

## Study Abroad for Asian American & Asian Diaspora Studies Majors

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*The Asian American Studies and Asian Diaspora Program strongly urge all of its students to participate in Berkeley Study Abroad (BSA). Study abroad provides students with an opportunity to examine colonial histories, diaspora, race, ethnicity, and inequality from a comparative perspective. Our students have taken courses such as "Politics, Society, and Power," in Singapore, they also have improved their language skills in short- and long-term programs in China, Vietnam, and even Sweden. Study abroad exposes students to new intellectual and cultural challenges, and allows students to gain valuable new skills and perspectives. It's a great opportunity to learn, explore, and experience!*



### Why study abroad?

Study abroad is important for the intellectual development of anyone seeking higher education. Considering the demographic, political, and cultural changes going on in the United States and around the world, it is critical for Asian American Studies majors to deepen their understanding of these changes. It is important to go beyond Berkeley and be exposed to different approaches and outlooks in academic institutions abroad. By immersing themselves in different academic and cultural settings, students will be able to develop an intellectual and intercultural competency that is needed to succeed in today's world.

The BSA experience is invaluable! Go abroad and enhance your understanding of transnationalism, post-colonialism, re-migrations, east-west relations, shifting geopolitics, emerging economies and changing power relations.

What better way to study these critical areas of Asian American Studies than to examine them from another culture, country, and perspective?



### When can I study abroad?

While it is possible for Asian American Studies majors to go abroad at almost any point in their academic careers, the particular semester, summer, or year that you study abroad depends on what courses you plan to take.

Students interested in Language and Culture programs or in fulfilling major preparation and General Education requirements can participate as early as their sophomore year. Students wanting to fulfill upper-division major requirements should, in most cases, go abroad during their junior or senior year.

**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.

**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)



## Where can I study abroad?

Most BSA programs offer classes in ethnic studies, history, global studies, diaspora, political science, media studies, and other fields that would be appropriate for Asian American Studies majors. The following are just a few examples of relevant courses and institutions:

- “Cultures of Chinese Overseas,”  
Chinese University of Hong Kong
- “Society and Culture in Thailand,”  
Thammasat University, Bangkok, Thailand
- “Korea Through Ethnography,”  
Yonsei University, Seoul, Korea
- “Ethnic Relations,”  
National University of Singapore
- “Muslims in the West: From Islamic Spain and Construction of Otherness to 9/11,”  
Granada, Spain
- “Mexico and Multiculturalism,”  
National Autonomous University of Mexico
- “Race and Ethnicity,”  
University of Sussex, Brighton, United Kingdom



## What classes can I take?

The maximum number of major credits that Asian American Studies gives for BSA courses varies from student to student. The maximum amount generally depends on which major requirements the student has left and which requirements the student is trying to fulfill with BSA courses. The maximum number of BSA courses accepted generally ranges from 1-3. Please note that language courses do not count towards the major.

Whenever possible, students should provide their undergraduate advisors with course descriptions, syllabi, etc. of the courses they plan to take abroad and may want to use towards any major requirements.

Once abroad, students are advised to keep relevant faculty and staff informed about their plan of study and progress throughout the time they spend abroad. Course lists and descriptions of classes should be emailed to the Undergraduate Advisor.

## 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.

“ I personally feel that we can't think of study abroad as an added luxury, something affordable only to some. It should be an integral component of any undergraduate education. It is not sufficient for our students simply to appreciate cultural differences, they must be equipped with the necessary skills to function and thrive in different cultural environments.”

- Professor Khatharya Um

## What happens when I return?

Plan to meet with your faculty and/or major advisor upon your return to have your coursework approved. Be sure to bring back course materials such as syllabi, reading lists, and exams, as these will help when petitioning for major or GE credit.

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

Asian American Studies students interested in study abroad through BSA should first research program options on the BSA website [studyabroad.berkeley.edu](http://studyabroad.berkeley.edu), and then should meet with the Undergraduate Advisor to discuss departmental regulations and the academic planning process.