

UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT  
DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

**Study Abroad Advice for Majors and Minors**

The Anthropology Department considers study abroad to be an integral aspect of a high quality undergraduate education in all subfields of anthropology. Study abroad provides you with the opportunity to move from learning *about* the world to learning *in* the world. With the right program and frame of mind, you can gain invaluable cross-cultural and field research experiences that will enhance your studies, career prospects, and outlook on life.

**Planning for Study Abroad**

*When to go?* As long as you have a minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA, sophomore status, and good social standing at the university, UVM will grant you permission to study abroad. Most students go during their third year. A handful go during their sophomore year, and others their senior year, but keep in mind that you must take 30 of your last 45 credit hours at UVM.

Some key courses in the major and/or minor are offered only during certain semesters (i.e., Theory and Linguistics in the fall, Social Org in the Spring). Plan out your major and/or minor in advance, and consider how study abroad will help fulfill those requirements.

*Seek Advising* In order to study abroad, you must attend an information session and meet with a Study Abroad Advisor, both at the Office of International Education (OIE). You should also meet with your academic advisor as early in your planning as possible to discuss programs, the application process, and your plan for completing the major or minor.

*Prerequisites* Different programs have different prerequisites, which may include language and certain specialized coursework. Some programs also have minimum GPA requirements. We suggest that at a minimum, you should have completed Anthropology 21 before studying abroad.

**Choosing a Program**

*Location* What region or country interests you most? Do you want a comparative/multi-country or stationary program?

*Program Type* Do you want to go for an academic year? One semester? Summer? Winter break?

Do you want direct enrollment in a foreign university or to be in a group with other Americans? Do you want homestays or dormitory/independent residence? Do you want language immersion or English language? Do you want an anthropological field study component, or an ethnographic or archaeological field school?

Be aware that some programs are merely “American Bubbles” overseas and offer very little or no true cross-cultural immersion. Such programs offer very little for an anthropology education. We suggest that you seek out programs that offer sustained immersion in a culture different than your own.

*Credit Transfer* Find out from the registrar's office how the credits from the program you want to apply to transfer back to UVM: [www.uvm.edu/~rgweb](http://www.uvm.edu/~rgweb)

### Unique Opportunities for Anthropology Students

- UVM Oaxaca* UVM has its own semester-long program in Oaxaca, Mexico with a focus in indigenous cultures, landscape, arts, and Spanish language: [www.uvm.edu/~learn/travel/oaxaca](http://www.uvm.edu/~learn/travel/oaxaca)
- UVM Anguilla* UVM Anthropology leads a semi-annual field school in Anguilla, British West Indies, in which students learn archaeological field methods.
- UVM China* UVM Asian Studies Program has a course on Chinese culture that includes a study tour to Beijing: [www.uvm.edu/~chinese/StudyAbroad/index.htm](http://www.uvm.edu/~chinese/StudyAbroad/index.htm)
- UVM Belize* The Community Development and Applied Economics department has its own study abroad program in Belize that focuses on development issues.
- IHP* The International Honors Program ([www.ihp.edu](http://www.ihp.edu)) has a number of unique and high quality multi-country programs with anthropological content: Rethinking Globalization, Indigenous Perspectives, Cities in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, and Health and Globalization.
- SIT* The School for International Training ([www.sit.edu](http://www.sit.edu)) has programs in many countries that feature cultural themes. We have noticed that the quality of SIT programs is inconsistent and depends on the program, so consult with your academic advisor or study abroad advisor about the particular program that interests you.
- ISEP* UVM is a member of the International Student Exchange Program ([www.isep.org](http://www.isep.org)), offering direct-enrollment in universities in 35 countries, most of which offer courses in all subfields of anthropology.

### Financing Study Abroad

- Financial Aid* If you participate in a UVM-approved study abroad program, you will be able to receive aid while abroad. However, UVM institutional-based financial aid no longer covers the costs of some programs. For more information contact the Financial Aid office and see [www.uvm.edu/~oies/?Page=sa\\_cost.html](http://www.uvm.edu/~oies/?Page=sa_cost.html). UVM institutional aid can usually be applied to bilateral exchange programs, ISEP, and UVM faculty-led programs. Many non-UVM programs offer scholarships.
- Funding* There are several nationally competitive scholarships (including the Gilman, Boren, Critical Language Scholarship and Freeman in Asia Scholarship) that can provide funding to assist with the cost of study abroad, especially if you are studying a foreign language of strategic interest to the U.S., such as Arabic or Chinese. The Office of Fellowships Advising coordinates the university endorsement and application advising process for these scholarships. Students who have a strong academic record should arrange to meet with the Office of Fellowships Advising early in the study abroad planning process to get a sense of what prestigious scholarships may fit their interests and goals (802-656-4658, [britten.chase@uvm.edu](mailto:britten.chase@uvm.edu)).

