

UNIVERSITY OF PUGET SOUND STUDY ABROAD GUIDELINES

Puget Sound Study Abroad Application Deadline: January 21st, 2022

ELIGIBILITY

1. To demonstrate academic achievement:
 - a. Students must meet all program-specific requirements (including minimum GPA, class standing, course pre-requisites, language pre-requisites, etc.). Please note: if a student's cumulative Puget Sound GPA is below 2.5 the application will not be considered.
 - b. Students must be in good academic standing (not on any type of academic sanction) at the time of application and until the time of departure.
 - c. Students with a cumulative GPA lower than 3.0 may apply but must demonstrate, in an additional application essay, that they have made significant progress towards achieving overall academic excellence.
 - d. Students applying to attend two different programs (one fall and one spring) must be aware that permission to study in two different programs during one academic year will be granted only in exceptional cases as justified by compelling academic goals. Students must submit an additional application essay that explains their reasons for applying to two programs, identify one preferred program, and identify how they will navigate the visa processes for both programs in a timely manner.

2. To demonstrate strong stability, responsibility, independence, and maturity:
 - a. Students must be in good conduct standing at the time of application and until the time of departure
 - i. Students on Conduct Probation Level II (CP II) are not allowed to represent Puget Sound, and no waivers are permitted. Students may not apply for study abroad, nor may they participate in a study abroad program while on CP II.
 - ii. Students on Conduct Probation Level I (CP I) are not allowed to represent Puget Sound, unless they obtain a waiver for specific purposes. A student wanting to apply to study abroad may petition for a waiver by following the process outlined by the Dean of Students Office. If a waiver is granted, the International Education Committee may consider the student's application to study abroad.
 - b. Students must not have any financial holds at the time of application and until the time of departure
 - c. Students must have appropriate class standing at the time of application:
 - i. Current first year students: may apply for the Summer term (if they earned at least 7 units during first year). Note: Current first year students may apply for the Spring term in compelling and specific circumstances but will not be given priority
 - ii. Current second year students: may apply for the Summer, Fall, and Spring terms
 - iii. Current third year students: may apply for the Summer, Fall, and Spring terms
 - iv. Transfer students must complete one year in residence before studying abroad
 - d. Students must be on campus the semester when applying (spring) and the semester before studying abroad (fall or spring)
 - e. Students must submit a completed Puget Sound application by the deadline for an approved Study Abroad program. Completed applications include additional essays if:
 - i. A student's GPA is below 3.0
 - ii. A student is applying to more than one semester program in an academic yearPuget Sound does not permit students to apply for study abroad credit retroactively.
 - f. Students must, once approved by Puget Sound to study abroad, complete the program-specific application by the deadline set by Puget Sound

SELECTION CRITERIA

The following selection criteria will be used:

1. Continued adherence to all eligibility criteria
2. Priority will be given to
 - a. Majors that require study abroad
 - b. Puget Sound sponsored programs (Oaxaca, Granada, Dijon)
 - c. Language immersion programs
3. Priority will be given to current third year students (at the time of application) who have not previously studied abroad, then current second year students, then current first year students.
4. Priority will be given to students who provide, in their response to the application essay prompt, a strong and detailed academic rationale for their study abroad plan and provide strong evidence of possessing the appropriate maturity, stability, flexibility, independence, and openness to be successful abroad.
5. Priority will be given to students with a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0. Students with a cumulative GPA lower than 3.0 may be approved if they successfully demonstrate, in an additional application essay, that they have made significant progress towards achieving overall academic excellence.
6. Students may be limited to a single program (semester or year). Students may only be approved for two different programs in a single academic year if they successfully convey, in an additional essay, compelling academic goals that can only be met by participating in two different programs and they provide evidence that they can complete the visa processes for both programs in a timely manner.

The final decision regarding acceptance rests with the Director of International Programs and the International Education Committee.

FINANCES

Yes, it is possible to use your financial aid and scholarships to help finance study abroad!

Semester Programs

Regardless of the program, all students are charged....

- Puget Sound Tuition
- Student Government Fee
- Puget Sound Housing (if your program includes housing)
- Puget Sound Meal Plan (prorated as applicable, if your program provides a meal plan)
- Program Fee (\$300, \$1200 or \$2400, depending on the program)

Puget Sound students **do not** pay the program cost or tuition directly to the program provider **except** for any initial deposit required to secure your place in a program. You will be billed by Puget Sound for the program through your student account, and credited for any deposit previously paid.

However, you will be responsible for additional fees or items such as airfare, visa, books, spending money, immunizations, optional field trips, passport, travel, optional fees, emergency fund, additional course fees (typically associated with a lab course) and other expenses.

