

## Study Abroad Opportunities for...

# SOCIAL SCIENCE MAJORS

*“The world is a book, and those who do not travel read only a page.” –St. Augustine*

Respect for cultural diversity and the ability to consider social reality from various perspectives are values of paramount interest in the Social Sciences. As a Social Science student of Boise State University, you can enhance these qualities in a substantial way by experiencing university education overseas, earn BSU credit toward your degree, use your financial aid toward this end, but more importantly, the nature of your major provides considerable opportunity to supplement your academic goals with the study abroad experience. This advising sheet will help you prepare for your study abroad interests, as well as assist you in the early stages of planning for such an exciting opportunity. To make this experience a reality you are highly encouraged to begin your planning as soon as possible.

## WHY STUDY ABROAD?

- Earn Boise State credit abroad while also satisfying your foreign language sequence
- Diversify your academic interests
- Improve your ability to use a foreign language
- Gain a new respect for different social conditions and cultural perspectives
- Improve your problem solving and critical thinking abilities in a foreign context
- Participate in global society in a real, meaningful, and undeniably memorable way



## WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO STUDY ABROAD?

Virtually any student of Boise State can study abroad! Though many programs require that potential student participants have maintained a GPA of at least 2.5 to be admitted into a study abroad program, students should check the GPA qualifications for their particular site of interest. Aside from GPA, the only other eligibility consideration is that students of all majors must have already studied at BSU for at least one semester before they are permitted to study abroad. Note also that some programs may require an academic standing of sophomore or higher, so be sure to check with your program sites of interest to ensure that your academic standing will be sufficient by the time you plan to begin your study abroad. However, this should not deter any student, even first semester freshman, from beginning to plan, as well as set goals for, their potential study abroad endeavors.

## SETTING YOUR GOALS AND PROPER PLANNING:

It is never too early to begin planning! Students considering education abroad are highly encouraged to begin planning at least one year in advance. This should be more than enough time to:

- Set realistic and tangible goals to accomplish during your time abroad
- Apply for a passport if you have not already done so
- Meet with your academic advisor to discuss study abroad
- Make sure that the study abroad program suits your academic, professional, and personal interests
- Research and compare host countries, as well as various study abroad programs of interest and cost
- Apply for scholarships and seek answers to questions concerning financing

## HOW LONG CAN I STUDY ABROAD?

Duration of study varies from program to program, as well as according to your particular interests. Some programs can be somewhat short, for instance summer programs which can vary between 4-6 weeks, while others can be much longer like a fall or spring semester and an academic year. Ultimately, it is up to the student to choose which length of study is best and most suited to their personal interests and abilities, however if you are planning to study a foreign language, it is highly recommended that you seriously consider studying overseas for a full academic year. In other words, two semesters abroad should provide the student with more opportunity to truly immerse themselves in the culture and language of their host country. Also, time will fly, so consider this aspect as well while selecting the length of your course of international study.

## CAN I AFFORD TO STUDY ABROAD?

Most definitely **YES** you can! Study abroad programs vary in cost, which depending on your program and site of selection can be higher than what you would pay to study at BSU. However, there are scholarship opportunities for these types of programs to help offset the added cost. Most Boise State students study abroad through USAC (University Studies Abroad Consortium) given that Boise State is a member campus and USAC's program costs tend to be lower in comparison with other study abroad providers. In addition to program cost, one must also consider travel expenditures, as well as the cost of living in the potential hosting country. In other words, be sure to do your homework on possible study sites prior to making a commitment to one particular program site.

Even so, cost should not discourage any student from pursuing their program of principal interest. As mentioned above, early planning can help you secure much of the necessary funding for study abroad in the form of scholarships and grants. There are many agencies, organizations, and on campus departments which are looking help students who are interested in education abroad finance their study program through various scholarship award possibilities. Be sure to check with BSU International Programs and Financial Aid Offices for information on familiar scholarships available for study abroad through Boise State (i.e. USAC, IPO Study Abroad Scholarship etc). For instance, in recent years Boise State students have been successful in obtaining funding in significant amounts through national scholarship programs to fund their study abroad endeavors. Another option is to visit websites dedicated to the process of scholarship location for students going abroad. Aside from scholarships, **Boise State students are able use their federal financial aid toward their study abroad expenses.** That being said, the funding for study abroad is available, so do not let cost deter your from considering going abroad for study.

Study abroad had always been something that I greatly desired to participate in, however it seemed the furthest opportunity from me when I considered the cost and no financial support networks to rely on. Scholarships, such as the \$5,000 I received from the **Benjamin A. Gilman** scholarship program through the U.S. Department of State, made possible my dream of studying abroad by providing substantial amounts of funding toward my program costs of study in the Czech Republic. Though it may take a bit more planning and effort, applying for scholarships may result in securing an experience that will change your life.