If you are interested in studying in Canada or Mexico, the Global and Regional Studies Program administers a grant that provides a \$5,000 stipend to cover travel and living expenses if you participate in the UVM NAFTA Mobility Exchange Program (contact Luis Vivanco, [lvivanco@uvm.edu](mailto:lvivanco@uvm.edu)).

Although they are not intended for traditional study abroad programs, the following are possibilities for students who plan to conduct independent research abroad or to attend a conference:

- SGA has a \$10,000 pot of money that they dole out to students on a first come, first serve basis; it is professional development money, not for study abroad, but could cover research, conferences, etc. Students can contact the treasurer to get the information
- CAS has Suiter, APLE and URECA, which sometimes apply, especially in cases of independent research:  
<http://www.uvm.edu/artsandsciences/foruvmstudents/research/>
- Office of Undergraduate Research has various support for students doing research projects or creative endeavors, pursuing an unpaid or underpaid internship, or specifically creating a community-based research projects:  
<http://www.uvm.edu/ugresearch/?Page=grants.html> (Ann Kroll Lerner, 802-656-5533, [akrollle@uvm.edu](mailto:akrollle@uvm.edu))

## **Your Application**

*References* Most programs require one or several faculty references. You should get to know several teachers well in advance of your application deadline, and give them plenty of lead time to write their letters. Do not wait until the last minute on this one!

*Essay* Different programs require different kinds of essays. Share your essay with your advisor and other reference letter writers for feedback well in advance of deadlines.

## **Suggested Timeline for Applying**

Two semesters before you want to go:

- Visit the OIE. Attend a mandatory information session and meet with a Study Abroad Advisor.
- Meet with your academic advisor to discuss your plans.
- Begin researching programs and their deadlines at OIE, on the web, and by talking to faculty and other students who have studied abroad.
- If the program has an early deadline, begin completing the application and request reference letters.
- Contact the financial aid office to discuss your specific aid situation. Identify financial aid deadlines.

One semester before you want to go:

- If the deadline hasn't passed, complete your application.

- Once accepted to a program, you will need to complete a Study Abroad Approval Form, which requires a number of signatures, and attend a mandatory pre-departure meeting at OIE.

### **While You Are Abroad**

<i>Journal</i>	You are likely to experience some culture shock, even if you study in a country with strong cultural similarities to the U.S., like England or Australia. We strongly recommend that you keep a journal in which you can work through the processes of cultural adjustment, reflecting on the ups and downs of your experience. It is standard practice among anthropologists to keep a field journal.
<i>Planning for future work</i>	A study abroad location and experience can provide the basis for a senior thesis, independent study, or term paper after you return. If you need help thinking through possible topics to pursue when you get back, or help identifying materials and information to collect while you are there, talk with your program's academic leaders and contact your advisor back here at UVM.
<i>Save everything!</i>	Bring <u>all</u> your syllabi, copies of papers, and other documentation back with you to ensure smooth transfer of credit.

### **Bringing the Experience Back Home**

<i>Adjustment</i>	<p>Coming back home can be just as challenging as going. You will have changed in relation to your own culture, and wonder where you fit in back here. You will probably also miss your lifestyle and friends from abroad. There are several keys to settling back into life here:</p> <p><u>Share your experience with others:</u> Attend an OIE study abroad returnees' gathering; become an OIE study abroad peer advisor; organize a round table discussion with other students to discuss your experience; hold a slide show for friends; do a photo or object exhibit in the anthro department display cases.</p> <p><u>Use your new skills:</u> Keep your language skills up by seeking out others who speak the language; hone your cross-cultural communication skills by tutoring an international student or volunteering in town with groups you might not normally get involved with (immigrants, community outreach, etc.)</p> <p><u>Don't assume that you are the only one who changed:</u> Friends and family will have experienced new things and changed while you were away too. Don't assume you're the only one with good stories and be a good listener.</p> <p><u>Keep learning about the places you went:</u> Take more coursework that focuses on places and issues you encountered abroad, and try to use course writing assignments to deepen your knowledge of these themes.</p>
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### **Questions?**

If you have any specific questions about study abroad and anthropology, see your academic advisor and/or Prof. Luis Vivanco, Department of Anthropology Study Abroad Coordinator (lvivanco@uvm.edu).