

# Study Abroad for Public Health Majors

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*The Public Health department encourages students to expand their academic and cultural experiences by participating in Berkeley Study Abroad (BSA). As the field of Public Health continues to grow, it is more important than ever that students gain a global perspective. With careful academic planning, students can broaden their view of Public Health while staying on track to completing their degree.*



## Why study abroad?

Studying abroad provides a great opportunity for Public Health majors to understand their course work in a broader context. Being exposed to a variety of different cultures and experiences provides students with new perspectives, both in and out of the classroom.

In addition to expanding their world view, students will prepare for a career in an internationally competitive world and enhance their experience for jobs and graduate school.

Highlights to studying abroad include:

- Developing self-confidence and independence
- Taking advantage of unique academic and research/field opportunities
- Participating in a different educational system and gaining new cultural perspectives
- Advancing cross-cultural and problem-solving skills
- Increasing proficiency in another language



## When can I study abroad?

The particular semester(s) that students plan to study abroad depends on their individual progress in the major and what coursework students plan to complete abroad. Due to the timing of our Public Health core courses, it may be difficult for students to study abroad their final year. If possible, we suggest that students participate in programs during the summer. Please schedule an appointment with a Public Health adviser to create a program plan.

*“Traveling expands your horizons and Berkeley Study Abroad is an excellent way to do that. Every students should take advantage of such opportunities.”*

*Malcolm Potts, Professor*

## Plan ahead!

Applications typically are due six months to a year prior to the program's start date and some programs have academic or linguistic prerequisites that must be satisfied in advance. Please check the BSA website for guidance on "how to apply": [studyabroad.berkeley.edu/how-to-apply](http://studyabroad.berkeley.edu/how-to-apply)

## Cost:

Study on BSA can be comparable to the cost of study at UC. In some cases, it is less. BSA participants pay UC fees and continue to receive UC financial aid while abroad. Furthermore, BSA students are eligible for special grants and scholarships from UC, the host country, and other sources.



## Where can I study abroad?

Public Health students have the opportunity to take their major elective courses while studying abroad. Students can find applicable coursework at a variety of countries and locations. Some of these locations are better suited to students interested in fieldwork while others will appeal to students for the classroom and course opportunities. Many of the BSA programs offer opportunities to get involved in the surrounding communities through internships and volunteer work. Several sites have structured internship programs and are especially well suited to accommodating Public Health related coursework.

The following are just a few of the locations where Public Health students have studied abroad:

- Thammasat University (Thailand)
- University of Ghana (Ghana)
- University of Copenhagen (Denmark)



## What classes can I take?

Students wanting to take major elective courses abroad should consult with a Public Health advisor. These courses should be comparable to those offered on our current Public Health elective list. Note: All Public Health Core courses must be taken at UC Berkeley.

Students should check in early for planning, keep in touch once their study abroad schedule has been finalized and, if requesting course credit in the major, plan a visit to the advising office promptly upon return.

If students plan to request approval for a general education course, they should meet with an advisor in the College of Letters and Science.

## Course credit:

Students will earn UC credit for BSA courses they complete abroad. However, application of credit to major requirements is subject to the discretion of the department. To search for program and course options, go to the BSA website: [studyabroad.berkeley.edu/programs](http://studyabroad.berkeley.edu/programs) and follow the links to courses offered through UCEAP and Berkeley Abroad.

## What happens when I return?

Students should meet with a Public Health advisor to discuss their major requirements and if applicable, request approval for elective coursework in the major. If students plan to request approval for a general education course, they should meet with an advisor in the College of Letters and Science.

Keep In Mind:

- Even before you return, stay in touch with the Public Health advisor regarding course selection.
- Bring back course materials such as syllabi, reading lists, and exams. These will help when petitioning for major elective credit or general education credit.
- Final approval granted only when grades and units are posted to UC Berkeley transcript.

## I'm interested! What are the next steps?

Public Health students interested in study abroad through BSA should first research program options on the BSA website [studyabroad.berkeley.edu](http://studyabroad.berkeley.edu), then meet with the Public Health advisors to discuss departmental regulations and the academic planning process. Application information and BSA advising are available at the Berkeley Study Abroad office, 160 Stephens Hall.