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"I have had an AMAZING time here...better than I ever thought it would be! It will be nice to be at home again, but I will definitely miss Canada!"

Amanda Otten, Communication Major, Academic Year Abroad, Brock University, Canada

Study Abroad for Communication Majors

BELLARMINE UNIVERSITY
IN VERITATIS AMORE

"A study abroad experience for a Communication major can truly expand the student's understanding of global communication issues. Whether doing an internship in London or studying media in Australia, students will have fabulous opportunities to explore the impact of media and communication around the world. They'll also make friends and have experiences that will open doors for them throughout their lives."
Dr. Gail Henson, Professor of Communication

Study Abroad as a Communication Major. . .

- See world events through the lens of another culture.
- Experience the media systems of another country.
- Live a true intercultural communication experience.
- Observe the press and journalism practices of another country.
- Learn firsthand about important global issues.
- Prepare yourself for competitive graduate programs.
- Build your résumé by demonstrating your independence, flexibility, and willingness to take on new challenges.

"I learned more about myself in 3 weeks than I ever thought possible. It really built me up as a leader and as an individual. I see where I am strong and what areas of leadership I can improve upon."
Amanda Deane, Communication Major, Challenge New Zealand Summer program, New Zealand

Plan ahead . . .

As a communication student, you may study abroad as a sophomore, junior or senior. There are many opportunities for elective credits in the major which gives you flexibility to study abroad and make progress towards your degree. Discuss study abroad options with your Academic Advisor and Faculty Liaison.

- Begin planning at least a year in advance of your study abroad program. Meet with the Study Abroad Advisor and talk with faculty and students who have taught or studied abroad. It is never too early to start planning!
- Set some goals. There are many partners and programs abroad that offer communication and media courses. The best school for you depends on what you plan to gain from your experience
- Prioritize your goals. See the IPO handout on this subject and consider your long-term academic and professional goals, as well as your on-campus degree requirements.
- With proper planning, study abroad can help you prepare for the next step after college whether it is graduate school or starting a career.
- Start saving now! Consider saving for your time abroad when setting your spending priorities today.

Can I afford it?

YES! Now is the most cost-effective time in your life to spend an extended period of time abroad. Most undergraduate students do not have to balance a job, mortgage, family and car payments when saving for study abroad.

- Studying abroad for a semester on exchange will cost about the same as attending Bellarmine and living on campus.
- For exchange programs, financial aid and scholarships can be applied toward your semester or academic year abroad.
- There are many short-term programs with a wide range of prices to accommodate various student budgets.
- Bellarmine also offers scholarships for study abroad! For more information, visit: http://www.bellarmine.edu/international/scholarships.asp

"Study abroad, in my experience is so much more than academics, for me it was an endless string of adventures. I loved it."

Mary Decoursey, FLIS & Communication Major, Semester Abroad, Universidad de Salamanca, Spain

Next steps?

Study Abroad Information Meetings
Not sure how to start? There are general information meetings held weekly in the fall. See the BU student calendar or contact the IPO for dates.

The Study Abroad Fair
This annual fall event held in October is a great place to talk to program providers and students who have studied around the world on Bellarmine's programs. It is a wonderful time to ask returned students about their experiences abroad.

Browse Our Website
Find information on all Bellarmine study abroad programs, as well as application procedures and tips on preparing for your time abroad. http://www.bellarmine.edu/international/

What happens next?
Visit the International Programs Office in Miles Hall Suite 149 to learn more about the program and application deadlines. Talk with your Academic Advisor and the Faculty Liaison for study abroad information regarding your major. Learn what courses you will be able to take abroad, and plan ahead. Research the country and site where you wish to study. Find out as much as you can about your host site.

When should I go?

Summer programs are available to all students starting the summer after freshman year. Depending on a student's major and minor, certain times may be better than others for long-term study abroad. See below for tips on deciding when you should go.

Freshman

The best time to start planning for study abroad is your freshman year. If you hope to have two international experiences, it is a great idea to do a summer program after freshman year and then plan for a semester or year abroad junior year.

Sophomores

There are limited semester sites available for sophomores. However, mature applicants typically do not have trouble finding an appropriate site for study. The application to study abroad sophomore year is due in the fall of freshman year. Please work closely with the Study Abroad Advisor and your Academic Advisor to see what plan is best for you.

Juniors

Most Bellarmine students study abroad during their junior year. At this point, you may be more focused on upper division courses and electives. See the descriptions on the next page for program suggestions.

Seniors

Students may study abroad during the fall semester of senior year, although they will need to select the location carefully to ensure specific classes needed for graduation are available. Students should choose a site that matches Bellarmine's calendar so that they will be back in time to start the spring semester at BU.

How do I select a program?

Bellarmine has more than 150 international program sites. When selecting a program that will work best for you, consider your geographic interests and academic goals. Use this sheet, talk with your advisor, talk to past participants of study abroad programs, and work with the IPO to identify the best program for you. **These highlighted programs offer excellent options for you to earn credit in your major; however, depending on your flexibility, you may also want to explore other programs BU offers**. As the School of Communication and the IPO work together, specific recommended programs may change. Check with the Study Abroad Advisor for the latest information.

