Psychology Major - Education Abroad Advising Guide

"We are a global society and the majority of the world's population lives outside of North America. Studying abroad gives psychology majors a perspective on human behavior that is informed by an understanding of cultural similarities and differences."
- Dr. Wendy Kliewer

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Why study Psychology 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

When is the best time to study abroad?
It is recommend that PSYC students study abroad sometime in their first three years, but that doesn't mean they can't in their senior year. The Department of Psychology offers amazing PSYC 494 research internship opportunities that most PSYC students take advantage of in their junior or senior since PSYC 494 requires PSYC 101, PSYC 214 and PSYC 317 as prerequisites.

What courses should I take abroad?
A student can take any approved PSYC classes abroad, but it is suggested that PSYC majors complete PSYC 101, PSYC 214, PSYC 317, and PSYC 451 at VCU.

The Psychology Department works closely with the Education Abroad office to ensure that classes taken abroad will fulfill requirements in your degree. The study abroad programs listed here were carefully selected for you. Students can choose to participate in programs that will fulfill major, minor, general education, and/or elective requirements.

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 and 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 Psychology 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 group advising sessions are held Monday-Friday at 12:30 in the Education Abroad office.
2. **Investigate Programs.** Explore global.vcu.edu/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 Psychology 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 Psychology majors, students are by no means limited to these opportunities. For all available programs, please visit global.vcu.edu/programs or contact an Education Abroad advisor.

**GEO Short-Term 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.

**Direct-Enroll at the American College of Greece**

The Global Education Office and the American College of Greece are pleased to offer VCU students a new summer study abroad program in Athens. The program offers an exceptional opportunity to take classes in a wide range of academic disciplines, all taught in English,
while living in historic Athens, Greece. Located on a breathtaking hillside at the edge of Athens, the ACG campus is an ideal setting for study in Greece, combining a fully immersive cultural experience and rich academic programs.

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

Curtin University is a VCU International Partnership University, which allows students to study in Perth, Australia for a semester or a year. Located in the capital of the state of Western Australia, Perth's sunny, warm climate and relaxed, friendly atmosphere make it an ideal location to study abroad. Perth consistently ranks amongst the world’s most livable cities and boasts more sunshine hours than any other Australian capital! Curtin's green and beautifully landscaped subtropical campus is filled with a diverse student body including a large international student population. Students have taken courses in Child Development Psychology, Adult Developmental Psychology, Social Psychology, Perception, Abnormal Psychology, and Psychological Experimental Methods.

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.

ISEP institutions offering Psychology courses taught in English:

AUSTRIA: Karl-Franzens-Universitat Graz
BOTSWANA: University of Botswana
CANADA: Laurentian University
DENMARK: Aalborg University
ENGLAND: University of Bradford
ENGLAND: University of Central Lancashire
ENGLAND: University of Chester
ENGLAND: University of East London
ENGLAND: University of Essex
ENGLAND: University of Plymouth
ENGLAND: University of Roehampton
ENGLAND: University of Sunderland
NORTHERN IRELAND: University of Ulster
FIJI: University of the South Pacific
GHANA: University of Ghana
HONG KONG: CUHK
HUNGARY: University of Debrecen
INDIA: University of Hyderabad
ITALY: University Cattolica del Sacro Cuore
ITALY: University degli Studi di Urbino
KOREA: University of Korea
LITHUANIA: Vilnius University
MALAYSIA: UPSI
MALTA: University of Malta
MEXICO: Tecnologico de Monterrey
MEXICO: UDEM
MOROCCO: Al Akhawayn University
NETHERLANDS: Leiden University
NETHERLANDS: Tilburg University
NEW ZEALAND: Massey University
SPAIN: University de Almeria
TURKEY: Yasar University
UAE: American University of Sharjah

ISEP in Host Language:

AUSTRIA: Karl-Franzens-Universitat Graz
AUSTRIA: Universitat Salzburg
FRANCE: Universite d’Angers
FRANCE: Universite de Caen
FRANCE: Universite de Franche-Comte
FRANCE: Universite de Grenoble II
FRANCE: Universite de Lille III
FRANCE: Universite de Nantes
FRANCE: Universite de Nice
FRANCE: Universite de Picardie Jules Verne
FRANCE: Universite de Savoie
FRANCE: Universite Montpellier III – Paul Valery
GERMANY: TU Bielefeld
GERMANY: TU Dortmund
GERMANY: Katholische Universitat Eichstatt
GERMANY: Justus-Liebig-Universitat Giessen
GERMANY: Universitat Hannover
GERMANY: Universitat Marburg
GERMANY: Universitat Trier
SWITZERLAND: Universite de Fribourg
**SWITZERLAND:** Universitat Bern
**SWITZERLAND:** Universitat Zurich
**ARGENTINA:** Universidad Blas Pascal
**ARGENTINA:** Universidad Catolica de Córdoba
**ARGENTINA:** Universidad de Palermo
**ARGENTINA:** Universidad del Salvador
**BOLIVIA:** Universidad Privada Boliviana
**CHILE:** Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Valparaiso
**CHILE:** Universidad Católica del Norte
**COLOMBIA:** Universidad Icesi
**COSTA RICA:** Universidad Nacional in Heredia
**MEXICO:** ITESO

**MEXICO:** Tecnológico de Monterrey (ITESM)
**MEXICO:** Universidad de Monterrey (UDEM)
**MEXICO:** Universidad La Salle
**MEXICO:** UPAEP
**MEXICO:** Universidad Regiomontana
**SPAIN:** Universidad Complutense de Madrid
**SPAIN:** Universidad de Almeria
**SPAIN:** Universidad de Málaga
**SPAIN:** Universidad de Murcia
**SPAIN:** Universidad de las Islas Baleares
**SPAIN:** Universidad Rovira i Virgili

**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. There are many other programs available aside from the ones listed below.

**IRELAND:** University of Limerick (available through API and CIS)
**Term:** Fall, Spring, or Academic Year
**Courses include:** Human Development and the Life Span, Psychology of the Personality, Psychology and Social Issues, Cognition, Social Psychology, and Abnormal and Clinical Psychology

**NORWAY:** University of Oslo (available through USAC)
**Term:** Fall, Spring, or Academic Year
**Courses include:** Social Cognition, Psychosocial Development, Brain and Cognition, Introduction to Personnel Psychology, Personality and Abnormal Psychology, Applied Social Psychology, and Promoting Change through Social Psychology

**THAILAND:** Mahidol University (available through CIS)
**Term:** Fall, Spring, or Academic Year
**Courses include:** Introduction to Psychology, Developmental Psychology, Psychological Approaches to Personality, Abnormal Psychology, Introduction to Industrial and Organizational Psychology, and Introduction to Educational Psychology

**Internships:**

- API Psychology and Social Science Internships
- CIS Psychology Internships