

Sociology

STUDY ABROAD INFORMATION FOR SOCIOLOGY STUDENTS

The study of sociology provides fascinating and distinctive perspectives on the social world. The field also offers a range of research techniques that can be applied to virtually any aspect of social life: crime and delinquency, family dynamics, corporate downsizing, how people express emotions, welfare or education reform, or global issues of peace and war. Because sociology addresses the most challenging issues of our time, it is a rapidly expanding field with broad implications.

Sociologists are increasingly involved in crafting the policies and programs that shape the world we live in today. Scholars in the field take seriously the idea that understanding one's place and prospects in the world is informed by exposure to other societies. Hence, study abroad is an essential way to enrich one's studies in sociology. Studying abroad provides an opportunity to explore how culture, social organization, social structures, and social interaction take place in vast and varied ways. Moreover, through study abroad you can learn about how social problems are constituted differently in other societies, and how different kinds of solutions and possibilities are posed.



GETTING STARTED

1.) Plan early: Talk to your general and sociology advisors about your interest in going abroad.	To meet with the Sociology concentration advisor, Elise Frankish, go to www.lsa.umich.edu/soc/undergraduate/ and click on the link at the bottom of the page.
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 by what you hope to achieve by studying abroad. Global Intercultural Experience for Undergraduates (GIEU) offerings encourage first year students to apply. Individual courses that offer a study abroad component may be taken any time. Summer, semester, and year-long programs offer courses that have the potential to be used toward sociology requirements. In planning for study abroad, you should discuss with the sociology concentration advisor which requirements ought to be taken here in Ann Arbor (and when) and which requirements might be satisfied with a course or courses taken abroad.

Why did you decide to study abroad?
"One, I am a double major in Sociology and Spanish, and I think the only way to truly learn a language is to immerse yourself in a country where you will be forced to use it daily. Two, I love to travel and experience new things, so I figured I should try to do it for credits. Three, I wanted to get out of the US for a little while and see what life is like somewhere else."
~ Anna C. (Chile)

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

Funding study abroad – Students with 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 programs 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. The following OIP programs have departments of Sociology where you can take a range of classes.

It is also possible to study abroad during the summer or either Fall or Winter Terms on any of the OIP programs and elect courses that meet distribution and elective credits. In other words you can take a term off from sociology and pursue other interests during your study abroad experience.

AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST

EGYPT, CAIRO

Single semester or full year. The American University of Cairo (AUC) offers a full range of courses in liberal arts disciplines including sociology. Teaching is in English (except for language courses).

SENEGAL, DAKAR

Winter Term only. Requires four semesters of French. In a program shared with Michigan State, students enroll in classes at the Universite Cheikh Anta Diop in Dakar.

SOUTH AFRICA, CAPE TOWN AND DURBAN

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

TURKEY, ANKARA AND ISTANBUL

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



ASIA

JAPAN, FUKUOKA

Academic Year, the University of Kyushu in Fukuoka offers sociology and other liberal arts classes taught in English. Students must have at least one year of Japanese but two is recommended. They are required to continue with Japanese.

KOREA, SEOUL

Academic Year or Winter Term. Summer Term at Ewha. Through exchange agreements with Yonsei University and Ewha Women's University students may elect sociology and other liberal arts classes taught in English from among those offered by the international divisions of these two universities.

SINGAPORE, SINGAPORE

Single semester or full year. The National University of Singapore (NUS) has over 30 members in the Sociology faculty. Classes are taught in English except for Asian languages.

AUSTRALIA

MELBOURNE, PERTH, AND SYDNEY

Single term or full year. The University of New South Wales in Sydney, the University of Melbourne, and the University of Western Australia in Perth offer a wide selection of liberal arts classes with Sociology included among the social sciences.

*"I think that I grew as a person a lot while I was abroad. I learned to trust my own judgment, and make choices on my own."
~ Jennifer D. (Australia)*

EUROPE

FRANCE, AIX-EN-PROVENCE

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

GERMANY, FREIBURG AND TÜBINGEN

Full year or Winter Term (Tubingen only) Students with 4 or more semesters of German study Sociology and other social sciences at a German University. Those with fluency are able to take any of the classes offered at these universities. Those who are not as fluent have a limited selection of classes from which to choose.

EUROPE CONTINUED

GREAT BRITAIN (MULTIPLE LOCATIONS)

Winter Term or full year. 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 sociology programs at London School of Economics, University of Essex, and University of York are particularly highly regarded.

SPAIN, GRANADA AND SEVILLE

Winter Term or full year (Seville only) Programs at the Universidad de Granada and Universidad de Seville provide students who have 5 semesters or more of Spanish the opportunity to take courses in Sociology at either of these schools.

SWITZERLAND, LAUSANNE

Winter Term or full year. The OIP program at the Universite de Lausanne provides an opportunity for students to study sociology and other liberal arts courses. Requires 5 semesters or more of French language.

Other options for sociology concentrators to study in Europe on OIP programs include [Prague, Czech Republic](#); [Turku Finland](#); and [Uppsala, Sweden](#).

LATIN AMERICA

CHILE, SANTIAGO

Single semester or full year. The program at the Pontificia Universidad Catolica requires a minimum of 5 semesters of Spanish. PUC offers a full array of courses in sociology and other liberal arts courses.

What advice do you have for Sociology concentrators who are thinking about study abroad?

"Absolutely do it! It is an opportunity to broaden your learning experience. College isn't solely about the classroom and grades."

~ Megan M. (Australia)

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 you know how the credit will transfer ahead of time.