

# Psychology

## STUDY ABROAD INFORMATION FOR PSYCHOLOGY STUDENTS

Studying abroad can be a unique learning experience that complements and intensifies your undergraduate experience in a new era of global culture and transnational information age. This opportunity can enhance your cross-cultural and global understandings. In the world of today, this type of environmental encounter can prepare you for a variety of diverse careers and you will gain invaluable skills and knowledge to successfully navigate the demands of globalization.

The study of Psychology varies around the world. In some areas, psychology is taught solely focusing on the biological aspects, in others, it is founded on developmental principles or developed as an applied field to address the pressing and immediate problems concerning the society (e.g., South Africa). Studying abroad will provide an opportunity to understand how the sociocultural ethos of various countries shapes the pedagogical as well as the theoretical and methodological approaches to the study of psychology. For example, the UK emphasizes psychodynamics (Freud, etc.) in their instruction. The variety with which the world studies Psychology is a beneficial, life-altering learning experience that helps you to pursue a successful career in the global economy.



Students are encouraged to explore their options through the Office of International Programs (OIP) and elsewhere. With careful planning, and the assistance of a concentration and OIP advisor, you can cater to your individual needs. Choose the program that is right for you!

### GETTING STARTED

1.) Plan early: Talk to your RC and concentration advisors about your interest in going abroad.	To meet with your Psychology advisor go to the Psychology Student Academic Affairs Office, 1343 East Hall (734-764-2580).
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) varies by 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 Psychology from a broader perspective of a different culture. 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, you should discuss with a concentration advisor how your proposed plans might best fit the department's requirements and your particular goals.

*"Don't be afraid to spend less time with Americans than you do with people from the native country—you will learn more about yourself and the world in the process of pushing your boundaries and stepping out of your comfort zone. Also, traveling alone is not as scary as it may seem. The spontaneity of being by myself led to some of my most memorable experiences from studying abroad!"*

*~ Kristin R. (Chile)*

### **Satisfying distribution and general LSA/RC 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 Psychology Concentration requirements**

– You should plan to meet with your concentration advisor to discuss the possibility before going abroad; bring with you a copy of the course description(s). You will be asked to meet with your advisor upon return to provide further information about the course(s) taken abroad (course syllabus, description, etc). The department of Psychology requires a minimum of 20 credit hours counting toward the Psychology concentration and 12 credit hours of the 300+ course work be completed in Ann Arbor.

**Funding study abroad** – Students that have financial aid through U-M can apply their financial aid to any U-M programs 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 all universities will offer courses in psychology. Next are listed just some of the possibilities that might be particularly of interest.

### AUSTRALIA

#### MELBOURNE

Single term or full year. The University of Melbourne has psychology located in the School of Behavioral Science in the Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences. While the University has a sizable faculty in psychology and all fields of psychology are represented, the emphasis is more heavily on the natural science aspects.

#### PERTH

Single term or full year. The University of Western Australia in Perth has a School of Psychology located in the Faculty of Life and Physical Sciences. As such the emphasis within psychology is oriented to the natural sciences.

#### SYDNEY

Single term or full year. The University of New South Wales in Sydney has a School of Psychology in the Faculty of Science that is both highly esteemed for its research in Australia and is extremely popular with undergraduate students.

*"The best advice I can give is to let this experience affect you. Get out of your comfort zone, do things you wouldn't normally do, and challenge yourself. You'll meet new people, have once in a lifetime experiences, and grow as a person."  
~ Ariel Z. (UNSW)*

### CHILE

#### SANTIAGO

Winter Term or full year. The Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile has an Escuela de Psicologia which offers a wide array of undergraduate psychology classes. Students need a five-semester proficiency in Spanish.

### FRANCE

#### AIX-EN-PROVENCE

Winter Term or full year. The Universite d' Aix-Marseille in Aix-en-Provence provides an opportunity for students to study psychology and other liberal arts courses. Requires 5 semesters or more of French language.

### GERMANY

#### FREIBURG

Full year only. Albert-Ludwigs Universität in Freiburg has had a long standing program for U-M students to spend the year. Proficiency in German will be needed to take the regular University courses in Psychology.



### GREAT BRITAIN

#### LONDON – UCL

The University College London has the largest department of psychology in the country and it is highly rated for its research in psychology. There is a full array of undergraduate courses available.

#### ST. ANDREWS

Winter Term or full year. The School of Psychology at St. Andrews is highly rated for research and teaching. It views the study and teaching of psychology as a scientific discipline.

#### YORK

Winter Term or full year. The University of York's department of psychology has top ratings in the country for its teaching and for its research.

### SINGAPORE

#### SINGAPORE

Single semester or full year. The National University of Singapore (NUS) has a department of Psychology that offers a full range of classes in its Division of Social Sciences. Classes are taught in English except for Asian languages.

### SOUTH AFRICA

#### CAPE TOWN

One or two semesters. Students enroll in the University of Cape Town. The department of Psychology, part of the faculty of Humanities, emphasizes research and undergraduate teaching. Classes are taught in English.

*"You can always come back home and earn more money, but you can never go back and recreate the experience."*

*~ Carrie K. (Italy)*

#### **SPAIN**

##### **SEVILLE**

Winter Term or full year. The Universidad de Sevilla provides students who have 5 semesters or more of Spanish the opportunity to take courses from its Facultad de Psicologia as well as from other liberal arts departments. Although there is great breadth in the courses offered, many U-M students have studied social psychology there.

#### **SWITZERLAND**

##### **LAUSANNE**

Winter Term or full year. The Universite de Lausanne has a large Psychology department in the Faculte des Sciences Sociales et Politiques. There is a prerequisite of 5 or more semesters of French.

#### **TURKEY**

##### **ISTANBUL**

One or two semesters. Bogazici University in Istanbul has a department of Psychology with an extensive offering of undergraduate courses. The 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 these options, it is important to make sure how the credit will transfer ahead of time.

