

# Political Science

## STUDY ABROAD INFORMATION FOR POLITICAL SCIENCE STUDENTS

Studying abroad is especially fitting for all political science students. It is obvious how pertinent it is for those who study comparative politics and world politics. It also is extremely valuable for students who are studying American politics because it allows us to view our own systems in light of what happens in other countries. In essence, the enhanced perspective that comes when one sees another government in operation in a completely different setting helps to clarify the assumptions we hold about the US government and our political institutions.

It is especially important for students to gain a feel for a different culture so they can see how the culture influences the governmental structure and operation. The feel comes from a total immersion in the culture. To achieve this immersion, it is crucial that students master the language thoroughly and live and associate with individuals from outside the US. The ability to be part of a different culture gives insight into its government and how it functions. Ideally when students return from a study abroad experience they will have the ability to look at our own government from a vastly different perspective.



In addition to academic study while abroad, the department encourages students to work in a government or related organization in a foreign country. Internships and other related experiences are highly valued.

## GETTING STARTED

1.) Plan early: Talk to your general and concentration advisors about your interest in studying abroad	To meet with your Political Science advisor, log onto the <a href="#">Political Science homepage</a> and schedule an appointment.
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: <a href="http://www.lsa.umich.edu/oip/oip-study-abroad.htm">http://www.lsa.umich.edu/oip/oip-study-abroad.htm</a>
4.) Research program costs: Review OIP information on program costs; learn about scholarship options and financial aid for which you may be eligible	<a href="http://www.lsa.umich.edu/oip/financial.htm">http://www.lsa.umich.edu/oip/financial.htm</a>
5.) Apply for your program	Online application: <a href="http://www.lsa.umich.edu/oip/applying.htm">http://www.lsa.umich.edu/oip/applying.htm</a>

## FACTORS TO CONSIDER

**Timing:** Study abroad is not just for juniors! Rather, the timing (and program choice) depends on your academic goals in studying abroad. As a political science student, timing may be determined by an opportunity to work/intern in a governmental organization in this country or abroad is a valuable experience to have. Summer programs offer a more focused chance while the term- or year-long programs give an extended opportunity to live and learn in a different culture. No matter when you go, discuss with a concentration advisor which requirements might be most appropriately taken abroad.

A number of political science students also consider the minor in International Studies, which is separate from Political Science requirements. For more information about the minor, contact the academic advisor in the Center for International and Comparative Studies (CICS) in the International Institute.

*"China seems to have set up their youth with all the tools to succeed in a world that they know very little about but will be submerged in very soon. I hope to continue keeping in touch with my students and watch them thrive in a culture I was not allowed to explain."  
~Halley P. '06 China Internship*

### 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. 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 Political Science Concentration requirements** – Political Science allows students to count up to 9 credits of courses taken abroad in one term toward the concentration and up to 12 credits if the student studies abroad for a full year. Plan to meet with your concentration advisor to discuss this possibility before going abroad; bring a copy of course description(s). You need to meet with your advisor upon your return to provide further information about the course(s) taken abroad. Save course syllabi and work. Most study abroad courses transfer at the 300-level.

**Funding study abroad** – Students that have financial aid through the U-M can apply their financial aid to any U-M program sponsored by OIP or other units in the University.



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

The Office of International Programs offers 80 study abroad options for students to choose from. 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. Almost every school you could attend will offer programs that will be appropriate for political science. The following OIP programs are suggested so as to give you a flavor of what you might consider.

### AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST

#### CAIRO, EGYPT

Single semester or full year. The American University of Cairo (AUC) offers a full range of courses in political science including courses on Middle Eastern politics. Teaching is in English (except language courses).

#### DAKAR, SENEGAL

Winter Term only. Requires four semesters of French. In a program shared with Michigan State, students enroll in classes at the Université Cheikh Anta Diop in Dakar and at its West African Research Center. Possible courses include one on Conflict Resolution in Africa.

#### CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA

One or two semesters. Students enroll in the University of Cape Town's faculty of Humanities department of Political Studies. Classes are taught in English with a variety of liberal arts classes including sociology.

#### ANKARA AND ISTANBUL, TURKEY

One or two semesters. Middle East Technical University (METU) in Ankara has a tradition of strong social science departments including political science. Bogazici University in Istanbul also offers an array of political science classes. The instruction in both schools is in English except for language classes.



### ASIA

#### TOKYO, JAPAN

Full year. The University of Tokyo AIKOM offers intensive Japanese courses and a limited number of liberal arts courses taught in English. No Japanese is required before attending but priority is given to students with two years' previous study of Japanese. Students with advanced level proficiency in Japanese may elect regular classes from the University of Tokyo.

#### SEOUL, KOREA

Full year or Winter term. Through exchange agreements with Yonsei University and Ewha Women's University students may elect political science and other liberal arts classes taught in English from among those offered by the international divisions of these two universities.

