

Philosophy

STUDY ABROAD INFORMATION FOR PHILOSOPHY STUDENTS

Why go abroad to ...study Philosophy? Can't you just sit at home and read books—or more likely, stare at a screen? Well, you could, but you'd be missing an awful lot. Philosophical ideas do not develop in a vacuum, but spring from the cultures and histories in which their originators live. Locke's ideas on religious toleration, for example, are the product of his position as an English intellectual working in the shadow of the English civil war, and looking across the channel to the European wars of religion. Other philosophers have contributed to their culture ideas that have changed it: Jean Jacques Rousseau's *The Social Contract* is thought to have had a profound effect on the French revolution. These ideas are brought to life by knowledge of the history and culture of the countries in which their originators lived and worked, and there is no better way to learn about these things than to immerse oneself in that culture. Yet other philosophers are best studied in the country in which they worked because traditions of taking them seriously continue to flourish particularly well in those countries. It would perhaps be more natural to study Russell or Hume in Britain than in the United States, for successive generations of teachers have been trained by philosophers who take these philosophers seriously as part of their cultural background. More broadly, philosophy needs a rich diet of examples, and there is no better way to stock up the pantry than to see how things work differently in different countries. One U-M student who recently studied in Japan reports being "surprised by the amount of sway Confucianism seems to carry in modern Japan". He is also struck by the fact that while the vast majority of Japanese are agnostic, the norm is to attend a variety of festivals with origins in various religions: "one might visit a Shinto shrine at New Year's, a Buddhist temple for Obon-festival in the summer, and give Christmas gifts in December." Go figure, ...but most of all GO!.



GETTING STARTED

1.) Plan early: Talk to your philosophy advisors about your interest in studying abroad.	To meet with your Philosophy advisor go to the departmental office, 2215 Angell Hall.
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: Study abroad is not just for juniors! Rather, the timing (and program choice) varies according to your academic goals in studying abroad. There are programs for which sophomores are well prepared and seniors who have most of the concentration completed can definitely benefit from seeing the field of Philosophy from the broader perspective of a different culture. Seniors, however, need to realize that the final year may be a time when they should be cementing relationships with faculty here from whom they might request a letter of recommendation. Summers offer a more focused opportunity, while the semester or yearlong programs offer the possibility of gaining greater insight from having more time in a different culture. In planning for study abroad, discuss with a concentration advisor how your proposed plans might best fit department requirements and your particular goals.

"Within the first ten minutes of my Oxford tutorial, I was asked 'Do you read French? What about German?' I realized I was now a part of a tradition and a level of commitment to scholarship different from anything I had experienced before".

~ Everett K.

2007 Oxford

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 and RC 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. 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 Philosophy concentration requirements –

You should plan to meet with your concentration advisor to discuss this possibility before going abroad; bring with you a copy of the course description(s). You may have to meet with your advisor upon return to provide further information about course(s) taken abroad.

Funding study abroad – Students who have financial aid through the University of Michigan can apply their financial aid to any U-M programs sponsored by any unit in the University.



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

The Office of International Programs offers over 80 study abroad options for you to choose from. Credit from these programs appear on your U-M transcript as in-residence credit and can be used to meet any College requirements. It's for you. wise to discuss possible programs with your concentration advisor before you select the right program Almost all universities will offer courses in philosophy. Below are listed some of the possibilities that might be particularly of interest.

*"The classes I took turned out to be great. One history class of mine focused largely on America's cultural influence in South Africa; it was extremely interesting to hear the diverse views of South Africans on this topic and further, to exchange my own thoughts. This is an experience one simply could not have at U-M."
~Matt C.*

AUSTRALIA **MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA**

Single term or full year. The University of Melbourne has a department of Philosophy as part of its Faculty of Arts which offers a broad selection of classes every year. There is also an extensive selection of liberal arts classes available.

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

Single term of full year. The University of New South Wales in Sydney has a School of History and Philosophy in its Faculty of Arts and Sciences. Students take courses from that school and other schools that offer liberal arts classes.

CHILE **SANTIAGO, CHILE**

Fall, Winter or full year. The Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile offers a wide selection of philosophy classes from its Facultad de Filosofia. Students need to have a 5-semester proficiency in Spanish.

EGYPT **AMERICAN UNIVERSITY IN CAIRO (AUC)**

Single semester or full year. The American University of Cairo (AUC) has a department of Philosophy along with a full range of courses in liberal arts disciplines. Teaching is in English (except for language courses)

FRANCE **AIX-EN-PROVENCE, FRANCE**

Winter Term or full year. The Universite d' Aix-Marseille in Aix-en-Provence provides an opportunity for students to study philosophy in the departement de philosophie as well as other liberal arts courses. Requires 5 semesters or more of French language.

GERMANY **FREIBURG, GERMANY**

Full year only. Albert-Ludwigs Universität in Freiburg has had a long-standing program for U-M students to spend the year. It has a strong program in philosophy (Heidegger was the Rector of the University) Proficiency in German will be needed to take the regular University courses.

TÜBINGEN, GERMANY

Winter Term or full year. Universität Tübingen has a full set of offerings in philosophy, yet it is particularly strong in German Idealism, Philosophy of Antiquity. Proficiency in German will be necessary for regular University courses.



GREAT BRITAIN **LONDON, GREAT BRITAIN – KINGS COLLEGE**

Winter Term or full year. Kings College, London has one of the largest and most distinguished departments of philosophy in the country with top ratings for teaching and research.

LONDON, GREAT BRITAIN – LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS (LSE)

Full year only. The London School of Economics has a highly respected Department of Philosophy, Logic and Scientific Method which has extensive offerings for undergraduates.

OXFORD, GREAT BRITAIN

Winter Term or full year. Several colleges within Oxford University admit U-M students through a program that is administered by Butler University’s Institute for Study Abroad. Admission is highly competitive.

ST. ANDREWS, GREAT BRITAIN

Winter Term or full year. St. Andrews University has a distinguished faculty in its department of philosophy which offers an array of classes.



KOREA
SEOUL, KOREA

Academic Year or Winter Term. Through exchange agreements with Yonsei University students may elect philosophy classes taught in English. Yonsei has a department of Philosophy in their Division of Liberal Arts which offers a large selection of classes in Eastern and Western philosophy.

SPAIN
SEVILLE, SPAIN

Winter Term or full year. The Universidad de Sevilla provide students who have 5 semesters or more of Spanish the opportunity to take courses from its Facultad de Filosofia. Since most courses offered by this department are year long courses, students are encouraged to take that scheduling issue into account when considering this choice.

SOUTH AFRICA
CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

One or two semesters. Students enroll in the University of Cape Town. The Department of Philosophy focuses on analytical philosophy, offering courses in the Philosophy of Mind, Moral and Political Philosophy, Philosophy of Language, Aesthetics, Applied Ethics and Critical Thinking. Classes are taught in English.

TURKEY
ISTANBUL, TURKEY

One or two semesters. The Philosophy department of Bogaziçi University in Istanbul joins analytic and continental viewpoints as well as historically and scientifically minded approaches to the study of philosophy. Instruction is in English except for language classes.

NON-OIP PROGRAMS

University of Michigan students may also attend foreign institutions through programs offered at other American Universities or they may enroll directly at foreign universities. If considering this option, it is important to make sure how the credit will transfer ahead of time