

Study Abroad for Chicano Studies Majors

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The Chicano Studies Program encourages all of its students to participate in Berkeley Study Abroad (BSA.) Students going abroad have a wide range of options to further their understanding of the connected histories, cultures, and migrations within the Americas and beyond. Our students have taken courses on Mexico-US Labor Migrations in Mexico, Social and Economic History of Latin America in Brazil, Advanced Language Studies in Spain, and Ethnic Studies in Singapore. Studying and living abroad helps students gain international skills and cross-cultural understanding. It can be the experience of a lifetime!



Why study abroad?

Chicano Studies majors going abroad have an opportunity to take classes that provide different perspectives on the issues and themes that are covered in our program. Students can expand their understanding of comparative colonial histories, indigenous cultures, economic and political relations in the Americas, and the histories and cultures of migration. Studying these topics abroad allows students to gain a more global outlook on the concerns that impact Chicano communities locally.

Aside from providing an enriching academic experience, study abroad allows students to observe first-hand and better understand the political and social complexities of the world today. Adapting to another academic and cultural world can expand self-understanding, personal growth, and confidence. The practical experience of studying abroad prepares students to meet the challenges for future work, advanced graduate studies, or professional training.



When can I study abroad?

While it is possible for Chicano Studies 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.

Students interested in Language and Culture programs or in fulfilling major preparation and General Education requirements can participate as early as their sophomore year. Students wanting to fulfill upper-division major requirements should, in most cases, go abroad their junior or senior year.

Transfer students are encouraged to seek opportunities for study abroad. Consult with your Undergraduate Advisor to determine when would be the best year or term to study abroad. Careful planning and an early start will allow transfer students to find the right program.

“Every effort should be made for students to study abroad. I understand that it may not be always easy to do so, but the value of studying outside of the U.S. and its benefits are unimaginable. I strongly recommend EAP for Latino students, especially for those who have had few, if any, opportunities to travel abroad. It is an incomparable learning experience.”

Professor Alex Saragosa

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

Costs:

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 short and long term programs throughout the Americas and beyond. Aside from looking at local societies, students can take courses in ethnic, global, and American studies with an emphasis on colonial and post-colonial systems.

For example, the Field Research Program in UC Center – Mexico City provides training in research methods that begins at Casa de California, followed by field research in Oaxaca, Yucatan, Chiapas, Queretaro, or Mexico City working one-on-one with Mexican professors. It is a unique opportunity to explore Mexico with unparalleled access to social, political and cultural immersion and distinguish yourself from other undergraduates.

Some other centers where Chicano Studies students have studied include the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) and National University of Singapore (NUS)



What classes can I take?

The maximum number of major credits that Chicano Studies gives for BSA courses varies from student to student. The maximum amount generally depends on which major requirements the student has left and which requirements the student is trying to fulfill with BSA courses. The maximum number of BSA courses accepted generally ranges from 1-3. Please note that language courses do not count towards the major.

Whenever possible, students should provide their undergraduate advisors with course descriptions, syllabi, etc. of the courses they plan to take abroad and may want to use towards any major requirements.

Once abroad, students are advised to keep relevant faculty and staff informed about their plan of study and progress throughout the time they spend abroad. Course lists and descriptions of classes should be emailed to the Undergraduate Advisor.

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: <http://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 your faculty and/or major advisor upon your return to have your coursework approved.

Bring back course materials such as syllabi, reading lists, and exams, as these will help when petitioning for major or Breadth requirements. Faculty and Undergraduate Advisors will review the petitions and give final approval on coursework.

I'm interested! What are the next steps?

Chicano Studies students interested in study abroad through BSA should first research program options on the BSA website <http://studyabroad.berkeley.edu>, then meet with an Chicano Studies advisor to discuss departmental regulations and the academic planning process. Application information and BSA advising are available at the Berkeley Study Abroad office, 160 Stephens Hall.