Financial Aid and Scholarships

- Students studying abroad for a semester or academic year will be able to apply both need-based and merit-based financial aid, including Puget Sound scholarships and grants, to their study abroad program.
- Many program providers offer merit and need-based scholarships, so check their websites and apply early.
- Federal or State aid does apply, with the exception of Work Study.

Summer Programs

All students participating in summer study abroad programs will be billed for their program costs through Puget Sound.

Students will pay:

- Cost of the program (listed on provider's website or brochure)
- \$500 Program Fee

The payment deadline for summer programs is the first day of Summer Term 1. Deposit deadlines, tuition, and terms for each program will be detailed on your International Programs Financial Agreement. If your summer study abroad program is worth 2 or more academic units, you may be eligible to borrow up to 1/3 of your federal loans for the academic year. **No institutional aid is available for summer study abroad.** To apply for summer financial aid, you must complete the Summer AFA (found on the SFS website).

CREDITS

Credits earned on an approved study abroad program are considered Puget Sound credit and will count towards your degree requirements as long as they are approved in advance.

What Type of credits can I earn on Study Abroad?

- Elective, major, and minor credit can all be earned on study abroad program
- Some courses taught on approved programs will not be granted Puget Sound credit, including:
 - certain applied courses, such as architecture, that are not similar to the liberal arts courses found at Puget Sound.
 - courses abroad that have an equivalent at Puget Sound may not be allowed for credit for both courses, as the course content will overlap

How many credits can I earn on a study abroad program?

- On semester programs, students typically earn 3.75 – 4.25 units
- On summer programs, students typically earn .75 – 2 units
- The number of units earned for each course abroad differs greatly by program and country. Many programs will state the number of credits earned in each course in US semester credit hours:
 - 4 semester credits (or credit hours) = 1 Puget Sound unit
 - 3 semester credits = .75 Puget Sound unit
- The number of major or minor requirements you can fulfill abroad is determined by each department
 - Many Majors will allow you to fulfill 1 or 2 major requirements abroad
 - Many Minors will allow you fulfill 1 minor requirement abroad – however you will need to plan carefully as some minors have a minimum unit requirement and thus any courses taken abroad that offer less than one full Puget Sound unit can result in the need to take additional units in the minor when you return from abroad

How does credit approval work?

1. You must declare your major before you study abroad.
2. You should meet with your faculty advisor prior to submitting the Puget Sound Study Abroad Application to discuss your remaining degree requirements and to determine which, if any, requirements you must complete abroad.
3. After carefully reviewing all degree requirements, including major, minor, and core curriculum requirements, many students discover that they only need to take general or upper division elective credits abroad.
4. If you have specific courses you need, or want, to take abroad, the Office of International Programs can assist you in finding programs that may offer those courses.
5. In order to determine how many and what type of credits you will receive from study abroad, you must complete the Study Abroad Course Evaluation as part of the Puget Sound Study Abroad application.
6. The Office of International Programs, in consultation with the Registrar's Office, will review your proposed list of courses, and will provide you with a record detailing how those credits will apply to your Puget Sound degree requirements.

7. **You must carefully review this Study Abroad Course Evaluation Report (SACER) to ensure that you will still make the academic progress required to graduate within your planned time frame.** You should also meet with your advisor to discuss the SACER and to review your Academic Requirements.
8. If your courses change, either before you depart or when you arrive in your host country, you must inform the Office of International Programs in order to have your new courses reviewed.

Which faculty advisor do I meet with prior to applying to study abroad?

Meet with your primary advisor in your major. If you have two or more majors, meet with the advisor from each major department. If your assigned advisor is on sabbatical and you haven't been reassigned to another department advisor, meet with the chair of your major department. Meet with the department chair in your minor department if you hope to earn minor credit abroad. Meet with the Health Professions Advisor if you will apply to a health profession graduate program.

What if I don't have an advisor in my major department yet?

It's best to declare your major and find an advisor in your major department now, before you apply to go abroad. If that's not possible, you should meet with the department chair in your major and your first year advisor.

What questions should I discuss with my advisor?

