

Passport to Possibilities: A Guide to Study Abroad



The Office of International Education

Agenda



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Introductions



Aurora Margarita-Goldkamp, MA

Director of International Education

Studied in Mexico and France, worked in France and Italy.



Sabrina Prioleau, EdD

Assistant Director of International Education

Studied in England & Switzerland and worked in Spain.

OIE Overview

- Provide support to *all* students considering study abroad, while abroad, and upon re-entry
- Provide support to international students at SMCM
- Facilitate global opportunities such as the Fulbright Scholarship, Gilman Award, Boren Award, and international for-credit internships
- Maintain a portfolio of safe, academically rigorous programs
- Support internationalization at SMCM

Why should your student study abroad?



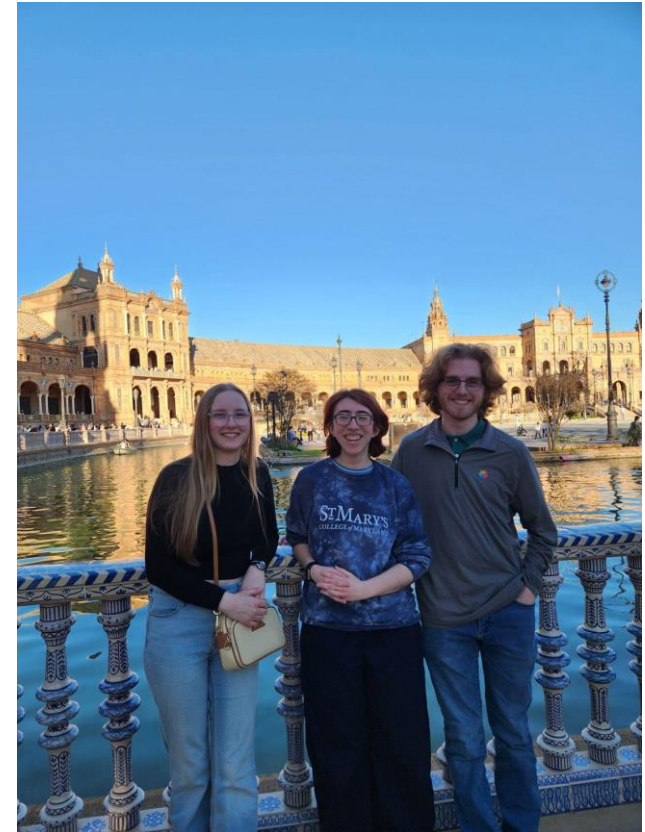
- 1) Academic credit
- 2) Global citizenship
- 3) Professional relevance
- 4) Skill development

Choosing the Best-fit Program Type

- **SMCM Programs:** Semester, Year-long, Direct Enroll, Provider, and Exchange Programs
 - Around 30 programs
 - Students pay SMCM tuition and fees
 - All federal, state, and SMCM aid applies
- **Faculty-led Study Tours**
 - 1-4 weeks in winter, spring, or summer
 - SMCM course credit
 - Close interaction with faculty leader and peers
- **Non-SMCM Programs:** Semester or Year-long
 - Federal aid usually applies
 - Offers additional flexibility with majors and location

Aligning Academics

- All majors and minors have at least one study abroad option!
- Multiple approaches
- Honors College Promise
- Start planning early
 - Unlimited advising support
 - Collaborative holistic advising across campus



Where on Earth Can Students Study?



Morocco, Namibia & South Africa, Thailand, Taiwan, South Korea, Bhutan, Japan, Australia, Costa Rica, Puerto Rico (US), Chile, Hungary, Ireland, Sweden, Denmark, France, Italy, Spain, Slovenia, England, Scotland, Greece, and more!

Student Spotlights

Bella Ramirez: Costa Rica, Fall 24

Environmental Studies & Spanish Major, Biology Minor



My study abroad experience in Costa Rica allowed me to explore a multitude of diverse environments. After designing my own independent research project, I conducted field research to generate a baseline study to be used by the local community to monitor forest recovery after decades of logging. The experience forever changed my approach to academic research.

-Bella Ramirez

Bechorah Aguoru: Granada, Spain Spring 25 Neuroscience and Spanish Major

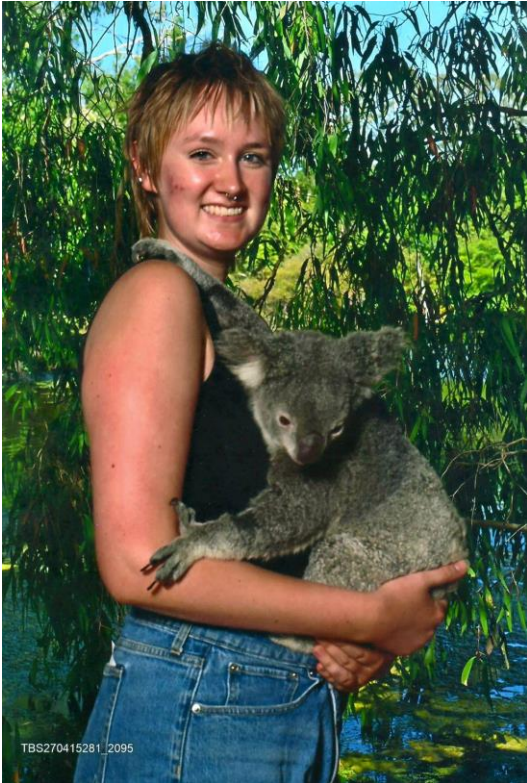
My experience studying Spanish in Granada, Spain inspired me to pursue other international academic opportunities in neuroscience such as the Fulbright U.S. Student Program. There are opportunities to volunteer and intern in fields that align with your academic interests outside of Spanish language also; I volunteered with a school and a refugee organization.

