

Study Abroad for History Majors

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History majors study all over the world, from China to Great Britain, Paris to Australia, and everywhere in between. They do so because study abroad transforms abstract learning into tangible, fascinating reality: there is no better way to make distant historical events come to life than to discover them in the contexts where they occurred. Courses are available in over 42 countries, at more than 115 universities. These universities offer over 285 programs of varying design and duration. Start exploring the options and opportunities today!



Why study abroad?

- By studying abroad, students can take advantage of unique academic opportunities in the discipline, expand their worldview, and prepare for a career in an internationally competitive world.
- Returning students often describe their time studying abroad as one of the most empowering and transformative experiences of their lives, with profound repercussions for successfully identifying and attaining their personal and career goals.

“ Studying abroad in Paris as a student of Early Modern Intellectual History was a dream! Walking the same streets that Descartes and Diderot did changed my life, and my thesis, forever!”

Allison, Paris



When can I study abroad?

While it is possible for history majors to go abroad at almost any point in their academic careers, the particular semester, summer or year that you study abroad depends on what courses you plan to take, and have taken already.

Transfer students are eligible to participate as soon as they arrive at Berkeley. Please note that application deadlines are quite early. For more information, visit studyabroad.berkeley.edu/transfer-students

For all history majors, please keep in mind that History 103 and 101 can only be taken at Berkeley, and that it's recommended they be taken in different terms. Thus, if you plan to study abroad in the fall of your senior year, you should plan to take History 103 in your junior year.

“ Study abroad was the best thing I've ever done, and I've done a lot of things.”

-Ian, Bristol

Plan ahead!

Applications typically are due six months to a year prior to the program's start date and some programs have academic or linguistic prerequisites that must be satisfied in advance. Please check the BSA website for guidance on “how to apply”:

studyabroad.berkeley.edu/how-to-apply

Cost:

Study on BSA can be comparable to the cost of study at UC. In some cases, it is less. BSA participants pay UC fees and continue to receive UC financial aid while abroad. Furthermore, BSA students are eligible for special grants and scholarships from UC, the host country, and other sources.

Where can I study abroad?



History students planning to complete a portion of their major abroad have a wide variety of options. The following are just a few institutions where our students have studied:

- Pembroke/King's College, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom
- University of Bordeaux, France
- University of Belgrano, Argentina
- Mexico University, Mexico City
- Hong Kong University, Hong Kong
- University of Cape Town, South Africa
- Thammasat University, Thailand
- Yonsei University, Korea
- Meiji Gakuin University, Japan
- Beijing Normal University, China

Tip:

Keep a personal journal, and take plenty of pictures! You'll enjoy having them when you get back to Berkeley and long after you graduate.

What classes can I take?



The History Department allows a maximum of four upper-division, letter-graded courses taken at other institutions to be used toward major requirements. Upper division courses for the History Major must be fairly narrow in scope and focus, similar to upper division courses offered in our department. (Note that non-Berkeley courses may be used for the History Minor.)

It is important that you bring back your course descriptions, syllabi, reading lists and all the work you did for your courses (papers, projects, exams, etc.).

If your course syllabus does not specify required reading, you should create a reading diary ("para-syllabus") of books and articles you are actually reading each week. Please make sure to include page numbers.

Tip:

If you plan to conduct research for your senior thesis while studying abroad, talk with a faculty member in your field before you leave, and take detailed notes on your research while you're away.

Course credit:

Students will earn UC credit for BSA courses they complete abroad. However, application of credit to major requirements is subject to the discretion of the department. To search for program and course options, go to the BSA website:

studyabroad.berkeley.edu/programs and follow the links to courses offered through UCEAP and Berkeley Abroad.

What happens when I return?

When you return, you will need to submit a Course Approval form for each class you want to use as a major requirement. The form is available on the History website.

Please attach a course syllabus and reading list (if separate) and a transcript (for non-UC programs) to each form. Submit the forms and attachments to the undergraduate advisor, Leah Flanagan, in 3226 Dwinelle.

I'm interested! What are the next steps?

History majors interested in study abroad through BSA should first research program options on the BSA website, then meet with the History Advisor, to discuss departmental regulations and the academic planning process. If you bring course descriptions and unit calculations with you to that advising session, you will have a much better idea of whether your chosen classes will eventually be approved for the History major. (For non-BSA programs, see instructions here. You should go over the possible courses with your major advisor as well.) Please review the Study Abroad section of the History Major Handbook.

Application information and BSA advising are available at the Berkeley Study Abroad office, 160 Stephens Hall.