-Jon Atkins, Gilman Scholar 2006  
USAC Prague, Czech Republic

## How Do I Know I Will Receive Credit for the Courses I Take Abroad?

Fret not! As long as you participate in an approved study abroad program, you will receive Boise State credit for the courses taken abroad. If you have followed the course approval instructions given to you by the International Programs office and have obtained signatures from the appropriate department chairs concerning the approval of courses prior to your departure, the credits that you earned abroad will be posted on your Boise State transcript and averaged into your Boise State GPA.

---

## ACADEMIC COMPATIBILITY OF STUDY ABROAD WITH THE SOCIAL SCIENCE MAJOR

This portion of the advising sheet will attempt to walk you through each area of the Social Science (B.A.) checklist to demonstrate and discuss how study abroad programs can be applied to fulfill missing requirements within your degree progress. However, be **advised that the programs and sites listed here are only examples of a few possibilities and are not in any way attempting to limit your selection.** Rather, the chart below lists study abroad courses offered through USAC to demonstrate some of the diverse possibilities available to you if you choose to enhance your Social Science major with education abroad. **You are highly encouraged to discuss the study abroad option with your academic advisor to be sure that the courses you desire to take abroad will satisfy both your academic, as well as personal goals.** Take advantage of the generality and room for choice, which are highly characteristic of your major, and use them to your advantage to secure what best interests you about possibilities within international education when considering study programs.

### AREA 1, AREA 2, AND AREA 3: UNIVERSITY CORE REQUIREMENTS

Areas I, II, and III of the Social Science major at Boise State encompasses the "Core" courses of your major, of which all Social Science majors must complete in order to graduate. You can find study sites overseas which offer courses within these core areas (i.e. arts, humanities, history, philosophy, etc), however, though these general classes can be taken abroad, please note that you must be proactive in seeking confirmation from the department chairs to ensure that the course you are taking abroad is equivalent with Boise State standards for the core. If you desire to complete lower division core courses abroad, you must first locate programs that offer courses that are similar in content and then have these checked over by your academic advisor and must be approved by the respective chair of the

department of which the course of interest would apply. However, be advised that attempting to take these courses abroad would leave little room for the interesting courses which are unique to your program overseas, so be aware of this as well.

## SOCIAL SCIENCE MAJOR REQUIREMENTS

The Social Science major is by nature very broad and thus a study abroad option can be integrated rather easily. However, there are several specific courses included in your major, which can only be taken at Boise State. For instance, *Theories of Society* (SOC 201), *Senior Seminar* (SOCSCI 498), or your methods course (SOC 311 for instance) cannot be taken abroad. SOC 493 (Internship or Independent Study) may be taken abroad, but as with other classes you must be sure that you talk with your internship coordinator and corresponding department chair about this option to ensure that you will obtain signatures for credit if you choose to pursue its completion while abroad. Furthermore, unless you know before hand what internship opportunities will be available during your time abroad, this may be difficult given that often you may not know what internship possibilities are offered during your program until after you have already arrived at your study abroad location, so be sure to consider this as well.

## FOREIGN LANGUAGE SEQUENCE (Social Science B.A.)

When considering the foreign language component of your major, the fulfillment of this requirement with study overseas is rather straight forward. Simply pick a foreign language that you are interested in and find a program that offers that particular foreign language within their list of course offerings. The Social Science major at Boise State requires that you take at least one year of a college level foreign language sequence (8 credits), and thus through most USAC programs you can easily achieve the completion of this requirement during the course of one semester abroad. Below are listed a few examples of some options as offered through programs affiliated with USAC. Please note that a majority of these foreign language courses are introductory courses and are designed for beginners, so if you already have a background in the foreign language you would like to study, for instance Spanish, be sure to check with your site of interest for possible intermediate or advanced level possibilities.

### Possible to Receive Up To *Two* Years of Foreign Language Credit in One Semester:

#### CZECH:

Prague, Czech Republic (USAC)

#### FRENCH:

Pau, France (USAC)

#### GERMAN:

Luneburg, Germany (USAC)

#### ITALIAN:

Turin, Italy (USAC)

Viterbo, Italy (USAC)

#### SPANISH:

Bilbao/Getxo, Spain (USAC)

Madrid, Spain (USAC)

San Sebastian, Spain (USAC)

Heredia, Costa Rica (USAC)

Puntarenas, Costa Rica (USAC)

Puebla, Mexico USAC

### Possible to Receive Up To *One* Year of Foreign Language Credit in One Semester:

#### BASQUE:

Bilbao/Getxo, Spain (USAC)

San Sebastian, Spain (USAC)

#### CHINESE:

Chengdu, China (USAC)

Shanghai, China (USAC)

(3 Semesters Possible)

#### JAPANESE:

Hiroshima, Japan (USAC)

Asia University (BSU)

#### KOREAN:

Seoul, Korea (USAC)



