



Berkeley Study Abroad
160 Stephens Hall
(510) 642-1356
studyabroad.berkeley.edu

"Studying in India changed my whole worldview and allowed me the opportunity to experience Eastern traditions as I traveled with Buddhist nuns to the places the Buddha lived and taught. I learned yoga and meditation at Delhi University and studied the Bhagavad-Gita with Hindu swamis...not to mention that the food was delicious!"

Lauren Bausch

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Berkeley
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

STUDY ABROAD IN SOUTH & SOUTHEAST ASIAN STUDIES

The Department of South & Southeast Asian Studies (SSEAS) encourages its students to add an international dimension to their education by participating in Berkeley Study Abroad (BSA). With proper academic planning, most students can have the experience of a lifetime with no loss of time in completing the degree.

BSA has programs in India as well as Southeast Asian centers in Thailand, Vietnam and Singapore. As the SSEAS department encompasses about a dozen different countries and teaches an equal number of languages, studying abroad would be an especially desirable element of your undergraduate education.

WHY STUDY ABROAD?

- Get a taste of the culture you've been studying
- Increase your language proficiency
- Develop self-confidence and independence
- Enhance résumés and applications for graduate school
- Prepare for a career in a competitive world
- A chance to experience your own cultural heritage

Returning students often describe their time on the Berkeley Study Abroad as one of the most empowering and transformative experiences of their lives. Studying abroad can have a significant impact on identifying and attaining personal and career goals.

WHEN CAN I STUDY ABROAD?

While it is possible for SSEAS students to go abroad at almost any point in their academic career, the particular semester or year that you study abroad depends on what courses you plan to take.

Students interested in fulfilling major preparation and General Education requirements can participate as early as the sophomore year. Students wanting to fulfill upper-division major requirements should, in most cases, go abroad after having taken at least a couple of courses in the major here at Berkeley. There are no hard and fast rules on this – come in for a chat.

Transfer students are eligible to participate as soon as they arrive at Berkeley. Please note that application deadlines are quite early. For more information: <https://studyabroad-prod.berkeley.edu/academics/academicPlanning/transfers.php>
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:

<https://studyabroad-prod.berkeley.edu/academics/academicPlanning/gradStudents.php>

- 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>

WHERE CAN I STUDY ABROAD?

While most of our students choose the programs from the region, this is not a requirement. Perhaps you'll do what one student did and study Sanskrit in Scotland. Or maybe you'll follow the example of another and go to Sweden. There were no Southeast Asian courses available to him, but since he had planned well, he had no difficulty completing both of his majors on time.



UC Berkeley students enjoying sporting event. Thammasat University Program, Thailand

Photo by Jorge Palencia

• 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.

I'M INTERESTED, WHAT ARE MY NEXT STEPS?

Students interested in study abroad through BSA should first research program options on the BSA website:

<http://studyabroad.berkeley.edu>, or by visiting the BSA office. Then meet with the SSEAS advisor to discuss departmental requirements and the academic planning process.

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

WHAT CLASSES CAN I TAKE?

Take whatever courses interest you. We allow up to three courses to count toward the major. As long as the course fits both your track (language or civilization) and your emphasis (South or Southeast Asia), we will accept it.

For example:

- Directed research program through the Fergusson College, India
- Explore South Indian languages, culture, history, literature through University of Hyderabad's Study India Program
- Live in a Thai village and work on a rural development project through the Development Studies program at Thammasat University in Bangkok.

Not until you are actually enrolling in courses can you be sure what will be offered, so keep in touch with the Major Advisor on email. Previously discussed and approved plans may need to be changed. The time to get preliminary approval is when you are signing up for these new classes on site.

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.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I RETURN?

Bring back course materials such as syllabi, reading lists and exams, as these will help when petitioning for major or General Education credit. If you took courses in a South or Southeast Asian language while abroad, meet with the appropriate language instructor immediately upon return.