditional class, and chose to intern with Make A Wish Spain. As an intern, I created itineraries for children coming from all of the world to have their wishes to be granted in Spain—mostly to attend FC Barcelona and Real Madrid soccer games. I even had the opportunity to escort a 13-year-old boy from Lancaster, Pennsylvania on his wish to attend an FC Barcelona game. Watching his eyes light up as he stood on the field giving high-fives to the players demonstrated to me how incredible important Make-A-Wish’s work of bringing positive and happiness to children in the midst of terrible circumstances truly is. While this internship did not count for class credit, I was able to use the skills I had learned in my YSI classes at UVA to do everything I could to make their Wish weekends in Spain as meaningful and fun as possible. I also discovered one way I could turn what I have learned into the classroom into a possible career, understanding more about the non-profit and social work fields.” - Amy Singer, Youth and Social Innovation major: IES Barcelona

Steps to go abroad

- Get a passport
- Complete the 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 more information on program options, make an appointment online with an education abroad advisor according to your country or region of interest.

For Youth and Social Innovation major approvals, contact:
Dr. Melissa Levy
mkf7j@virginia.edu
(434) 243-0150
Ruffner Hall 230

Interested in other disciplines?
Explore additional major advising sheets online at educationabroad.virginia.edu/your-major

Academic and Timing Considerations

How can you integrate study abroad coursework with your Youth and Social Innovation Major program of study?

YSI values experiences abroad! For most students majoring in YSI, a summer program or the spring semester of your third year are your best options for study abroad. Working with your academic advisor to create a draft plan of when you will take which YSI Major courses throughout your remaining college semesters will help you feel confident in finding the best study abroad program and coursework for you. Study abroad courses may count for your required coursework; be sure to consult with your academic advisor. Speaking with an education abroad advisor and your YSI academic advisor early in your college career to explore study abroad possibilities is recommended!
International Opportunities in Youth and Social Innovation

Europe
- **Czech Republic**, SIT: Arts and Social Change
- **Denmark**, DIS: Child Diversity and Development
- **Switzerland**, SIT: Global Health and Development Policy
- **Spain**, UVA in Valencia: Global Health

Central and South America
- **Chile**, SIT: Comparative Education and Social Change
- **Chile**, IES: Politics, Social Justice, and Language
- **Ecuador**, Univ of Minnesota: Studies in International Development

Oceania
- **Samoa**, SIT: Social and Environmental Change in Oceania

Africa
- **South Africa**, SIT: Education and Social Change
- **Uganda**, SIT: Development Studies
- **Senegal**, Univ of Minnesota: Studies in International Development

Asia
- **Indonesia**, SIT: Arts, Religion, and Social Change
- **Vietnam**, SIT: Culture, Social Change, and Development
- **Vietnam**, CET: Development Studies
- **India**, CIEE: Arts and Sciences
- **Thailand**, Univ of Minnesota: Studies in International Development

Caribbean
- **Dominican Republic**, UVA: Public Health Sciences: A Community Health Experience
- **St Kitts and Nevis**, UVA: Public Health Sciences: Social Determinants of Child Health

*Internship available
§Fieldwork/field study available