**PLEASE NOTE: OTHER LANGUAGES ARE OFFERED, BUT NOT AT AN INTENSIVE LEVEL. THESE INCLUDE: DANISH, NORWEGIAN, SWEDISH, THAI, AND TWI**

## FIRST AND SECOND UPPER DIVISION FIELD POSSIBILITIES

As you may already be aware, the Boise State catalog for the Social Science major provides for the student to choose two fields out of the main Social Science categories (Anthropology, Communications, Criminal Justice, Economics, History, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology, and Women's Studies) to focus their upper division interests. This is the section of your major most capable of handling what study abroad has to offer toward your degree progress and where you should spend most of your time in consideration of courses to be taken abroad. As you will see below, there are many possibilities available so if you need more information about these programs or classes you are encouraged to meet with the advisors in the International Programs Office. They are there to assist you and help make planning for study abroad as smooth as possible. Again, it cannot be stressed enough, the courses mentioned below, **must be approved by the appropriate department chair before they will be considered Boise State credit!**

**ANTHROPOLOGY:**

- **Bristol, England (USAC)**
  - Post-Colonial Africa
  - Biological Anthropology
- **Msida, Malta (USAC)**
- **Utrecht, Netherlands (USAC)**
  - Cultural Anthropology
- **Palmerston North, New Zealand (USAC)**
  - Environmental Anthropology
  - Endangered Cultures
- **Oslo, Norway (USAC)**
  - Anthropological Approaches to Development

**ECONOMICS:**

- **Melbourne, Australia (USAC)**
  - Global Economy
  - International Business Economics
- **Heredia, Costa Rica (USAC)**
  - International Political Economy: North-South Relations
- **Prague, Czech Republic (USAC)**
  - Recent Economic Development
  - Global Economy
- **Bilbao/Getxo, Spain (USAC)**
  - Economic Development and Non-Governmental Organizations
  - Economic and Political Institutions of the European Union
- **Hiroshima, Japan (USAC)**
  - Japanese Economy
- **Seoul, Korea (USAC)**
  - States and Markets in Capitalist Economy
- **Oslo, Norway (USAC)**
  - Environment and Resources
  - International Macroeconomics and Finance
  - Poverty and Distribution in Developing Countries
- **Bangkok, Thailand (USAC)**
  - Current Economic Issues
  - Intermediate Microeconomics
  - International Monetary Economics

**HISTORY:**

- **Melbourne, Australia (USAC)**
  - Colonial Australia and the Pacific
- **Chengdu, China (USAC)**
  - Ancient Chinese History
- **Bristol, England (USAC)**
  - Identity and Community in Europe 1000-1400

- **Luneburg, Germany (USAC)**
  - Germany, the U.S., and the Soviet Union
- **Ghana, Accra (USAC)**
  - Early Civilizations in Africa
  - History of Africa: many variations
- **Bangalore, India (USAC)**
  - European Imperialism in India
  - The Vedic Age-The Empowered Women of Vedic Times
- **Madrid, Spain (USAC)**
  - History of Spain: 20<sup>th</sup> Century

**POLITICAL SCIENCE:**

- **Gold Coast, Australia (USAC)**
  - International Change and the Social World
  - Global Politics and Democracy
- **Santiago, Chile (USAC)**
  - Modern Latin America
- **Hiroshima, Japan (USAC)**
  - Politics and Foreign Relations of Japan
- **Pau, France (USAC)**
  - Government and Politics in France
- **Accra, Ghana (USAC)**
  - Introduction to the Study of Ghanaian Politics
- **Seoul, Korea (USAC)**
  - The Politics of US-Korean Relations
- **Stirling, Scotland (USAC)**
  - People and Power: Politics of the British Isles
  - The Political Thought of George Orwell

**SOCIOLOGY:**

- **Melbourne, Australia (USAC)**
  - Migration and Multiculturalism
- **Puntarenas, Costa Rica (USAC)**
  - Sociocultural Concerns of Schooling
- **Puebla, Mexico (USAC)**
  - Sociology, Gender, and Indigenous Beliefs in Mexican Cultures
- **Prague, Czech Republic (USAC)**
  - Sociology: Globalization
- **Cork, Ireland (USAC)**
  - Aspects of Irish Society
- **Hiroshima, Japan (USAC)**
  - Japanese Society and Gender Issues
- **Oslo, Norway (USAC)**
  - Family Structure, Gender, Equality, and Social Change

**What Are My Next Steps?**

Connect with students who have studied abroad in the past! Often upon return, they are dying to tell others about their time abroad, so be sure to take advantage of their personal experience and hear out any suggestions that they may have to help ease the process for you. Also, come to the International Programs Office, which is located at 1136 Euclid Ave: 1.5 blocks south from University Drive on Euclid Ave, half a block south of the Engineering Building. Or call 426-3652 to schedule an appointment with the Study Abroad Coordinator. Come check out all the exciting programs available for you to experience the world!