#### SINGAPORE

Single term or full year. The National University of Singapore (NUS) Department of Political Science offers a full range of political science classes including a selection of courses in Asian politics. Classes are taught in English except for Asian languages.

*"I did the internship with IDASA so I could get a better idea of what it was that I wanted to do with my career. I wanted to know what it was like, on a day-to-day basis, to be an MP, to be a political researcher, to be a Parliamentary staff member, to be an employee of the executive. I wanted to observe."*

*~ Daniel V.*

### AUSTRALIA

#### MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

Single term or full year. The University of Melbourne has political science classes offered through its faculty of Arts. A broad array of classes is available.

#### PERTH, AUSTRALIA

Single term or full year. The University of Western Australia in Perth has a faculty of Political Science and International Relations which offers a wide selection of courses.

#### SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

Single term or full year. The University of New South Wales (UNSW) is a large school with a complete offering of classes in political science and other liberal arts. Students interested in Internship possibilities may wish to consider the CIC internship program, which combines academic work at UNSW with a half-time internship.

## EUROPE

### PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC

Fall or Winter Term. Charles University and CERGE joined together to form a Central European Program for Undergraduate Studies. The program is taught in English, and many courses enroll Czech as well as American students. American students take a required Czech language class and four additional classes. Class offerings vary but all emphasize Central Europe.

### AIX-EN-PROVENCE, FRANCE

Full year or Winter Term. Programs at the Université d'Aix-Marseille in Aix-en-Provence provide an opportunity for students to study political science at its Institut d'Etudes Politiques (IEP). Requires 5 semesters or more of French language.

### PARIS, FRANCE

Full year only. The Institut d'Etudes Politiques (Sciences Po), one of France's prestigious grandes écoles, has developed a special curriculum for international students fluent in French. Sciences Po is the top political science school in France and many government leaders are graduates.

### FREIBURG AND TÜBINGEN, GERMANY

Full year or Winter Term (Tübingen only). Students with 4 or more semesters of German study political science and other social sciences at a German university. For students with advanced levels of German proficiency, a wide range of courses is available.

### GREAT BRITAIN (MULTIPLE LOCATIONS)

Full year or Winter Term. OIP has programs affiliated with Cambridge University, London School of Economics, Oxford University, Sussex University, University of Essex, University of Lancaster, University of St. Andrews, University of York and University College of London. The political science programs at the London School of Economics, University of Essex and University of York are particularly highly regarded.



*"My courses, both at IES and Complutense, have allowed me to focus on the culture, politics, and economy not only of Spain but that of the European Union as well. My favorite course was my Political Science course on International Development and Cooperation as it explored the issues (and politics) surrounding international and developmental aid. This course, furthermore, complimented my internship at the Club of Madrid."*

*~ Klementina S.*

### LONDON, GREAT BRITAIN – PARLIAMENTARY INTERNSHIP

Students spend the summer working with Members of Parliament or in other government offices. Students are required to write a research paper which incorporates their experience as interns. A faculty member of the Department of Political Science at Michigan will supervise their work and then evaluate and mark the final paper.

### GRANADA, MADRID, AND SEVILLE, SPAIN

Full year or Fall and Winter Term (Seville) or Winter Term (Granada only). Programs at the Universidad de Granada, Universite Complutense (Madrid) and Universidad de Sevilla provide students who have 5 semesters or more of Spanish the opportunity to take courses in political science at any of these schools. There are internship opportunities in Madrid as well.

## LATIN AMERICA

### BAHIA, BRAZIL

Fall or Winter Term. A program administered by the Council for International Educational Exchange (CIEE) in Salvador da Bahia, in northeastern Brazil, offers courses in modern Brazilian society and culture, including such fields as law and development studies. Some prior study of Portuguese is required, and those proficient in Spanish but not Portuguese may enroll in CIEE's intensive Portuguese program preceding the start of the term.

### SANTIAGO, CHILE

The program at the Pontificia Universidad Catolica requires a minimum of five (5) semesters of Spanish. PUC offers a full array of courses in political science and other liberal arts courses. Students have arranged internships as well.



Keep in mind that this list of OIP programs is only suggestive. There are many more OIP-sponsored programs where you can study political science. It is also possible to study abroad during the Summer half term and either Fall or Winter Term on any of the OIP programs and elect courses that meet distribution and elective credits. For example, many U-M students go to Florence for a term or the summer. Also, many students spend part of a summer brushing up their language skills in Salamanca or Grenoble. In other words, you can fulfill requirements outside of political science through study abroad while you gain the experience of living in another culture and studying in another country's educational system.

## **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, you will want to determine how credit will transfer ahead of time. Consult with your academic advisor and the Office of Credit Evaluators in the Office of Undergraduate Admissions for procedures on transferring non-U-M work.