

STUDY ABROAD IN POLITICAL SCIENCE



Berkeley
Study Abroad

160 Stephens Hall
(510) 642-1356

<http://studyabroad.berkeley.edu>

"There is no better way to understand what is distinctive about the US system of politics than to study foreign political systems while living in another country. People in other countries often have very different understandings of how politics does and should operate, and the opportunities for learning extend well beyond the classroom."

-Prof. Jonah Levy

Political Science Dept.
296 Barrows Hall
(510) 642-3770
polisci.berkeley.edu

Berkeley
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

The Political Science encourages its students to add an international dimension to their education by participating in the Berkeley Study Abroad Program (BSA). Students studying abroad can take advantage of unique academic and experiential opportunities throughout the world, from Germany to Ghana, from Chile to China. Studying abroad gives students the opportunity to see the world from a different perspective. Each year, political science students attend these and other BSA programs around the world. With proper academic planning, students can have the experience of a lifetime with no loss of time in completing their degrees.

WHY STUDY ABROAD?

Studying abroad allows political science majors to experience first-hand different political systems, cultures, and economies. Living and studying abroad will expand your perspective, improve your critical thinking, increase your independence and better prepare you for a career in an internationally competitive world. Key highlights:

- Add an international dimension to your education
- Increase language proficiency
- Take courses on topics not readily available on the Berkeley campus
- Improve critical thinking skills
- Expand world view by experiencing another culture firsthand
- 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 Political Science students to go abroad at almost any point in their academic careers, the particular term and length of time that you study abroad depends on what requirements you have left to complete in the major.

Students should declare the major before studying abroad as the declaration process must be done in person.

Of the eight upper division requirements for the Political Science major, no more than three can be satisfied with courses from other universities. Political Science 3 must be taken here at UC Berkeley, and should be completed before departure if you are studying abroad in your junior or senior year.

- 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":
<http://studyabroad.berkeley.edu/how-to-apply>

- THE COST OF BSA-

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?

BSA offers a variety of semester and year-long programs taught in English or a foreign language. The type of program you choose may depend on language proficiency, academic goals, and time constraints.

Political Science students have taken a wide variety of courses throughout the world. Some examples are:

- Coping with Multipolarity (Sciences Po, France)
- Capitalism & Democracy in Korea (Yonsei University, South Korea)
- Latin American Politics (University of Chile)
- Themes and Issues in Transatlantic Relations (Free University, Germany)



UCB students touching the East Side of the Berlin Wall

I'M INTERESTED, WHAT ARE MY NEXT STEPS?

Political Science students interested in study abroad through BSA should first research program options on the BSA website (<http://studyabroad.berkeley.edu>), then meet with a Political Science adviser in 296 Barrows Hall to discuss departmental regulations, required materials for course approval, and the academic planning process. Application information and BSA advising are available at the Berkeley Study Abroad office, 160 Stephens Hall. Additional information about major applicability and the approval process is available online under "Academic Opportunities" at <http://polisci.berkeley.edu/undergrad>

WHAT CLASSES CAN I TAKE?

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: <http://studyabroad.berkeley.edu/programs> and follow the links to courses offered through UCEAP and Berkeley Abroad.

Students hoping to complete major requirements abroad should meet with a Political Science adviser in 296 Barrows Hall as soon as they have determined which university they would like to attend.

Courses that are designated as Political Science by the Study Abroad Office are not necessarily accepted for the major. All courses must be reviewed in advance by the UC Berkeley Political Science department.

A maximum of one course taken abroad can count towards the subfield specialization requirement, and none can satisfy a distribution requirement. Students are therefore advised to complete the five distribution requirements before going abroad.



"Gyeongbokgung Palace is a famous attraction in Seoul. Regardless of the season you visit, the scenery around the palace is beautiful"

Polly Wu, Yonsei University Program