



A GUIDE TO GENDER STUDIES ABROAD

As a whole, gender studies are fundamentally international and interdisciplinary. The exploration of gender concepts often requires students to pull from a variety of other fields, such as history, politics, race, religion, psychology, and the biological sciences. Exploring gender studies abroad will expose students to a range of cultural practices and ideologies, therefore developing a global framework to further contextualize contemporary issues like human rights, violence against women, and the LGBT movement. Each world culture will provide its own perspective and approach to gender issues.

WHY STUDY ABROAD?

Gender construction and questions of identity are largely culture-specific. Only by studying abroad can you fully experience the differing environments and unique challenges faced by women across the world, and how society and culture contributes to gender movements on a global level. It's especially important for those who want to pursue gender and women's studies in the realm of international relations, policy, social work, or education. Study abroad experience listed on a resume illustrates drive, maturity, and a developed understanding of principal themes in gender studies.

LOCATIONS

Europe. It's pretty easy to find study abroad programs across Europe, especially in popular countries like England, France, Spain, and Italy. Students looking for more focused and challenging gender studies programs should consider Denmark. Policy, social work, sex trafficking, and queer theory are great themes to explore within the context of any one of these nations. **Latin America** has some widespread problems in terms of *machismo*, drug trafficking, and violence, but it also offers some gorgeous settings and incredibly colorful cultures. There is a demand for those interested in examining legal policy, sociology, and behavioral sciences. Many of underdeveloped nations in this region, such as Argentina, are working to find solutions to the extensive difficulties that stunt social and economic growth. Further research and case studies are needed to help reform and reframe concerns of violence, leadership, and gender norms.

COURSES & PROGRAMS

Courses in gender studies generally fall under the categories of feminism, sexuality & gender identity, or activism and social policy. **Feminism.** These make up some of the core courses of women's studies programs; feminism courses include the history and theory of feminism, feminist policy, and overviews of the many different types of movements, such as postcolonial feminism, black and chicana feminism, and third-wave feminism. **Sexuality & Gender Identity.** In these types of courses, students investigate how gender is constructed and perceived in terms of cultural paradigms, societal norms, biology, and psychology. Topics include LGBT studies and the history of sexuality. Through research, students will be asked to challenge their own notions of masculine and feminine and imagine alternative models of gender and gender roles. **Activism & Social Policy.** These gender studies courses push students to get out of the classroom and join the larger discussion of women and gender in the real world, by challenging the status quo, changing the laws that govern a society, or advancing human rights and equality. Activism and social policy coursework includes gritty subjects that are difficult to discuss: discrimination, human trafficking, prostitution and other forms of violence against women.

BENEFITS

There is no substitute for hands-on experience in a foreign setting. Since ideas of women and gender vary from region to region and culture to culture, it's critical that students concentrating in women's studies have an understanding of how different nations approach these topics and how other cultures differ from their own culture.

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.

- **Saint Louis University in Madrid, Spain**
 - *Sample Courses: Introduction to Women and Gender Studies, Feminism in Action*
- **Lancaster University, England**
 - *Sample Courses: Introduction to Women and Gender Studies, Gender, Sexuality & Society, Feminism & Social Change*
- **Florence University of the Arts, Italy**
 - *Sample Courses: Gender Relations in Italian Society, Human Sexuality: A Cross-Cultural Perspective, Gender Roles and Stereotypes of Power in Italy*
- **Danish Institute for Study Abroad, Denmark**
 - *Sample Courses: LGBTQ in Europe: Theories, Communities and Spaces, Prostitution and the Sex Trade in Europe, Gender and Sexuality in Scandinavia, Gender Perspectives on Human Rights, Masculinity in Scandinavia, Psychology of Human Sexuality, Women, Art & Identity*
- **Marquette University, South Africa**
 - *Sample Courses: Intro to Sex, Gender and Sexuality, Gender in South African Politics and Culture, Gender Issues and Development, Gender and Body, Gender and Law*

In addition to Gender Studies 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