



A GUIDE TO STUDYING INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ABROAD

The whole phenomenon of studying abroad might as well have been designed specifically for students pursuing degrees in International Relations. Traveling abroad and spending an extended period living abroad will prepare students for the intercultural challenges inherent in the overarching field of international relations. Students who study international relations abroad will return home well informed and better able to promote effective cross-cultural dialogue, which has the power to help change the world.

WHY STUDY IR ABROAD?

Students will not only will advance their knowledge of different cultures and societies, but studying abroad will force students to undergo a perception-altering experience that will ultimately change the way they view the field of international relations as a whole. International Relations is an extroverted discipline, which involves engaging, negotiating, and cooperating with foreign countries effectively, respectfully, and sustainably. What better way to gain valuable, practical experience needed for a successful career in international relations, than by forcing yourself into cross-cultural interactions on a daily basis through study abroad?

LOCATIONS

If you are a student of International Relations then chances are you have an impassioned interest in at least one region of the world beyond your home country. So the only real question is, which country of that region should you study international relations abroad in? Key players in the global economy, such as China, Japan, and Japan are all particularly intriguing options for study abroad, each providing unique insight on important aspects of International Relations. Studying abroad in the European Union can lead to in depth comparative knowledge of Western democracies. Another route is studying international relations in a developing country. International Development is a huge immersing discipline within the field of International Relations, and traveling to a less developed region of the world, where economic and political systems are in their infancy can be an incredible educational experience, both academically and personally.

COURSES & PROGRAMS

The type of courses available will vary depending on where you study international relations abroad and the type of program in which you enroll. Those who decide to study IR at a foreign university should consider taking a combination of international and domestic policy courses to develop a well-rounded understanding of the political, social, and economic systems of the country. It will certainly be interesting to see how international relations is taught from the other side of the table, so to speak, but also make an effort to dissect courses about domestic systems and compare them to other countries.

BENEFITS

Studying international relations abroad will bring you valuable insight into political, economic, and cultural differences, which those who do not travel miss out on. Most international relations students naturally have a more global perspective than their peers, and the pure curiosity to learn about other

countries will fuel study abroad. There is no better way to refine your knowledge of the world than to travel, explore, and live amongst other cultures. And while academics is certainly important, the value of studying abroad goes far beyond the four walls of a classroom. Upon return you will have developed a more firm conviction of who you are, what you want, and how to go about getting it.

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.

- **UPCES, Prague, Czech Republic**
 - *Sample Courses: Human Rights in Central & Eastern Europe, European Integration, European-American Relations, Europe in a Global Context*

- **Belgium Internship Program**
 - *Sample Courses: Comparative European Politics, Economics of European Integration, History & Development of the EU, European Law*

- **The Beijing Center**
 - *Sample Courses: Political Histories of China since 1949, Sino-U.S. Relations, Contemporary Politics & Government*

- **Sophia University in Tokyo, Japan**
 - *Sample Courses: Controversies in Globalization, The Euro-Asian Encounter, Regional Security in East Asia*
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- **Danish Institute for Study Abroad, Denmark**
 - *Sample Courses: Danish Politics & Society, Sociology of Migration, Humanitarian Law & Armed Conflict, European Game of Politics: Crisis & Survival, International Refugee Law*

- **IES: Paris – Business & International Affairs**
 - *Sample Courses: Post-communist Transitions & Market Evolutions, New Security Issues in a Globalized World, International Political Economy, European Political Systems*

In addition to International Relations 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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