



A GUIDE TO STUDYING BIOCHEMISTRY ABROAD

Biochemistry plays a fundamental role in understanding the world around us, by looking at the smallest atoms, molecules, ions, and the way they interact. Similarly, studying abroad can help you understand the world on a larger scale, investigating the connections between people, societies, cultures, and the way they interact in the modern landscape. Moreover, students come back from study abroad with a new perspective on biochemistry, how it is studied abroad, and how advancements in the field can make a difference in the daily lives of millions of people.

WHY STUDY BIOCHEMISTRY ABROAD?

As a growing field, biochemistry requires students to have mastery of biology, chemistry, microbiology, mathematics, and a slew of other fields. Additionally, biochemistry students are expected to be able to communicate well, work professionally in teams, and publish their findings. Studying biochemistry abroad can push you outside of your comfort zone, allowing you to learn new languages, new ways to communicate with team members, and to see the scientific world from a different viewpoint. Many biochemistry students worry that studying abroad may deter them from graduating on time; however, with preparation into course scheduling and support from an academic advisor, studying abroad and staying on track educationally is possible. Furthermore, studying biochemistry abroad can give you a leg up once you graduate and begin searching for jobs or graduate schools. Biochemistry majors often seek admission into graduate programs, such as medical or veterinary schools, and these schools have high standards; graduate schools often look at time spent studying abroad as a bonus, since it is time spent developing yourself and improving your cultural education.

LOCATIONS

Biochemistry is vital to medicine, pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, and countless other important industries; therefore, because of its significance, biochemistry can be studied nearly anywhere in the world. Study abroad programs in Australia attract students from all over the world, because of the nation's thoroughly developed biochemistry programs in Australian universities, which cover a wide range of research topics, from pharmacology to the cell biology of tumor suppressing genes. England and Ireland are other popular biochemistry study abroad destinations in Western Europe, as courses are taught in English. Germany is a world leader in biochemical pharmaceutical research and product development; some labs even offer undergraduate student research internships in tandem with course credit.

PROGRAMS & COURSES

Though studying abroad is often thought of as having to take non-related elective courses, it is possible to find upper level biochemistry classes in most developed countries with well-established education systems, including courses that may not be available at your home institution. In the past, biochemistry majors have been pleasantly surprised discovering courses like bioinformatics, virology, biomedicine, and immunology offered by partner institutions or study abroad program providers abroad.

Once you are certain you are taking the courses needed for your biochemistry degree program, adding elective courses that are native to the country you are studying in, including language, food-related, or history courses, can round out your schedule and enrich your study abroad experience.

BENEFITS

After graduation, biochemistry majors are introduced to a highly competitive industry of lab and research jobs, or else must enter the daunting arena of graduate programs. Whichever your path may be, having biochemistry study abroad experience on your resume can illustrate to potential employers or admissions committees that you value international education and have gained important life skills, often including communication outside your first language.

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.

- **University College of Cork, Ireland**
 - *Sample Courses: Virology, Environmental Microbial Genomics, Molecular Genetics & Genomics*
- **Danish Institute for Study Abroad, Denmark**
 - *Sample Courses: Neuroplasticity, Microbiology, Medical Biotechnology & Drug Development, Immunology, Cell Factories: Design, Engineering & Analysis*
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- **Florence University of the Arts**
 - *Sample Courses: Chemistry in Everyday Life*
- **IFSA-Butler: Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia**
 - *Sample Courses: Evolution & Biodiversity, Human Biology, The Thread of Life*

In addition to Biochemistry 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