Study Abroad in the Natural Sciences

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IN VERITATIS AMORE

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"Bellarmine faculty care about giving their students the best education possible. Perhaps the most unforgettable experiences come from the total immersion one gets in biology study-abroad programs such as the ones BU offers in the Bahamas and Belize. Playing with brittle stars from tidal pools, snorkeling with stingrays, climbing ancient Mayan ruins... nothing beats traveling to these wonderful places under the guidance of experienced biology faculty. It's hard to imagine a better educational experience than study abroad!"
Dr. David Porta, Professor, Bellarmine Biology Department

Study Abroad as a Natural Science Major and. . .

- Experience the world of science and research in another country
- Gain international perspectives in the field
- Understand global scientific issues
- Explore diverse areas of biology such as marine biology, ecology, & biodiversity
- See world events through the perspective of another culture
- Acquire skills to succeed in medical school or other post-graduate opportunities
- Build your résumé by demonstrating your independence, flexibility, and willingness to take on new challenges

"Never in my life have I ever been exposed to such cultural diversity. And to be dumped into it cold turkey has been quite the experience, an experience that I am truly grateful for…Being around all these people from so many cultures has helped me erase many of my cultural stereotypes and has prepared me for future cultural encounters."
Nick Tournaud, Biology Major, Semester Abroad, University Canterbury Christchurch, New Zealand

Plan ahead . . .

As a natural science student, you will want to carefully plan for your study abroad experience. While chemistry majors can study abroad as a sophomore, junior or senior, the best time for semester study abroad for biology and BMB majors is during the spring of sophomore or fall of senior year. 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 students and faculty who have studied or taught abroad. It is never too early to start planning!
- Set some goals. There are many partners and programs abroad that offer natural science courses. The best one for you depends on what you plan to gain from your experience and what your post-graduate plans may be.
- 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 in the Sciences.
- **Start saving now**! Consider saving for your time abroad when setting your spending priorities now.

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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/

"Studying abroad was truly one of the most enriching experiences of my life. It widened the scope of my education and I loved every minute of it!"

Chelsea Rupp, Biology Major, KIIS Summer Program, Germany

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 September 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 which 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. For biology majors, one of the most appropriate times for semester study is spring of sophomore year. 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 which plan is best for you.

Juniors

Many Bellarmine students study abroad during their junior year. At this point, you may be more focused on upper division courses and electives. This may be an option if you are not planning to attend medical school or if you are flexible and willing to take a summer class or two. See the descriptions below for program suggestions.

Seniors

Many students can still study abroad during the fall semester of senior year, although students will need to select the location carefully to ensure that specific classes needed for graduation can be taken abroad. Students will also want to choose a site that matches Bellarmine's academic calendar in order to return in time to start the spring semester.

How do I select a program?

Bellarmine has more than 150 international program sites. In order to select a program that will work best for you, consider both 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 Bellarmine partners and programs.** As new partners are established specific program recommendations 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 requirement. Occasionally approval is granted for the Theology elective requirement.

Major requirements: Natural Science courses are offered in English at many of our partner universities. Some institutions have a broader selection than others and they are listed on this page. With advance planning, you may be able to earn credits for your major. If possible, plan on taking some elective credits that are not offered here so that you can enhance courses you have taken at BU.

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

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

The links on this page allow you to visit the websites and/or view course catalogs and courses offered at BU partner universities abroad. You should review this with your advisor 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. For most sites, you can access course catalogs for these institutions online or in the IPO resource room.

Earn an Environmental Studies Minor while at USFQ

Study for a semester (in English) at the **Universidad San Francisco de Quito's GAIAS program in Quito & the Galapagos Islands**, and earn your minor in Environmental Studies.

- ✓ Take **ENVR 111 Introduction to Environmental Science** at Bellarmine prior to departure.
- ✓ Take the following GAIAS courses while abroad at USFQ to fulfill the remaining Environmental Studies Minor requirements:
  - **Wildlife Conservation Management**
  - **Human Ecology and Maritime Communities**
  - **Political Ecology**
  - **Strategic Planning for Natural Resource Management**
  - **Health and the Environment**

http://www.usfq.edu.ec/programas_academicos/galapagos/Paginas/default.aspx

Bilateral Exchange Partners with Excellent Natural Science Course Options:*

Chinese University of Hong Kong: Hong Kong, China
http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/english/index.html
Many biochemistry, biology and chemistry courses are offered in English

Curtin University: Perth, Australia
http://handbook.curtin.edu.au/unitSearch.html
(They currently have a cell biology option)

Edith Cowan University: Perth, Australia
http://www.sons.ecu.edu.au/

Rhodes University: Grahamstown, South Africa
http://www.ru.ac.za/academic/departments/
Rhodes is located in beautiful and safe Grahamstown and has many science options.

Swinburne University: Melbourne, Australia
http://courses.swinburne.edu.au/Subjects/BrowseSubjectInternational.aspx

Universidad San Francisco de Quito: Quito, Ecuador
http://www.usfq.edu.ec/Paginas/default.aspx
Excellent destination for environmental science and studies.

University of Birmingham: Birmingham, England
http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/

University of Helsinki: Helsinki, Finland
http://www.helsinki.fi/english/courses/
In addition to biology courses, this institution has a veterinary program.

University of Leicester: Leicester, England
http://www.le.ac.uk/

University of Canterbury: Christchurch, New Zealand**
http://www.biol.canterbury.ac.nz/biol_courses.shtml
There are many excellent biology and biochemistry courses available at this institution.
**Study abroad option only.

* 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. **Students who have many electives will have greater flexibility in their choice of schools**. Students who have a second major may also choose to focus on that subject area while abroad.

ISEP Exchange Partners with Excellent Natural Science Options:

Below are some of the best natural science options with ISEP. If you are looking to do general education requirements or courses in a minor, you will have many more options.

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

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

University of Ghana- Accra, Ghana
www.ug.edu.gh/

University of Iceland- Reykjavik, Iceland
www.hi.is/
They have an excellent Earth Science program**.**

University of Turku- Turku, Finland
http://www.sci.utu.fi/biologia/en/index.html
(Excellent Environmental and Botanical options)

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 general education courses, courses in the major or elective courses such as the gen. ed. IDC 301 Trans-cultural Experience course.

"I feel very fortunate to have this opportunity and I look forward to visiting Ireland again so that I may again observe the progress of the small island nation."

Raymond Burns, Chemistry major, CCSA Summer program, Ireland

International Internships and Service

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

Top summer and winter destinations specifically for Natural Science majors:

Bellarmine Biology Bahamas & Belize Programs
Organized by the BU Biology Department, the focus is Marine Biology. The program alternates between destinations every year.

CCSA
www.ccsa.cc
CCSA offers summer and winter programs in English speaking countries. Students may chose from courses in a variety disciplines.

KIIS
www.kiis.org
KIIS offers summer programs in non-English speaking countries. Most are conducted in English. The academic focus will vary by country.

Research in Germany for Science and Engineering Students
http://www.tu-braunschweig.de/international/sense
This excellent 7 week summer program provides practical research with academic training in your area and/or in the German language.

USFQ Summer Programs
http://www.usfq.edu.ec/Paginas/default.aspx
Tiputini Biodiversity station in Ecuador Galapagos Islands Program.

Spring Break BU Biology program in Belize