

# Study Abroad for Peace & Conflict Studies Majors

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*The major in Peace and Conflict Studies (PACS) encourages its students to add an international dimension to their education by participating in Berkeley Study Abroad (BSA). Each year PACS students attend BSA around the world, taking classes that allow them to gain comparative perspectives on the issues of peace and conflict. They study topics such as conflict and negotiation in Paris, human security and peacebuilding in the Summer Peace Institute at the UN-mandated University for Peace in Costa Rica, or peace building and social movements in Buenos Aires. With proper academic planning, students can have the experience of a lifetime, while completing their degrees on schedule.*



## Why study abroad?

Study abroad for PACS majors provides many benefits. Students have an opportunity to study the complex dynamics of peace and conflict from differing cultural, organizational, and societal perspectives. Students are able to participate in different educational systems and gain comparative insights on core peace and conflict topics, such as conflict resolution, global governance, human rights, nonviolence, and culture and identity.

Studying abroad allows students to increase language proficiency, sharpen critical-thinking skills, and expand their world view by experiencing another culture first-hand. Many students find that living & studying abroad provides them with greater opportunities for personal growth, enhancing their understanding of themselves. Study Abroad gives students the unique opportunity to explore and more fully appreciate global concerns.



## When can I study abroad?

While it is possible for PACS 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 participating in language programs or taking college breadth requirements can participate as early as sophomore year. Students aiming to fulfill upper-division major requirements should generally go abroad in their junior year or first semester of their senior year.

*Students wishing to go abroad in their final semester are strongly encouraged to complete their major requirements before going. Courses taken abroad are evaluated only upon a student's return and there are no guarantees that they will be approved for the major.*

To determine the best time period for you to study abroad, consult with a Peace and Conflict Studies advisor at the IAS office in 101 Stephens Hall.



*My year abroad in France marked a critical point in my PACS education. Studying human rights, global governance, and the principles of humanitarian interventions from a European perspective expanded my understanding of peace studies immensely."*

*Cynthia Parmley, Peace and Conflict Studies Major*

## 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?

As an interdisciplinary major, PACS allows students great flexibility to study abroad in a variety of countries around the world – in Asia, Europe, Africa, and Latin America.

For example, PACS students can fulfill PACS concentration and survey requirements by studying at:

- Institut d'Etudes Politiques or "Sciences Po" in Paris, France: social science courses
- Summer Peace Institute at the UN-mandated University for Peace, Costa Rica: Human Security and Peace Building Program
- University of Ghana in Legon, Ghana: development, trade, and culture courses
- Hitotsubashi University in Tokyo, Japan: peace studies courses
- Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel: peace studies courses

These are only a few of the countries and institutions where PACS students may study.



## What classes can I take?

Because of the interdisciplinary nature of the PACS major, there are no pre-approved study abroad programs or classes. Students wanting to fulfill major requirements abroad should bring program information and course descriptions to a PACS advisor before departure. We will review it and advise you on your selection. However, you will not receive a guarantee in advance that the courses will count for your major.

Remember: students may fulfill up to 3 upperdivision requirements with courses taken from outside the UC Berkeley College of Letters and Science. This includes courses taken abroad as well as courses taken at UC Berkeley in departments or schools that are not within L&S, such as the Goldman School of Public Policy or the Haas School of Business. Any courses taken to fulfill the PACS language requirement are not included in the 3-course limit.

In order to fulfill an upper division Peace and Conflict Studies major requirement, courses taken abroad must:

- transfer as upper division
- be taken for a letter grade
- transfer as at least 3 UC Berkeley semester units
- be evaluated and approved upon your return from abroad by LAS

### 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](https://studyabroad.berkeley.edu/programs) and follow the links to courses offered through UCEAP and Berkeley Abroad.

## What happens when I return?

Plan to meet with the PACS major advisor to have coursework approved. Bring back course materials such as syllabi, reading lists and exams, as these will help when petitioning for major or breadth 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?

PACS students interested in study abroad through BSA should first research program options on the BSA website ([studyabroad.berkeley.edu](https://studyabroad.berkeley.edu)) or visit the BSA office. Then meet with the PACS advisor to discuss departmental requirements and the academic planning process.

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