



## Electrical Engineering Major - Education Abroad Advising Guide

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### Why study Engineering abroad?

- Invest in your future and add value to your degree
- Improve your chances of getting a job and expand career options
- Earn credits towards your degree
- Become more independent and self-confident
- Gain intercultural communication skills and expand your problem-solving skills
- Stand out to employers and prepare you to work in an increasingly diverse world
- Gain new perspective on your field
- Improve your language skills
- Develop a global network of faculty, students, friends, and locals
- Access to unique engineering course options

### How can I afford to study abroad?

Studying abroad does not have to be expensive! VCU offers a variety of program options to fit most students' budgets and the Education Abroad office assists students with identifying and applying for funding. Consider the following:

- **Use what you already have!** Most financial aid and scholarships that you already receive can be used toward study abroad. Other sources of funding may also help: pre-paid tuition plans, veteran's benefits, etc.
- **Scholarships:** There are VCU scholarships to study abroad as well as nationally competitive scholarships. Begin your search on our site and at [StudyAbroadFunding.org](http://StudyAbroadFunding.org) and [DiversityAbroad.com](http://DiversityAbroad.com)
- **Program length:** Per day expenses are often less expensive on semester programs than on summer programs and airfare may cost the same regardless of the length of your stay
- **Program type:** Programs with more structure that include group activities or excursions may be more expensive than exchange programs which include tuition, room, and board.
- **Cost of living:** If you're looking to save money on studying abroad, avoid destinations with a high cost of living like capital cities and popular tourist destinations.
- **What's included?** When considering the cost of a program, determine what the program fee includes...and what it doesn't. Some are almost all-inclusive and will cover the cost of a cell phone, insurance, group excursions and welcome/farewell receptions whereas other programs cover only the basics.

### Notable Funding Opportunities for Engineering Majors

**Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship:** For US undergraduates with Pell Grants; for programs at least 28 days in length; diversity of student and destination is a priority; scholarships up to \$5,000 available; additional \$3,000 available to study critical need languages such as Arabic, Chinese, Turkish, Indic, Korean, Russian, etc.

**Boren Awards for International Study:** For US undergraduates to study in areas critical to US interests including Africa, Asia, Central & Eastern Europe, Eurasia, Latin America, and the Middle East; scholarships up to \$20,000; preference is given to study less commonly taught languages such as Arabic, Chinese, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, and Swahili.

**Phi Kappa Phi:** For undergraduates with at least a cumulative GPA of at least 3.75

**Fund for Education Abroad:** General scholarships up to \$10,000 for US undergraduates planning to spend a minimum of 30 days abroad; Hilary Echo Douglas scholarship for study in Vietnam; Rainbow Scholarship for LGBTQI students

## **What are my next steps?**

1. **Attend a First Advising Session.** These drop in group advising sessions are held Monday-Friday at 12:30 in the Education Abroad office.
2. **Investigate Programs.** [Explore programs](#) and talk to advisors and past participants for guidance
3. **Inform your academic advisor** of your interest in studying abroad
4. **Explore the [approved course database](#)** to view pre-approved courses; talk with your academic advisor for approval on other courses
5. **Explore your [funding options](#).** Speak with a Financial Aid counselor, investigate and apply for scholarships

## **Featured Education Abroad Programs**

The following are a list of programs recommended for Engineering majors. The sections below are organized by program type and include many different program models including group and individual programs, study abroad, service-learning abroad, research abroad, and internship abroad programs. While these are featured programs for Engineering majors, students are by no means limited to these opportunities. For all available programs, please visit [global.vcu.edu/abroad/programs](http://global.vcu.edu/abroad/programs) or contact an Education Abroad advisor.

### **Short-Term Faculty-Led Programs**

VCU faculty members lead groups of VCU students for short-term programs during the summer, spring break and winter intersession. Participants earn VCU credit. New programs are created every year, and most are open to students from any major. See our [website](#) for the most current list of faculty-led programs.

#### **Robotics Engineering in Barcelona**

The Global Education Office and The School of Engineering at Virginia Commonwealth University are pleased to offer a unique opportunity to study robotics in Barcelona, Spain. The goals of this program are to provide students with a substantial international experience in Barcelona and enhance the robotics course experience by incorporating visits to local companies that manufacture or use robots. This four-week course will be taught by Dr. Speich. The class will meet three consecutive days each week, which will maximize free time for exploring Barcelona, Spain and/or southwestern Europe.