Can I fulfill graduation requirements?

General Education: General education credits can be fulfilled on almost all study abroad programs. Some excellent courses to take abroad include: Fine Art requirement, English Literature requirement, Social Science requirement, and the IDC 301 Trans-cultural Experience requirement. Occasional approval is granted for the Theology elective requirement.

Major requirements: Communication courses are offered in English at many partner universities. You will want to consider enhancing your BU degree by taking communication, media and journalism courses that are not offered at BU. Some institutions have more course options than others and they are listed on this page. With advance planning, you will be able to earn credits towards your major. You should also plan on taking some elective credits that are not offered at Bellarmine.

Minor requirements: Depending on your minor, you may also be able to take courses to fulfill those requirements abroad. Please consult with the Chair of the Department.

Study Communication for a semester or an academic year at partner universities abroad

The lists on this page and the next contain links to view information on communication programs offered at BU partner universities abroad. Many links provide access to a course description. You should review this list with your advisor or faculty liaison to see which institution will provide you with the courses you need. If necessary, you will also want to discuss substitutions or waivers with the Department Chair.

City of Melbourne, Australia
Location of Swinburne University

Al Akhawayn University campus:
Ifrane, Morocco

Bilateral Exchange Partners with Excellent Communication Options:*

Al Akhawayn University: Ifrane, Morocco

http://www.aui.ma./VPAA/shss/shss-index.htm
Al Akhawayn has a fabulous Communication Program with a variety of media courses. (Courses are in English, however some knowledge of French is highly recommended.)

Chinese University of Hong Kong: Hong Kong, China

http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/english/bachelor-degree/social-science.html
They have an excellent Cultural Studies degree program with courses such as Globalization and Culture, Studies in New Media, and Cultural and Creative Industries.

Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore: Milan, Italy

http://internationalrelations.unicatt.it/it/international_courses/non_eu_exchange_students

Leeds Metropolitan University: Leeds, England

http://www.leedsmet.ac.uk/study/findacourse.htm
Leeds has an excellent media program that would be a perfect complement to your Bellarmine communication courses.

Rhodes University: Grahamstown, South Africa

http://www.ru.ac.za/academic/departments/
This innovative institution located in beautiful and safe Grahamstown is one of the best institutions in South Africa with a cutting edge communication and journalism program.

Swinburne University of Technology: Melbourne, Australia

http://www.international.swinburne.edu.au/

University of Helsinki: Helsinki, Finland

http://www.helsinki.fi/english/courses/
Located in the capital of Finland this internationally recognized institution has very good options for communication majors.

* For the most updated partnership options please check with the International Programs Office.

ISEP Exchange

Bellarmine is also a member of The International Student Exchange Program (ISEP) which provides access to many additional study sites around the globe. It is easy to do a search by subject on the ISEP website www.isep.org. For most sites, you can access course catalogs for these institutions online or in the IPO resource room.

ISEP Exchange Partners with Excellent Communication Options:

The following ISEP institutions are only a few of the many destinations where you could study communication abroad. The schools listed are some of the best options for Communication students.

Aalborg University- Aalborg, Denmark
http://en.aau.dk/

American University Bulgaria -Blagoevgrad, Bulgaria
www.aubg.bg/

American University of Sharjah – Sharjah, United Arab Emirates
http://www.isep.org/students/Directory/member_site.asp?CSID=256&ID=366

Ajou University- Suwon, Korea- Excellent film studies options
http://www.ajou.ac.kr/english/intro/main.jsp

Masaryk University- Brno, Czech Republic
www.muni.cz/

Nanzan University -Nagoya, Japan
www.nanzan-u.ac.jp/

Napier University- Edinburgh, Scotland
www.napier.ac.uk/international

Karlstad University- Stockholm, Sweden
http://www.kau.se/en

Universite Lille III- Lille, France
Course available in English; students should have completed 2 semesters of French prior to departure.
http://www.isep.org/students/Directory/member_site.asp?CSID=77&ID=72

University of Tampere- Tampere, Finland
www.uta.fi/studies/

Universiteit van Amsterdam-Amsterdam, Netherlands
www.english.uva.nl/education/

Leanne Belair, Communication major, travelling in Rome while spending an academic year abroad at Leeds Metropolitan University in England

Short Term Program Options

For students interested in a spending a summer or winter break abroad there are many excellent options for all majors. Students can choose to do major requirements or general education or elective courses.

Top summer and winter destinations specifically for Communication majors:

CCSA
www.ccsa.cc
CCSA offers summer and winter options in English speaking countries. They often offer communication courses such as photojournalism.

CIEE
www.ciee.org
CIEE provides summer options around the globe. The academic focus of the programs will depend on the location.

KIIS
www.kiis.org
KIIS has summer options in non-English speaking countries. Most programs are conducted in English. The academic focus varies by program.

*** In addition to the above listed summer/winter options, there are many international internship and service opportunities available in Communication. Please consult the IPO for more information on these programs. ***

Chad Barras
Communication Major
CCSA London Summer Program, England