

Study Abroad for Physics Majors

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The Physics Department encourages its students to broaden their educational experiences by studying abroad through the Berkeley Study Abroad (BSA) program. BSA provides students with the opportunity to study physics, while gaining an international perspective and expanding their academic horizons. College is an ideal time to take 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 can benefit your career goals and/or graduate school opportunities.



Why study abroad?

There are many opportunities for enhancing your understanding of physics when studying abroad. Students are encouraged to apply for a term, a full academic year, or a summer.

Studying abroad can help you:

- Take advantage of unique academic and research opportunities
- Participate in a different educational system
- Advance cross-cultural and problem-solving skills
- Expand your world perspective
- Develop self-confidence and independence
- Prepare for a internationally competitive career
- Enhance your resume and/or graduate school applications

Returning students often describe their experience abroad as a life-changing and uniquely valuable one for future choices of profession!



When can I study abroad?

While it is possible for Physics students 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 and where you wish to study abroad.

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

“Study abroad is a critical part of a global education. Students must be equipped with a broad set of international skills and crosscultural understanding in order to excel in an increasingly interdependent world.”

*Robert Birgeneu,
Professor of Physics, Chancellor Emeritus*

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

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?

Some examples of universities where Physics students have previously studied are:

- Australia Universities (Australia)
- Chile Universities (Chile)
- University of Cambridge (UK-England)
- Yonsei University (Korea)
- UC Center Madrid (Spain)
- Osaka University (Japan)
- University of Sussex (UK-England)
- Free University Berlin (Germany)
- University of Hong Kong (Hong Kong)
- Technical University Berlin (Germany)
- Tohoku University (Japan)
- UC Center Paris (France)
- University of Copenhagen (Denmark)



What classes can I take?

Application of credit to major requirements will be subject to the discretion of the department and approval of the college. Students are strongly encouraged to review their course choices with their physics advisor to maximize the number of study abroad units that may apply towards 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?

Bring back course materials such as syllabi, reading lists and exams (or copies of exams), as these will help when petitioning for major or GE credit.

I'm interested! What are the next steps?

Stop by the BSA office at 160 Stephens Hall. Peer advisors who have recently returned from studying abroad as well as staff advisors are eager to answer your questions. Go see your department faculty advisor and/or undergraduate advisor to discuss major, general education, residence and other requirements.