- Bechorah Aguoru



Joanna Cleaver: Thailand 2023 & Australia Fall 24

Marine Science & Environmental Studies Double Major



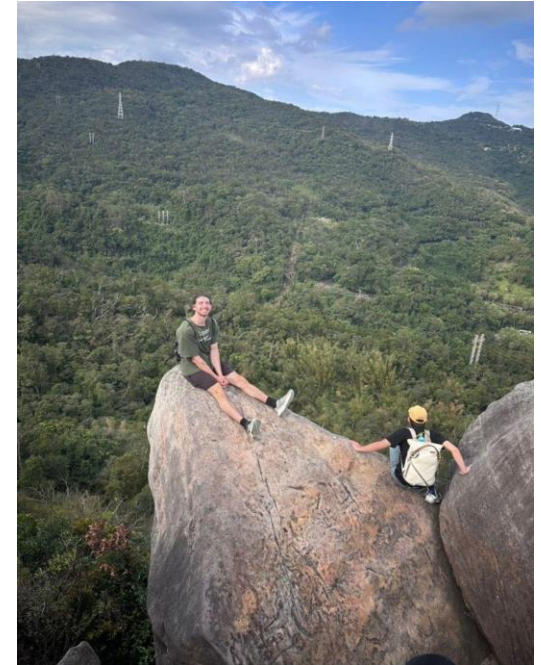
The classes I took while studying abroad in Australia, as well as my experiences exploring the country, allowed me to apply marine and environmental science concepts to a range of unique ecosystems unlike anything I have ever seen. This skill will assist me in my future, as I aim to continue traveling and work in environmental science positions globally.

-Joanna Cleaver

Ben Handler: Taiwan, AY24-25

Art Major, Asian Studies Minor

Studying abroad in Taiwan has been the opportunity of a lifetime for language learning and adventuring. I have gained so many new experiences and stories to tell. Beyond that, my Chinese language class has taught me an invaluable skill that I will always have with me. I hope everyone can get to experience something like this in their life.



-Ben Handler

Colin Vanbronkhorst: Sweden Program, Fall 25 Neuroscience Major



Study abroad with DIS helped me gain a lot of confidence in my ability to take care of myself, which makes me feel much more prepared for life after college. I also got a chance to work on an original research project using tools I wouldn't have had access to at St. Mary's, from which I learned a lot of valuable skills for my SMP and postgraduate studies.

- Colin Vanbronkhorst

Global Scholars Distinction

GSD students take the 1-credit Global Scholars Workshop upon re-entry.

- Academic Portfolio
- Updated résumé
- Global Scholars Fair
- Graduate with a GSD cord!



How to Get Started

Check out our website at www.smcm.edu/ie:

- Program Budgets
 - Financing Tips
 - Health and Safety Resources
 - Diversity & Inclusion Resources
 - Explore programs that interest your student
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- Please know that students are encouraged to make an advising appointment with IE staff to answer their specific questions.

Frequently Asked Questions

- **When should students start thinking about going abroad? Now!**

- **Are there eligibility requirements?**

Yes! There are GPA and conduct checks, and sometimes language proficiency requirements. Please check each program page for the requirements.

- **How much does it cost?**

Each program page has a Program Budget webpage.

- **Do students have to speak another language to go abroad? No way!**

- **How to choose the best-fit program? (Provider v. Direct or Exchange)**

Think about the location, cost, course offerings, and the level of support. Provider programs offer more excursions and on-site support, but can cost more

- **Is study abroad affordable?**

Peruse our website for scholarship resources

Apply to IE Scholarships

- **Can students go abroad if they are athletes?**

Yes!

- **Is it safe?**

Study abroad carries its risks, just as travel and everyday life does. Risk management is part of our job, and health and safety are our top priorities!

- **When do most students go abroad from SMCM?**

Both semesters, pretty equally, mostly sophomore or junior year.

- **Will students need a visa?**

Probably! They will receive more information if so.

- **Will students graduate on time if they go abroad? Yes!**

Contact Information

Office of International Education

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Questions?



Future Webinar Date & Time

- Tuesday, April 14, 7-8 PM: “The Year-End Boost: Helping Your Student Finish Strong and Plan What’s Next”

Zoom Link for 2026 Parent & Family Webinars:

Join Zoom Meeting

[Zoom link for future webinars](#)

Meeting ID: 878 0293 5039

Passcode: 409207