

History

STUDY ABROAD INFORMATION FOR HISTORY CONCENTRATORS

Study abroad provides an opportunity for a History student to gain an in-depth knowledge of the past (and present) of a specific country or region of the world. Augmenting the specific courses taken at the study abroad program or host university, the program site becomes, in effect, a laboratory, in which you can begin to grasp how citizens of another part of the world view themselves and their history. Even for American history majors, study abroad provides insight into how we and our history are seen by others—in all of our glories and our faults.

Whether you wish to enroll in a program in which the medium of instruction is in English or one where courses are taken at a university with host country students, virtually every study abroad program offers courses in the field of history. Some, particularly those for which there is no language requirement, may be more suitable for second-year students, while those which require four or more semesters of a language—and are likely to offer a range of history courses—may be more suitable for juniors and seniors.

Students participating in programs sponsored by the Office of International Programs (OIP) earn in-residence credit, are eligible to use U-M awarded financial aid and scholarships toward program costs, and may fulfill general and concentration requirements with courses taken abroad.



GETTING STARTED

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| 1.) Plan early: Talk to your general academic and concentration advisors about your interest in going abroad | Meet with a faculty History advisor. Schedule: http://www.lsa.umich.edu/history/ug/ |
| 2.) Visit the OIP: Learn about program offerings and attend the OIP study abroad fair and information sessions | OIP's Study Abroad Fairs: Fall Fair – Mid September Summer Fair – Mid January |
| 3.) Narrow down your program options: Review course offerings and how they can satisfy concentration and distribution requirements | See OIP's website: http://www.lsa.umich.edu/oip/oip-study-abroad.htm |
| 4.) Research program costs: Review OIP information on program costs; learn about scholarship options and financial aid for which you may be eligible | http://www.lsa.umich.edu/oip/financial.htm |
| 5.) Apply for your program | Online application: http://www.lsa.umich.edu/oip/applying.htm |

FACTORS TO CONSIDER

Timing: Some programs, including the Oxford Summer program at St. Peter's College, may be done as early as the summer after your first year. Others require at least three semesters at Michigan (including programs in Australia), while British universities prefer students with junior or even senior standing. Before going abroad, History majors/minors must consult a concentration advisor about the courses they plan to take and how they may be used to fulfill concentration and minor requirements.

"The ability to synthesize a broad range of materials that this system fosters will, I'm sure, be of benefit to anyone seeking to pursue history beyond the undergraduate level."

~ Phillip H. York University '07

SATISFYING DISTRIBUTION AND GENERAL LSA REQUIREMENTS WITH COURSES TAKEN ABROAD:

- ◆ **Distribution credit** – To use a course or courses taken abroad to satisfy Humanities, Social Science, Natural Science, or another distribution category, you should meet with your LSA advisor before going abroad. Take detailed course descriptions or as much information as you can gather to the advising appointment. If you are unable to get this information ahead of time, or if your course elections change while abroad, bring back as much course information as you can, so that your advisor can effectively evaluate the course upon return.
- ◆ **Race and ethnicity** – It is generally advisable to take R & E class on campus. However, if you want to use a course taken abroad to satisfy this requirement, you need to petition the LSA Academic Standards Board upon return. (Honors students should contact their respective advising offices.) As part of your petition, you need to provide a syllabus for the course and write an argument explaining how you felt the course met the spirit of the requirement. Petition forms with the R & E criteria are available on the web or at the Newnan LSA Advising Center. Keep in mind that you may not be able to get a syllabus for the course, so you should bring back as much course information as you can—e.g. reading lists, coursepacks, papers, etc. If the syllabus and/or course materials are not in English, contact the Academic Standards Board to see if you need to have them translated. Board members can translate Spanish, French, and German.
- ◆ **Quantitative reasoning** – To use a class taken abroad to satisfy the Quantitative Reasoning requirement, you need to petition the LSA Academic Standards Board upon return. (Honors students should contact their respective advising offices.) You need to present a course syllabus as

well as materials showing the type of work done in the course (homework, quizzes, exams, and textbooks are helpful.)

- ◆ **Upper level writing requirement** – It's extremely rare for a study abroad course to be approved for Upper-Level Writing. Generally these courses must be taught on campus by U-M faculty. If you want to request an exception, contact the Sweetland Writing Center, but keep in mind that such approvals are not likely granted.

Counting courses taken abroad towards History requirements: History concentrators may take up to 4 of the 8 concentration courses and cognates off-campus. The colloquium must be taken in Ann Arbor. For the minor, only 2 of the 6 history courses can be taken abroad unless they count as in-residence credit. In selecting history courses abroad, students may wish to keep in mind the following:

- ◆ **How does the course fit into your history program?** Does it fulfill any of the geographic or pre-1800 distribution requirements? Will you earn at least 3 cr. for the course?
- ◆ **Does the number level of the course meet department expectations regarding 200- and upper-level courses?** Courses should be comparable in quality and workload to those on campus at the same level. Bringing in all your paperwork (syllabi, reading lists, papers, exams) for History advisor approval is essential.
- ◆ **Does the course content cover new material?** If you've already taken a course at U-M with similar content, you cannot take a course that covers the same material while abroad. Instead, take advantage of the locale and local expertise and choose courses not available at U-M. Consider electing cognates that enrich your understanding of the host country's culture.



Please be aware that the Department of History cannot pre-approve courses and credits, whether you participate on a U-M-sponsored or a non-U-M program. You need to get as much material as possible for pre-evaluation so you have a good idea of the level of courses you will take while abroad before you go. When you return, you need to meet with a concentration advisor to review the specific courses you have taken abroad. For this reason, it is important that you save syllabi, reading lists, papers, exams, and any other course-related materials and share them with your advisor when you return.

History Honors program and study abroad: The History Honors Programs is a three-semester sequence. With careful timing, students can participate in the Honors Program and enroll in a study abroad program. Among the options:

- ◆ Students may study abroad in the fall of their junior year and apply to the Honors program by the fall deadline. This is most advantageous to the student.
- ◆ With special permission from the Honors advisor, students may have the winter term; junior year Honors Colloquium (398) waived; History 396 or 397 must be substituted.
- ◆ Students should plan to be on campus during their entire senior year unless they obtain advance approval from their thesis advisor and the History Honors Advisor. For example, a student might conduct research overseas during the fall term and return to write the thesis winter term.

*"Studying abroad in Africa meant that I was studying and living in the place where all our world's history was born. It was incredibly humbling. Furthermore, living in Senegal gave me an important and invaluable internal historical perspective, as so much of African history has been reduced to external sources and perspectives. My Senegalese professors and the rich historical records also provided me with great sources for my upcoming senior thesis."
~ Lara F. Senegal '07*

ACADEMIC YEAR, TERM-LONG (FALL OR WINTER), SPRING AND SUMMER PROGRAMS

The Office of International Programs offers over 80 study abroad options. Credit from these program appear on your U-M transcript as in residence credit and can be used to meet any College requirements. It is wise to discuss your possible programs with your concentration advisor before you select the program right for you.