### **Departmental and Partnership Exchanges**

VCU's relationship with the universities below allows students to study at the institutions for a semester or an academic year while paying standard tuition and fees to VCU. Other expenses – such as room, board, airfare, insurance and spending money – are the responsibility of the student.

#### **AUSTRALIA: [Curtin University](#)**

*Semester or year exchange*

Located in Perth, Western Australia, Curtin University is a large public university that offers a wide variety of courses in the sciences within their [Faculty of Health Sciences](#) and [Faculty of Science and Engineering](#). Courses include: Legal Framework and Sustainability in Electrical Engineering, Electrical Machines and Stability, Electrical Circuits, Electrical Plants, Advanced Power Systems Engineering, and others.

## International Student Exchange Program (ISEP)

Choose from over 300 universities around the world offering summer, semester and year-long programs. Apply to up to 10 institutions on a single application. ISEP offers two types of placements: ISEP-Exchange (program fee based on VCU's in-state tuition, room and board) and ISEP-Direct (program fee based on host university's tuition, room and board). For best chance of exchange placement, apply by August 15 for spring programs and January 15 for fall/full-year programs.

### Electrical Engineering Programs in English:

**AUSTRALIA:** LaTrobe University

**AUSTRALIA:** CQ University

**AUSTRALIA:** Univ. of Southern Queensland

**AUSTRALIA:** Univ. of Technology, Sydney

**AUSTRIA:** Johannes Kepler Universitat Linz

**AUSTRIA:** Technische Universität Graz

**CANADA:** Regina University

**ENGLAND:** University of Sunderland

**ENGLAND:** University of Plymouth

**GERMANY:** Technische Universität Carolo-Wilhelmina zu Braunschweig

**HONG KONG:** The Chinese University of Hong Kong

**HUNGARY:** University of Debrecen

**INDIA:** University of Hyderabad

**NORTHERN IRELAND:** Ulster University

**ITALY:** Università degli Studi di Pavia

**SOUTH KOREA:** University of Seoul

**SOUTH KOREA:** Ajou University

**LITHUANIA:** Vilnius University

**MALTA:** University of Malta

**NEW ZEALAND:** Massey University

**SCOTLAND:** Edinburgh Napier University

**SPAIN:** Universidad Pública de Navarra

**SWEDEN:** Lulea University of Technology

**SWEDEN:** Mälardalen University

**UNITED ARAB EMIRATES:** American University of Sharjah

**VIETNAM:** International University- Vietnam National University HCMC

## Affiliate and Alternative Programs

The following programs are sponsored by 1) study abroad organizations/providers, 2) other US institutions, or 3) foreign universities who accept visiting international students. Prices range, though most programs are between \$10,000-\$15,000 for a semester including housing, meals, tuition, and on-site support services. Programs below are organized alphabetically by country.

**COLOMBIA:** [Universidad del Norte](#) (available through ISA)

**Terms:** Fall, Spring

**Courses include:** Analog Electronics I, Digital Electronics

**ENGLAND:** [London South Bank University](#) (available through KEI)

**Terms:** Fall, Spring, Year

**Courses include:** Introduction to Digital Electronics, Principles of Computer Engineering, Introduction to Vehicle Engineering, Analogue and Digital Circuit Design, Systems and Software Engineering, and others.

**IRELAND:** [University College Cork](#) (available through USAC)

**Terms:** Fall, Spring, Year

**Courses include:** Digital Electronic Systems, Electronic Circuits, Non-Linear Circuit Analysis, Introduction to Electric Drives, and others

**JORDAN:** [Princess Sumaya University for Technology](#) (available through ISA)

**Terms:** Fall, Spring

**Courses include:** Analog Communications, Analog IC Design, Applied Electromagnetics, Atomic Control, Digital Electronics, Electric Machines, Engineering Economics, Engineering Ethics, Microprocessors, and others

**SOUTH AFRICA:** [Stellenbosch University](#) (available through USAC)

**Terms:** Fall, Spring

**Courses include:** Computer Systems, Control Systems, Electromagnetics, Renewable Energy Systems, High-Frequency Technique, and others

**SOUTH KOREA:** [Yonsei University](#) (available through USAC)

**Terms:** Fall, Spring

**Courses include:** 17 Electrical Engineering courses in the fall

**SPAIN:** [Universidad Carlos III de Madrid](#) (available through CEA)

**Terms:** Fall, Spring

**Courses include:** Analog Electronics I, Control Engineering I, Digital Electronics, Electric Power Generation, Electric System Design, Industrial Automation I and II, Mechanics of Structures, Power Electronics in Energetics Systems, and others