Write a list of your own questions before you meet with your advisor. These are the types of questions that might be helpful to discuss with your advisor:

1. How might study abroad be useful to **my long-term academic and career goals?**
2. Are there study abroad programs that are **preferred by my major/minor department?**
3. Which major/minor requirements should be taken **on campus?**
4. Is there a **preferred semester** to study abroad in terms of completing my major/minor? Do I need to be on campus for a particular semester or a particular course?
5. Are there **particular study abroad classes** which have been approved for credit for previous students from this department?
6. Is it better to take **classes abroad that cannot be taken on campus**, or is it better to take courses abroad that are similar to courses taught on campus? Why?
7. **Must I** earn specific major, core or other degree requirements abroad in order to **graduate 'on time?'** (review your full academic requirements report and make or review your four year plan)
8. What **extra-curricular (non-classroom) experiences** abroad should I take advantage of in order to add breadth and/or depth to my academic study at UPS?
9. From what you know of me both in and outside the classroom, **am I a good candidate to study abroad?**

NOTE: Some of the questions above can also be answered by the by staff in the International Programs Office. However, your faculty/department advisor will have unique information, experience and expertise not available to these staff members.

STUDY ABROAD AND IDENTITY

Our identities are formed by our biology, our history, and our culture. Study abroad helps you examine your own identity by allowing you to view yourself through the mirror of other cultures. Each location has unique historical circumstances that impact interactions between cultural groups. Sometimes students feel isolated as they explore their identity. There can be times when it is difficult to find someone with whom to share the feelings and experiences that are distinctly related to identity. Will you be seen, and see yourself, as an American when you are abroad? Will your ethnic, religious, gender, sexual, or other identity components be more pronounced based on this experience? The answers are different for each student and each experience. Listed below are some things to consider as you prepare to study abroad. This is not an exhaustive list, but it is intended to get you thinking about your various identities and how they may intersect with your study abroad experience.

Race and Ethnicity

- How will you be perceived abroad?
- How does the history of the country impact how you will be perceived?
- Are you likely to encounter stereotypes or racism? How will you deal with stereotypes and racism?
- How will it feel to be a minority? Or in the majority?
- What resources are available to you in your host country?

Heritage

- Expect some culture shock even if you do not experience it to the extremes or depths that other students experience.
- Some heritage students are surprised when they do not blend into the host culture as expected. How might you handle being viewed as "American" first?
- On the other hand, you might blend in well. How will you handle being viewed as a local?
- Understand the history of emigration from host country to the United States. Why did people leave? What is the perception of those who left?

Religion

- How will people perceive your religion?
- Is your religion represented among the host country nationals you may interact with?
- Is it possible for you to openly observe your religion in your host country? Is your religion legal in your host country? Are there any religious observances that will be difficult or impossible for you to participate in abroad? Is it safe to wear religious symbols and/or clothing?
- Are there laws regarding religion (e.g., proselytizing Christianity is banned under Chinese law)?
- Are there places of worship or other community locations for your religion that you can access in your study abroad location?
- What is the attitude of people in your host country towards other religions in general?
- How are atheists and agnostics perceived in the host country?
- What do you know about the religion(s) of your host country and the role it/they play/s? How are religious holidays observed and celebrated? Will you want to participate/is that possible?

Gender

- What are the society's perceptions and expectations for men, women and transgender individuals in my host country? How do they compare or are different from my community?
- How do men and women publicly express gender (clothing, appearance, language, etc)? How may I have to adjust my own understanding of gender and gender expression to be culturally appropriate and respectful?
- How do my personal values compare with my host country's attitudes about socially accepted gender roles?
- What are the gender stereotypes of Americans in my host country?
- How do men treat women in my host country?
- Are there differences in political and social power based on gender?

LGBTQ+

- What are the cultural attitudes toward sexual orientation and gender identity in my host country? What are the local attitudes and customs in the region of the country where I will be studying?
- Are there any laws restricting same-sex relationships? What are the laws regarding identity and travel documentation?
- Are there resources available for people of alternative sexual and gender identities in my host country and institution?
- How open am I now about my sexual orientation and gender identity? How open am I willing to be when I am studying abroad?
- Do I only want to go somewhere that is very tolerant and affirming of my identity? Am I open to going to a country that may discriminate against LGBTQ+ individuals?
- How important is it to me to find other LGBTQ+ students during my study abroad program?
- Does the country or host institution I'm interested in have resources available for LGBTQIA+ individuals?
- Am I willing to abide by the cultural customs and local attitudes in the host country?
- Does your right to be LGBTQ+ in the United States conflict with your host country's religious or cultural values and traditions?

Ability

- There are many different things to consider in relation to your ability and any accommodations you currently receive: course work, transportation, housing, medical care, service animals, etc.
- A good place to start is: What accommodations do I need? Have a vocalized them to staff at Puget Sound or my program provider? Disclosure permits the Study Abroad Advisor to work with you and answer important questions about what access is available in the countries and programs you are considering.
- How flexible am I able and willing to be regarding accommodations?
- What resources are available in my host country for my specific needs?

For resources and additional information, please visit our website
www.pugetsound.edu/studyabroad-identity

Sample Study Abroad Timeline

