Public Health students can study all over the world through the Berkeley Study Abroad (BSA) program, in most cases without delaying graduation or adding financial burden.

The Public Health department encourages its students to take advantage of the opportunity to complete some portion of their undergraduate work by studying abroad through BSA programs. As the field of Public Health becomes increasingly international, it is more important than ever that students gain experience throughout the world. Because most courses taken through BSA are accepted as UC courses, with careful planning students may spend as much as a year of study in a foreign university with no loss of time in completing their degrees.

**WHY STUDY ABROAD?**

Studying abroad provides a great opportunity for Public Health majors to understand their course work in a broader context. By exposing yourself to a variety of different cultures and experiences you have a better framework with which to interpret your studies. You will also gain new and different perspectives in and out of the classroom.

There are numerous opportunities outside the classroom including internships and field work that will give students hands on, practical experience in Public Health. Past BSA students have participated in field studies and internships including: the Ghana Population Agenda, the School of Public Health in Ghana, AIDS prevention organizations in Costa Rica, the Health Action and Information Network in the Philippines, among others.

In addition to expanding their worldview students will prepare for a career in an internationally competitive world and enhance their resumes for jobs and graduate schools.

**WHEN CAN I STUDY ABROAD?**

**Freshmen**
It’s best to begin planning as early as possible for study abroad. If you want to begin or continue the study of a foreign language through the short-term language and culture programs, you can apply in your freshman year to go abroad as a sophomore.

**Sophomores & Juniors**
You can also apply sophomore year to do a language and culture program in your junior year. But if you want to complete a significant portion of your major studies abroad, you should apply in fall of your sophomore year to do your junior year abroad. (See below, “Where should I study abroad.”) Also, students who have completed their lower-division language studies may elect to expand their knowledge of that language through classes in a foreign language university during their junior or senior year.

**Seniors**
If you want to go abroad in your senior year, you should complete all your major requirements or plan to take courses meeting your remaining requirements while abroad. It is possible to graduate while abroad, but close consultation with an advisor is essential.

**Transfer students**
For transfer students in the Public Health major, students can go on study abroad as early as their 2nd semester; contact the adviser to discuss further at: sphug@berkeley.edu

**THE COST OF BSA**
Study on BSA can be comparable to the cost of study at UC. In some cases, it is less. EAP 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.

**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 application deadlines: http://studyabroad.berkeley.edu
**WHERE CAN I STUDY ABROAD?**

Students can find coursework relevant to their majors at many of BSA partner institutions in over 40 countries worldwide. ([http://studyabroad.berkeley.edu/find-a-program](http://studyabroad.berkeley.edu/find-a-program)) You can browse BSA programs by Subject Area, Country, Program Length, and Language of Instruction.

Public Health students have the opportunity to take their major elective courses while studying abroad. There are a variety of countries and locations at which students can find applicable coursework. Some of these locations are better suited to students interested in fieldwork while others will appeal to Public Health students for the classroom and course opportunities. The following are just a few of the many destinations that have been identified as being strong in sciences and health:

- Botswana, University of Botswana
- Denmark, University of Copenhagen
- France, Sciences Po
- Chile, Pontifical Catholic University of Chile, Santiago
- English and Scottish Universities
- Ghana, University of Ghana, Legon
- Hong Kong, University of Hong Kong
- New Zealand Universities

Furthermore, many of the BSA programs offer opportunities for students to get involved in the surrounding communities through internships and volunteer work. Several sites have structured internship programs and especially well suited to accommodating Public Health related coursework. Such programs are available in many different countries including Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, India, Ireland, Mexico, Brazil and Singapore.

To find out the full range of options available to students interested in studying abroad on BSA please visit the website at [http://studyabroad.berkeley.edu](http://studyabroad.berkeley.edu)

**WHAT CLASSES CAN I TAKE?**

As a Public Health major you can get credit for your major elective courses through your studies abroad. These courses should be comparable to those offered in your department at Berkeley. While courses are not approved before your departure, you can consult with your major adviser to get more information about course guidelines and credits. Upon return you should keep your course materials available to assist the undergraduate management committee who will review the courses and accept them for major credit on a case-by-case basis.

**I'M INTERESTED, WHAT ARE MY NEXT STEPS?**

Public Health students interested in study abroad should first research program options on the BSA website ([http://studyabroad.berkeley.edu](http://studyabroad.berkeley.edu)), then meet with the Public Health advisor, Tony Soyka, to discuss departmental regulations and the academic planning process. Applications and BSA advising are available at the BSA office, 160 Stephens Hall.

**WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I RETURN?**

Be prepared to register for telebears for the semester that you return. Contact your adviser via email for codes.

It may be possible to use your studies abroad as part of an honors research project, but you must arrange that with the advisor and a faculty member before going.

**Hints:**

- 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.