



A GUIDE TO STUDYING POLITICAL SCIENCE ABROAD

There are few things more beneficial for the budding political scientist than to study abroad and experience everyday life under the mechanics of a different government. By stepping outside the box to study political systems from a different point of view, the political science students will not only gain invaluable new knowledge of foreign relations, but also a tangible reference point from which to better understand their own nation's government.

WHY STUDY POLITICS ABROAD?

Politics by definition involves broadened perspective, diplomatic ability, and a compromise-oriented approach to solving problems. What better way to enhance this skill set than by living and studying abroad? Especially in today's rapidly globalizing world, the knowledge of other cultures is increasingly valuable to both domestic and international policies. Whatever your field of specialization, every student of political science stands to gain a world of new knowledge by studying abroad.

LOCATIONS

Every country has a government; hence almost any nation can be the best place to study political science abroad. However, there are a few different angles you can take for your international program. First, you could study abroad in a Western Democratic nation. The knowledge to be gained here is primarily comparative, analyzing how different checks and balances of other institutionally stable governments tend to influence domestic outcomes. Countries such as France, and the U.K. are all potentially enriching options for studying political science abroad. You could also go to a developing nation, where political systems are not as deeply entrenched and governments tend to suffer from institutional instability. This sort of study abroad experience can enlighten students on the struggles of governments to land on firm footing where there is no historical precedent of one. Nations of Africa, and South East Asia, which have long histories of colonial exploitation, will not only be politically eye opening, but also offer a life changing experience to those willing to embark on an adventure. Then there are the BRIC countries - Brazil, Russia, India, and China. Studying politics abroad in a global powerhouse of any governmental system will broaden your perspective of international politics. Making an effort to learn the language and specialize in diplomatic relations with a specific country certainly will not hurt your international job prospects after graduation.

COURSES & PROGRAMS

What type of courses you will engage in is obviously left to individual discretion, depending on your destination and field of focus within the realm of political science. Try taking at least one in national politics and one related to the field on an international level, to gain a broad perspective of your host country's political situation. Taking courses from related fields in economics and cultural studies would also supplement an international political science education nicely.

BENEFITS

Studying political science abroad will not only deepen your knowledge of an incredibly important academic discipline, but also prove to be the developmental experience of a lifetime. By living abroad in

another country you will come to experience a whole new culture and governmental system, which will challenge your notions about the world (it doesn't look too bad on a resume either). But beyond any mark or grade, studying political science abroad will prepare you for the challenges embedded in our increasingly interdependent system of global politics. You will come to find that underneath the political, economic, and cultural layers we are not so different after all. Political science students are the leaders of tomorrow, and studying abroad can be the best first step towards creating better political relations globally.

SJU SEMSTER ABROAD PROGRAMS

Please note the list of programs and courses are only listed as a guide and does not guarantee automatic approval of courses counting for SJU academic credit. You will work with both your Academic Advisor and Study Abroad Advisor to determine the program and courses to best meet your needs. All courses **must be approved** by the appropriate SJU Department Chair or Associate Dean prior to studying abroad.

- **American University of Rome**
 - *Sample Courses: Introduction to the EU, Ethics & Global Politics, Security and Defense in the EU, Italian Politics Today, Current American Foreign Policy*
- **The Beijing Center**
 - *Sample Courses: Chinese Foreign Policy, Chinese Political and Economic Reform, State and Society in China*
- **Saint Louis University in Madrid, Spain**
 - *Sample Courses: Intro to Latin American Politics, International Organization in a World of Nation States, Political Development in Contemporary Spain, Politics of the EU*
- **IFSA-Butler: Macquarie University**
 - *Sample Courses: Thinking Politically, Media Politics, The Politics of Terrorism, Contemporary Issues in Australian Politics*
- **Marquette University, South Africa**
 - *Sample Courses: South Africa in Comparative Context, Conflict Studies, Democratic Theory & Practice, International Institutions*

In addition to Political Science Major/Minor courses, you may also be able to take some of SJU's GEP courses while abroad, including but not limited to: Art/Lit, Social Science, Religious Difference & Philosophical Anthropology.

Can't find a program or university on our approved list that appeals to you? You can always petition to attend another study abroad program of your choosing with more information can be found on our [website](#).

NEXT STEPS

- Meet with the Study Abroad Advisor** | Learn about your options
- Meet with your Academic Advisor** | Discuss course selection
- Apply for a passport** | <http://travel.state.gov/passport>
- Apply to study abroad!** | Applications are due to the CIP office by: March 1st for the Fall semester abroad, and October 1st for the Spring semester abroad

Center for International Programs | Saint Joseph's University
183 W. City Avenue | 610-660-1835 | studyabroad@sju.edu | internationalprograms.sju.edu
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