

Study Abroad for Native American Studies Majors

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The Native American Studies Program strongly encourages all of its students to participate in Berkeley Study Abroad (BSA.) In an increasingly interdependent world, living abroad will expand your understanding of diverse cultures, attitudes, and behaviors. You will have an opportunity to study issues of race, inequality, and indigeneity in different historical, cultural, and national contexts. Your experience abroad will help you develop greater cross-cultural awareness and adaptability and better prepare you for a career in an internationally competitive world. Studying abroad will allow you to bring new comparative perspectives to Native issues.



Why study abroad?

As a Native American Studies major, you have already studied topics that have international dimensions. The impacts of Western migrations and colonialism on Native cultures that began in the 16th century continue to be significant today throughout the Americas and in other parts of the world. By studying abroad, you will increase your understanding of diverse colonial intrusions and regional indigenous histories and cultures, as well as community building and resistance movements among indigenous peoples.

You also will have an opportunity to:

- Expand your world-view
- Participate in a different educational system
- Improve critical thinking skills and develop greater self-confidence
- Increase language proficiency
- Enhance your resume for job and graduate school applications



When can I study abroad?

While it is possible for Native American 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, in most cases, should 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. For more information:

studyabroadprod.berkeley.edu/academics/academicPlanning/transfers.php

“In addition to the country’s beauty, I was highly interested in the indigenous Maori community and how they are able to navigate Parliament and the political landscape. Also, by actually living there for 6 months, I was able to see something new everyday about wonderful developments in Maori country...”

Jackie Keliia, Native American Studies Major

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?

The Berkeley Study Abroad (BSA) offers a variety of short-term and year-long programs throughout the Americas and in Australia and New Zealand that specifically focus on Indigenous Studies. Aside from looking at local indigenous societies, students can take courses in Ethnic, Global, and American Studies with an emphasis on colonial and post-colonial systems.

Possibilities on BSA include:

- First Nations studies at University of British Columbia, Canada.
- Program in contemporary indigenous rights movements in Chile and the Americas at the University of Chile, Santiago, Chile.
- Indigenous Studies programs with an emphasis on Maori and Pacific populations at universities in New Zealand.
- Indigenous Studies at Australian Universities: Monash University in Melbourne houses the Centre for Australian Indigenous Studies that offers interdisciplinary courses on law, health, and race relations as they relate to Aboriginal life in Australia.



What classes can I take?

The maximum number of major credits that Native American 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.

Whenever possible, students should provide the undergraduate advisor 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 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: 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?

Native American Studies students interested in study abroad through BSA should first research program options on the BSA website studyabroad.berkeley.edu, then meet with the Native American 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.