Information on Study Abroad Programs

Office of Global Programs
The Office of Global Programs (OGP) supports the University’s overall goal of internationalizing our campus and engaging scholars, students and institutions in creating a deeper understanding of our globally interdependent and culturally diverse world. OGP helps students identify appropriate programs and navigate the research, planning and application steps needed to study abroad.

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For more information pertaining to study abroad program options, students should visit the Office of Global Programs Web site at http://www.ogp.columbia.edu.

List of Recommended Programs
• Arava institute for Environmental Studies, Israel
• Columbia University Summer Ecosystem Experience for Undergraduates (SEE-U) Program
• Columbia University Tropical Biology and Sustainability in Kenya
• Cornell Nepal Study Program: Course on Nepali Conservation and Individualized Research
• Harvard Summer School in Borneo: Tropical Diversity in the Malay Archipelago
• Sea Semester: Oceans and Climate
• School for Field Studies, Wildlife Management Studies, Kenya and Tanzania
• School for Field Studies, Tropical Rainforest Studies, Australia
• School for Field Studies, Sustainable Development Studies, Costa Rica
• School for International Training, Brazil: Amazon Resource Development and Human Ecology
• School for International Training, Ecuador: Comparative Ecology and Conservation
• School for International Training, Iceland: Renewable Energy, Tech, and Resource Economics
• School for International Training, Madagascar: National Identity and Social Change
• School for International Training, Mongolia: Geopolitics and the Environment
• School for International Training Uganda: Development Studies
• Organization for Tropical Studies (Duke): Tropical Biology in Costa Rica
Columbia College Eligibility Requirements for Study Abroad

To ensure they are prepared to study in their future host country, Columbia College students must be cleared to study abroad prior to leaving. The clearance process entails gaining permission from Columbia College to represent Columbia overseas. The College maintains the authority over students’ participation in study abroad programs and upholds standards for all potential candidates. A review of each student’s academic and disciplinary records is conducted as part of this process. Students on academic or disciplinary probation are not permitted to study abroad during the term of their probation.

Eligibility

In order to be cleared for study abroad, Columbia College students must:

- Have at least a 3.0 GPA overall and in the language of their future host country.
- Make significant progress in the Core Curriculum. It is required to have completed both semesters of Literature Humanities and Contemporary Civilization, as well as University Writing and Frontiers of Science. Students must also complete the language requirement before studying abroad (even if planning to study in an English-language setting). Beyond these courses, it is highly recommended that students complete at least one Global Core course and one additional science course. Ideally, only one or two Core courses should remain for the senior year.
- Possess at least intermediate language proficiency for programs where the language of instruction is not English. Typically, four semesters of language is the minimum requirement, though some programs require more. If students plan to attend a program where the language of instruction is English, but the national language of the country is not, one semester of languages may be taken in lieu of the regional course. To ensure continuing progress in the language, it is required that students take at least one course taught in the language of their future host country during the semester immediately before the study abroad period.
- Prior to studying abroad, students must take at least one course pertaining to the country or region where they intend to study. The regional course provides background knowledge of the country or region where they intend to study—its historical, cultural and social foundations—and an understanding of its contemporary issues. Developing a focused course of study related to the host country will help students establish a path of academic inquiry that they will build upon while abroad.

For More Information

Read more about the eligibility requirements for Columbia College students here. Students are encouraged to browse the full list of approved programs and meet with a study abroad adviser based upon the region where they plan to study, as early in their academic careers as possible.
School of General Studies Eligibility Requirements for Study Abroad
All study abroad programs, including Columbia-sponsored study abroad programs, must be approved by the GS study abroad adviser. Students may be approved for a total of two semesters plus one summer session of study abroad; however, students will need to have good academic reasons for studying abroad for multiple or extended programs. A study abroad information session is held for GS students each semester.

Eligibility
In order to be cleared for study abroad, General Studies students must:
- Have a minimum GPA of 3.0 and be in good standing to be eligible for study abroad.
- Prior to going abroad on an approved program, students are expected to have begun language study and taken at least one course, other than a language, related to the region of the world in which they plan to study.
- Before departing on an approved study abroad program, GS students should have completed at least two semesters and 18 credits at GS, have a minimum of 56 credits earned toward the degree, and have declared a major.
- Exceptions to some of these requirements are granted for students applying to Columbia-sponsored programs.

Application Process
Students interested in studying abroad on any program other than the SEE-U programs must start a profile on the Office of Global Programs website to obtain the required Clearance, Course Approval, and Registration forms. Please go to http://ogp.columbia.edu to find your program of choice and start your application. Please note, the application must be initiated several weeks prior to the clearance dates above to ensure that you will be able to obtain clearance on time. If you encounter any difficulty in finding your program or logging into the system, please email ogp@columbia.edu for assistance. As soon as students have begun their online profiles, they are expected to bring their completed GS study abroad clearance forms to a meeting with the GS study abroad advisor in order to obtain official clearance to study abroad. The deadlines for these meetings are October 15 for spring-term study and March 15 for summer or fall-term study. As soon as they have obtained official clearance, students are also expected to meet with the regional advisor in the Office of Global Programs to continue with their specific program applications and complete the remaining application forms by the appropriate deadlines.

Study abroad approval may be rescinded if a student’s grade point average falls below 3.0; if a student fails to meet good academic and/or disciplinary standing, or if a student has an Incomplete in coursework the term prior to departure. Other conditions as imposed by the Committee on Academic Standing may apply.
To obtain official clearance to study abroad, students must meet with the GS study abroad adviser and bring their completed GS study abroad clearance form to this meeting. The deadlines for these meetings are October 15 for spring-term study and March 15 for summer or fall-term study.

**For More Information**
You can read more about the eligibility requirements for School of General Studies students [here](#). You can contact an adviser by email at gsstudyabroad@columbia.edu.