

Study Abroad for Comparative Literature Majors

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Many Comparative Literature students complete programs through Berkeley Study Abroad (BSA). The department actively encourages this experience as international study can be enlightening and fulfilling, both personally and academically. Additionally, many BSA courses can be applied towards the major, so time to complete a degree is usually not an issue for students. Although study abroad requires some planning ahead, the benefits are well worth the effort.



Why study abroad?

Comparative Literature majors who study abroad find that a semester or full year spent abroad is not only critical for their proficiency to read in another language, but also that the experience of adapting to another academic and cultural world expands their self understanding and gives them a sharper sense of the political, cultural, and social differences in today's world. Study abroad allows a student to:

- Take advantage of unique academic and experiential opportunities
- Participate in a different educational system and receive even more of a comparative perspective on literature
- Increase language proficiency
- Improve critical thinking skills
- Expand world view by experiencing another culture first-hand
- Develop self-confidence and independence
- Enhance résumés and/or applications for graduate school
- Prepare for a career in an internationally competitive world



When can I study abroad?

While it is possible for students to go abroad at almost any point in their academic careers, the particular semester or year that you study abroad depends on what courses you plan to take. Students interested in language programs for 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 in their junior or senior years.

Transfer students are eligible to participate as soon as they arrive at Berkeley. Please note that application deadlines are quite early. For more information:

studyabroad.berkeley.edu/transferstudents

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



Where can I study abroad?

Options for study abroad for Comparative Literature majors are endless. If the goal is to complete upper-division major requirements, time abroad can be spent in countries which offer courses taught in the language of either the major or minor literature. Comparative Literature students have spent semesters in France Spain, Japan, England, Chile, Italy and Germany, to name a few. Some examples of universities where majors have studied include:

- University of Barcelona, Spain
- The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel
- Peking University, China
- University of Bordeaux, France
- Chilean Universities, Chile
- University of St. Petersburg, Russia
- Free University of Berlin, Germany
- Osaka University, Japan



What classes can I take?

Early consultation with the Undergraduate Major Advisor will allow a student to explore several options to complete major requirements abroad.

Equivalent coursework in the major must follow these guidelines:

- Course must be conducted in the language of your major or minor literature
- Course must be taken for a letter grade
- Course (or approved combination of courses) must be equivalent to 3-4 semester units
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- Course content must be equivalent to an upper division course offered at UCB
- A maximum of 4 equivalent courses can be applied toward the major

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 and follow the links to courses offered through UCEAP and Berkeley Abroad.

What happens when I return?

Upon returning to Berkeley, students should meet with the Undergraduate Major Advisor in Comparative Literature to request approval for equivalent coursework in the major. Hints:

- Even before you return, stay in touch via email with the Undergraduate Major Advisor regarding course
- Bring back course materials such as syllabi, reading lists and exams, as these will help when petitioning for major or GE credit
- Final approval will be granted when grades and units are posted to the UC Berkeley transcript (check Bearfacts).

I'm interested! What are the next steps?

Comparative Literature students interested in study abroad through BSA should first research program options on the BSA website (studyabroad.berkeley.edu), then meet with the Comparative Literature advisor to discuss departmental regulations and the academic planning

Application information and BSA advising are available at the Berkeley Study Abroad office, 160 Stephens Hall.