

# SMCM Study Abroad: An Overview for Advising

[www.smcm.edu/ie](http://www.smcm.edu/ie)

**A quick note about the pandemic:** Yes, we have had to press pause on study abroad programming for AY 2020-2021. Currently, we are supporting student applications for Fall 2021 and beyond in the cautiously optimistic hope that we can gradually reopen our programming. We will notify any *applicants* with *individual* outreach if their programs are cancelled by our partners - or deemed unsafe by SMCM. We are conducting an ongoing risk assessment based on many factors as we move forward, and we will discuss the impact of the pandemic on study abroad personally with any students who are considering an application for next year.

## SMCM semester/academic-year programs

- Students pay SMCM tuition, plus a mandatory fee and program fee.
- All financial aid that students receive at SMCM can be applied to their time abroad.
- SMCM study abroad scholarships are available for SMCM programs (and we are happy to advise on external resources as well).
- SMCM has different partnerships for each program: directly with the host institution, another American university in the states, or a third party provider. The following are considered SMCM programs and they are the programs listed on our [website](#):

James Cook University, Australia (Townsville and Cairns campus)

University College Dublin, Ireland

\*JCU in Australia and UCD in Dublin have courses available for all fields of study at SMCM. Both are particularly popular for Biology students.

Fudan University, China

Institute for Central American Development Studies (ICADS)- Costa Rica

Sciences Po, Cannes, Grenoble, and Montpellier, France

Heidelberg University, Germany

Lingnan University, Hong Kong

Budapest Semesters in Math, Hungary (only for Math students)

Florence, Rome, and Perugia, Italy

Akita International University, Japan

Roehampton University and Queen Mary University, London

Ifrane and Rabat, Morocco

Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, Oxford

Granada, Spain

Stellenbosch, South Africa

Bangkok and Chiang Mai, Thailand

University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

Cuenca, Ecuador (includes an internship)

New! API in Cuba

## Application Process

- We provide an overview of initial steps at <https://www.smcm.edu/ie/getting-started/>.
- Students apply directly through the SMCM application system in "Via TRM."
- We prefer to meet with each applicant at least once, 1:1, early on - please refer them to us for an appointment if they are serious about applying within the next year.

- Because we partner with other institutions/organizations for all of our programs, students typically have to complete dual applications, one for SMCM and one for the program provider/host institution.
- If students have questions about the application process for a particular program, you may direct them to the IE Office ([internationaleducation@smcm.edu](mailto:internationaleducation@smcm.edu))
- Currently, Aurora Margarita-Goldkamp, Director of IE, is the main staff for advising students - feel free to refer students directly to her at [amargaritagoldkamp@smcm.edu](mailto:amargaritagoldkamp@smcm.edu).

## Non-SMCM program options

- Non-SMCM programs run through other institutions or third party providers
  - Ex: CISabroad, ISA, IES, API, AIFS...etc. You may direct them to the non-SMCM page: <http://www.smcm.edu/ie/programs/other-opportunities/non-smcm-programs/>
- Only federal aid may apply to a non-SMCM program; no scholarships or state aid.
- The SMCM study abroad scholarships may not be applied to non-SMCM programs; however, many organizations provide their own scholarships.
- Non-SMCM study abroad students pay a \$350 holding fee to the college and are subject to whatever fees the program requires.

### Application process

- Students must first complete the non-SMCM program proposal form. Deadlines are listed on the form: [https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Gyhuc6TWZWGnQUpUH\\_Se-pj-yUs\\_kg6r8C4LMI4XYvs/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1Gyhuc6TWZWGnQUpUH_Se-pj-yUs_kg6r8C4LMI4XYvs/edit)
- The programs must first be approved by our office. Once approved, we will add the programs to our system and students may complete the SMCM required materials.
- In addition to the SMCM application, students must apply directly to the programs and must complete any and all required application materials.

## SMCM Study Tours

- Short-term, faculty-led study abroad programs that run over winter break, spring break, and summer (1-4 weeks) and rotate so that every year's selection is different.
- Students earn 4 credits for a particular course
- Financial aid does not apply to a study tour; however, they may speak with Marsha Wilcox in Financial Aid about how to use money from loans.
- Specific application details are listed on the website and students may contact the faculty leaders directly with questions.
- Deadline for students to apply to study tours is February 1st.

## General Study Abroad Notes

### **Policies and Deadlines**

- Our policies are found on our website, along with tons of helpful information about application processes, financial aid and scholarships, health and safety, individual program pages with budgets and required prerequisites, and more!
- Please note that students must have a GPA of 2.5 (often higher, depending on the program) and that seniors must appeal to the APC for approval to study abroad more than 6 of their last 36 credits off-campus. This means rising seniors must plan on starting this approval and application process early.
- Deadlines are found on our website, but generally, Fall deadlines are March 15th, and Spring are October 15th.

### **Course Equivalency Process**

- The Registrar's Office works in conjunction with the department chairs to determine study abroad students' course equivalencies.
- The current course pre-approval process involves students creating a list of courses they would like to take abroad, along with a few back-up courses, the course codes and descriptions, and what they would like each course to transfer back as at St. Mary's on a "Course Equivalency Worksheet" which is shared with Susan Bennett in the Registrar's Office. Susan will work with the respective department chairs to determine the course equivalencies and then continue to correspond with the students.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact our office! We're happy to help!

-- OIE Staff