



VCU Globe - Education Abroad Advising Guide

VCU Globe

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Why study abroad while in VCU Globe?

- Invest in your future, earn credits, and add value toward your degree
- Become more independent and self-confident
- Stand out to employers and prepare yourself to work in an increasingly diverse world
- Gain new perspectives in your field
- Improve your language skills
- Develop a global network of faculty, students, and friends
- Develop global leadership skills like intercultural competence, empathy, adaptability, and problem-solving
- Fulfill credits toward your Global Education certificate

When is the best time to study abroad and what courses should I take?

Anytime is a good time to study abroad! VCU Globe students pursue different majors and you should work with your academic advisor, study abroad advisor, and your VCU Globe advisor to determine the best time for you to study abroad. Some courses you take abroad may be approved as part of your Globe certificate 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 that 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 VCU Globe students:

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 and VCU Globe 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 VCU Globe students. 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 VCU Globe, 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.

VCU Globe at Qatar

Directed by a member of the VCU Globe faculty, this program offers a unique opportunity for global engagement through participation in campus activities at VCU's campus in Doha, Qatar. Students will participate in an Arabic language workshop, a special meeting with representatives from the US Embassy in Doha, and other social and academic activities coordinated with VCUQ students.

VCU Globe in Japan

Participate in a unique opportunity to learn about intercultural communications, visit museums and sites of cultural and historic importance, and study alongside students at Shimane University in Matsue, Japan. Excursions include camping, a visit to hot springs, and travel to Tokyo, Kyoto, and Hiroshima. Participants will earn three credits for GLED 391.

VCU Globe Service-Learning in Mexico

In this service-learning program, learn about Mexican and indigenous cultures, intercultural communication, globalization, and migration. Visit sites of cultural, archaeological, and environmental importance and improve your Spanish language skills in the beautiful city of Oaxaca. Work with a nonprofit organization offering no-interest micro-loans to Zapotec women and take Spanish classes taught by native Spanish speakers. Excursions include trips to local craft villages, an eco-tour, and time spent in Mexico City.

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. Curtin's beautifully landscaped subtropical campus boasts a diverse student body including a large international student population. Curtin University offers Work Integrated Learning (WIL) units with internship and service-learning components.

ENGLAND: University of the West of England

Semester or year exchange

The University of the West of England (UWE) is a VCU International Partnership University which allows students to study in Bristol, England for a semester or a year. UWE offers a variety of courses in different disciplines.

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 [Global Engagement Programs](#) provide students with additional benefits that allow them to enrich their experience abroad by becoming actively engaged with local communities. GEPs include a pre-session course, on-site Residence Director assistance, local excursions, ISEP organized language course, and community engagement opportunities like volunteer work, service-learning for academic credit, independent study, internships, and research projects. There are currently two GEP sites:

[ISEP Direct in Ghana](#)

[ISEP Direct in Costa Rica](#)

VCU Globe students have already studied abroad at the following ISEP locations:

China – [Sichuan University and Pacific Lutheran University](#)

France – [Aix-Marseille University](#)

[Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Rennes](#)

[Universite de Lille 3](#)

Malta – [University of Malta](#)

South Korea – [Korea University](#)

Spain – [Universitat Rovira I Virgili](#)

Thailand – [Thammasat University](#)

United Arab Emirates – [American University of Sharjah](#)

United Kingdom – [University of Bradford](#)

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. The programs featured here specifically offer courses or certificates in global leadership. There are many other programs available aside from the ones listed below.

[Academic Programs International \(API\)](#) has programs available in 22 different countries around the world and uses the [API Learning and Engagement Digital Badge Program](#) to support student learning.

The [Council on International Educational Exchange \(CIEE\)](#) has an [Intercultural Communication and Leadership course](#) available at the following sites:

Europe

[Prague, Czech Republic](#)
[Rennes, France](#)
[Berlin, Germany](#)
[Dublin, Ireland](#)
[Lisbon, Portugal](#)
[Alicante, Spain](#)
[Madrid, Spain](#)
[Palma de Mallorca, Spain](#)
[Seville, Spain](#)
[Uppsala, Sweden](#)

Middle East

[Amman, Jordan](#)
[Istanbul, Turkey](#)

Latin America

[Buenos Aires, Argentina](#)
[Havana, Cuba](#)
[Guanajuato, Mexico](#)
[Lima, Peru](#)

Asia

[Nanjing, China](#)
[Seoul, South Korea](#)

Africa

[Legon, Ghana](#)
[Dakar, Senegal](#)
[Cape Town, South Africa](#)
[Stellenbosch, South Africa](#)

Center for International Studies (CIS):

- Global Leadership Certificate at [Macquarie University](#) for semester-length programs
- Programs in [New Zealand](#), [South Africa](#), and [Perugia, Italy](#), offer at least one leadership course per semester
- [Greek Leadership summer](#) program (for students in fraternities or sororities): one-credit, week-long seminar followed by regular courses at Florence University of the Arts

International Studies Abroad (ISA) has the following locations with at least one leadership course:

- [Auckland, New Zealand](#)
- [Florence, Italy](#)
- [Gold Coast, Australia](#)
- [Valparaiso, Chile](#)
- [San Jose, Costa Rica](#)
- [Wollongong, Australia](#)

Study Abroad Italy (SAI): Global Leadership Certificate

- [American University of Paris \(Paris, France\)](#)
- [Florence University of the Arts \(Florence, Italy\)](#)
- [John Cabot University \(Rome, Italy\)](#)