



A GUIDE TO STUDYING MUSIC ABROAD

Studying music abroad is the perfect way to jumpstart your career in an industry that is becoming more internationally connected, and one that now demands proficiency in a wide range of global styles and approaches. Often you will get to study a musical style in the place it originated while also experiencing how local or traditional music has been fused into a vibrant and quickly changing contemporary scene. Music administrators will learn new approaches to management and how the music industry varies widely within different legal and cultural frameworks through music study abroad programs.

WHY STUDY MUSIC ABROAD?

Music--perhaps more than any of the other performing arts--has been profoundly influenced by globalization and new technology that allows instant sharing of information across cultural and geographical borders. A truly talented professional musician must not only master his/her instrument, but should be able to adapt to a wide range of styles when playing in an ensemble. A truly talented music producer or administrator should be aware of international music trends and how to navigate an increasingly complex worldwide music industry. Participating in music study abroad programs gives musicians a fresh perspective on their instruments, which often includes learning an entirely new style of playing that can stand alone or be integrated into other genres. Music producers and administrators gain experience working in unfamiliar environments and the ability to adapt to a wide range of circumstances.

LOCATIONS

Studying music abroad is certainly not limited to instruction in a university classroom. There are conservatories, music academies, recording studios, record labels, opera houses, symphony halls, and countless other musical institutions that are prime locations to study music abroad. Every destination has its own unique traditions and musical offerings and you will want to choose where to study based on your specific interests, language abilities, and the strength of instruction in your instrument. However, some of the best countries to study music abroad are: **Ghana**, where music is integrated into every aspect of life and the University of Ghana has direct ties to the National Theatre, which is one of the foremost performance venues in the country; **Italy**, where musicians have the unique opportunity to study opera in its birthplace; **Austria**, home to an astounding number of legendary composers—from Haydn, Mozart, and Beethoven to Brahms, Mahler, and Schoenberg; and **India**, where popular musicians such as the Beatles have retreated to study with masters.

COURSES & PROGRAMS

Unlike many other disciplines, music is often taught in very small classes or in one-on-one lessons. In many cultures, musicians are identified at a young age based on their talent or natural inclination toward performing, and assigned as an apprentice to a master musician. The teacher-student relationship is paramount in many places, and thus students studying music abroad are often pleasantly surprised by a large amount of individual attention. The best time to study music abroad varies widely from location to location. Some points to consider include if and when there are large music festivals happening, the timing of a venue's performance season, and the term structure of universities and conservatories.

BENEFITS

Studying abroad can make you more versatile as a musician, which is one of the single most important qualities for having a successful career in the music industry. For music administrators and producers, music study abroad programs can give you new tools for addressing challenges by learning to think creatively and adapt to any situation. Working at a recording studio in a well-known city or helping to manage an international artist are ways to broaden your portfolio and show future employers that you have what it takes to work in a fast-moving cutthroat industry.

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.

- **Florence University of the Arts**
 - *Sample Courses: Vocal Repertoire, Opera Singers: Vocal Techniques, Musical Theatre Performance, Music Appreciation, Great Italian Opera, Music Theory*
- **IES: Vienna, Austria**
 - *Sample Courses: Music in Performance, Music in Vienna, Music Survey: Classical Era, Music Survey: Middle Ages to Baroque, Principles of Sound: Recording and Acoustics for Musicians*
- **CIEE Ghana**
 - *Sample Courses: Music of West Africa, Practical & Ensemble, Introduction to Harmony & Part Writing, Musicianship, African Popular Music, Ghanaian Popular Music*
- **Danish Institute for Study Abroad**
 - *Sample Courses: Music Composition, Music Performance: Voice or Instrument, Scandinavian Classical Music, Tonmeister*
- **IES: Paris – French Studies (Ecole Normale de Musique de Paris / Alfred Cortot)**
 - *Sample Courses: Classical Instruction in the following instruments: Violin, Bassoon, Cello, Clarinet, Double Bass, Flute, Guitar, Harp, Oboe, Piano, Piccolo, Violin & Voice*

In addition to Music 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

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