

Study Abroad for Earth & Planetary Science Majors

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The Earth and Planetary Science Department encourages its students to explore study abroad opportunities. Our field is international in scope and can be studied throughout the world. Through Berkeley Study Abroad you can find partner universities that offer a wide variety of relevant courses. EPS majors have studied abroad in countries such as Argentina, Australia, China, Spain, and Italy. With careful planning and application of study abroad units, EPS majors can have a unique academic experience abroad without losing any time in completing their UC Berkeley degrees. Start planning today!



Why study abroad?

Berkeley Study Abroad offers Earth and Planetary Science students an opportunity to study their subjects in one of 34 countries located on six continents. In recent years, UC students have studied erupting volcanoes in Chile and Italy, glaciers in Norway, active faults in New Zealand, and classic geologic sites in Scotland. Some of the universities offer field trips to neighboring countries, such as to the Alps in Switzerland, and the fjords in Norway.

College is an ideal time to take advantage of the opportunity to live abroad for a summer, a semester, or a year. In addition to developing your self-confidence, independence and perspectives, your international experience will benefit your career goals and/or graduate school opportunities.



When can I study abroad?

While it is possible for Earth and Planetary Science students to go abroad at almost any point in their academic careers, the particular quarter, semester, summer or year that you study abroad depends on what courses you plan to take. All EPS classes are offered in spring or fall so you must plan in advance. Summer is an ideal time to study abroad since EPS does not offer any required or elective major courses in the summer (with the exception of EPS 118 for geology seniors).

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/transfer-students

Graduate students may apply to study or pursue research at most BSA-affiliated host institutions, and may participate in the short-term language programs. More information:

studyabroad.berkeley.edu/graduate-students

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.

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

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?

EPS majors will find relevant Earth and Planetary Science courses in many parts of the world. The following list provides an example of some of the universities and programs that feature excellent EPS course options:

Australia: Australian National University, Canberra

Ranked as one of the world's top institutions for research in a broad range of sciences including earth science, the university is known for integrating latest research with teaching.

England: University of East Anglia

This exceptional university for students majoring in the physical sciences is located in Norwich, a city that is rich with local and national history.

Japan: University of Tokyo

Spend six weeks next summer engaged in scientific research in Tokyo. This academic internship is led by world-class faculty at the #1 University in Japan.

Singapore: National University of Singapore (NUS)

NUS has world-renowned, award winning faculty in the sciences. The research program in science gives you the opportunity to work with these faculty members in various areas of research including Earth Science.

For a summary of programs for science majors, go to the UCEAP website [here](#).

Students with the necessary preparation in a modern foreign language (normally two years at the university level) might consider enrolling in a program in another language.



What classes can I take?

EPS students can take major electives abroad but core required courses such as EPS 102, EPS 150, EPS 118 and EPS 101 must be fulfilled at UC Berkeley.

Here are some examples of previously approved courses taken abroad:

- Marine Biology 101 - **University of Queensland, AU** (marine science majors)
- Fluid Mechanics - **University of Melbourne, AU** (atmospheric science majors)
- Antarctica, Victoria - **University of Wellington, NZ** (environmental earth science majors)

For more information regarding previously approved courses, please contact the EPS Undergraduate Student Affairs Officer. Intended and declared majors are encouraged to contact the major and faculty advisors for approving study abroad courses for the major. Faculty also support students who study abroad while working on research, their senior honors thesis, internships and field work abroad.

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What happens when I return?

If you worked on research or a special project while you were abroad, you can talk to your faculty advisor about continuing that research and possibly receiving academic credit for your work.

Hint

- Bring back course materials such as syllabi, reading lists and exams, as these will help when petitioning for major or GE credit.
- If you took courses in another language while abroad, have your proficiency tested immediately upon return.

I'm interested! What are the next steps?

EPS students interested in study abroad through BSA should first research program options on the BSA website (studyabroad.berkeley.edu), then meet with your department's Student Services 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.