

Study Abroad Program

<http://www.pacificu.edu/as/intlprograms/studyabroad.cfm>

Study abroad is an integral component of Pacific University's undergraduate curriculum. Students are encouraged to study abroad because Pacific recognizes the importance of an abroad experience both in the academic and personal development of its students. Study abroad takes students out of their comfort zone, exposes them to the richness of another culture, teaches them intercultural communication skills, promotes adaptability and builds self-confidence. For many students it is also a life-changing experience which provides new academic and personal directions, and enhances career opportunities in a global economy in which cross-cultural experience is increasingly valued.

To be eligible for overseas study students must demonstrate proper personal and academic preparation for the program, be in good academic and financial standing, and have attended Pacific full-time for at least one semester immediately preceding the study abroad semester(s). In general, applicants are expected to have and maintain an overall GPA of 2.75. Students with a GPA below 2.5 at the time of application will have their applications rescinded. A personal essay, letters of recommendation and, under certain circumstances, a personal interview are also required of applicants.

For students fulfilling the requirements of a language major or minor, or the International Studies major, the completion of 202 or equivalent in the appropriate language and a 3.0 GPA average in language classes are required prior to beginning the program. For students pursuing other majors who wish to study in Japan, China (or Taiwan) or countries in which the official language is French, German or Spanish, successful completion of 102 or equivalent in the appropriate language is required. It is understood that in certain cases these minimum requirements will be superseded by program-specific requirements.

Due to changes in the application schedule for semester study abroad it is critical for students to plan early and, ideally, map out a plan of study during their freshman year that includes study abroad. The application to study abroad is now a three-stage process.

1. **In the first stage** students are asked to submit an online Intent to Study Abroad Form (ITSA) to the Office of International Programs during Fall semester preceding the academic year in which they intend to study abroad. The ITSA form can be found by clicking on "Apply Now!" on the left-hand side menu of the study abroad home page.
2. **The second stage** is a mandatory advising appointment with the Director of International Programs.
3. **The final stage** is the actual program application, which normally takes place at the beginning of second semester (late January-early February) preceding the academic year in which the study abroad program will be undertaken. Earlier deadlines apply for some programs in Germany and France. Check the Study Abroad website for up-to-date information.

Application forms, current cost data, and informational brochures about all study abroad programs are available in the International Programs Office.

Pacific offers semester-length programs in Australia, Chile, China, Ecuador, France, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Spain and the United Kingdom. Students whose demonstrated academic interests are not accommodated by currently approved programs are welcome to submit a petition for approval of an alternative program to the Study Abroad Committee. Deadline is December 1st each year (although the Intent to Study Abroad form must still be submitted by the November deadline). Students interested in submitting a petition should contact the Office of International Programs for more information.

Pacific University offers students the opportunity to study abroad for a semester or academic year. Several short-term programs are also offered, mostly during the Winter II term in January or in early-summer. The application process for participation in short-term study abroad is determined by the faculty member organizing the course. Check with the relevant faculty member regarding course requirements and application procedures.

If you are interested in studying abroad on a semester or academic-year program, the first step is to schedule a study abroad advising appointment by calling (503) 352-1600, or by emailing us at intlprograms@pacificu.edu