



A GUIDE TO STUDYING SOCIOLOGY ABROAD

Studying abroad is just about the best real-life sociology education any students could get. Uprooting from the familiarity of your home country and planting yourself in an entirely different social context fraught with new cultural customs, linguistic barriers, and foreign patterns of interaction will help you develop a much more penetrating view of the field which is by definition the study of society.

WHY STUDY SOCIOLOGY ABROAD?

Sociology is an academic discipline, which focuses greatly on examining the origins, development, and everyday manifestations of social behaviors. By studying sociology abroad, you will learn not to take any social phenomena for granted and you'll get the chance to experience just how influential social forces and cultural contexts can be in building societies around the world. Inside the classroom you will learn fascinating new approaches to the field of sociology, however branching out and socially adapting to life in your new home and beyond take your learning far beyond the most traditional academic experience in any classroom.

LOCATIONS

There are two basic routes you can go in sociology study abroad programs: one of refinement or one of expansion. If you are coming from a Western society and choose to study abroad in another Western country, then this would be the route of refinement. You will be developing your lens by travelling to a civilization and culture that is somewhat similar to your own, but at the same time much different in nuanced ways and historical context. The second route is expanding your view of sociology through study abroad, by traveling outside of your comfort zone and experiencing a culture much different than your own. China, Japan, and India, as well as the nations of Africa, are all potential locations, which will offer a truly definitive experience for any Western, born sociology study abroad student.. These routes and regional identifications are obviously broad oversimplifications, with the greater point being that you will have an incredible learning experience venturing to a place, which differs from your own cultural context, whether in subtle or drastic ways.

COURSES & PROGRAMS

As an incredibly broad and interdisciplinary field, the range of courses available to take while studying sociology abroad is wide open. Obviously you will want to get your hands on at least one specific sociology course, but studying disciplines such as Anthropology, Psychology, Political Science, and Economics within a different cultural context will prove tremendously beneficial academic experiences. In addition to the subject matter, learning how another country's educational system approaches and examines all social sciences will be extremely relevant to the field of sociology.

BENEFITS

In a way, it doesn't really matter where you study sociology abroad as long you have the developmental experience of traveling beyond your own cultural context and learning to view patterns of social interaction through a new lens. But more importantly, where you go will largely define how your growth manifests itself and how significant your learning is.

The world is at your front step and the door is wide open, so take a lot of time to carefully decide what type of experience you are searching for in a sociology study abroad program. When all is said and done, you will return home newly enlightened and most definitely more educated in the field of sociology.

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.

- **IFSA-Butler: Macquarie University, Australia**
 - *Sample Courses: Australia and Global Societies, Sociology of Everyday Life, Cultural Sociology, Contemporary Cultural Issues, Activism and Social Change*
- **Universidad Alberto Hurtado, Chile**
 - *Sample Courses: Social Inequalities, Sociology of Knowledge, Sociology of Work, Poverty & Development*
- **Saint Louis University in Madrid, Spain**
 - *Sample Courses: Cultural Anthropology: Spanish Culture, Intro to Sociology, Public Health & Social Justice, Peace & Conflict Studies*
- **Marquette University, South Africa**
 - *Sample Courses: Health & Population, Social Problems and Development, Southern African Perspectives: Education & Development, Sociology of Health, Customary Law*
- **National University of Ireland, Galway**
 - *Sample Courses: Social Issues & Policy Responses, Visual Sociology, Women in Irish Society, Sociology of Politics of Difference, Sociology of Sexuality*

In addition to Sociology 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