



BELLARMINE LEARNING ABROAD

Questions & Answers

Q. What are the benefits of an educational experience abroad?

A. Academic, personal and career benefits can be gained from a study abroad experience. Students are exposed to different teachers, teaching methods, and course content which allows for **intellectual growth**. However, the opportunities for **personal growth** are often even more important. This is usually the first time that students are confronted with their American identity, leading to **significant cognitive, affective, and behavioral transformations**. One of the most frequent comments from students returning from an international experience is that they feel more confident about their abilities and thus themselves. This self-confidence will be invaluable to a student's personal life as well as an asset for graduate school and future employment. Educational experiences abroad also tend to encourage **development of soft skills** that employers report as valued employee traits, such as **high ambiguity tolerance** and **strong problem-solving abilities**.

Q. Who is eligible to study abroad?

A. Study abroad is available to any Bellarmine student in good social and academic standing (2.75 GPA for semester and academic year programs and 2.0 for winter/summer programs). For study at many non-English speaking university sites, proficiency in the language of study is necessary (i.e., a minimum of four semesters of college-level language coursework).

Q. Which majors can study abroad?

A. All majors can study abroad. Students may take general education classes and classes in their major overseas. The most popular course taken abroad is the IDC 301 Transcultural Experience. All courses abroad with Bellarmine professors and many other courses abroad are approved to count as IDC 301. There is also the option to take this course online during a semester abroad.

Q. Why should I take the IDC 301 Transcultural Experience abroad?

A. The idea of this course is to experience and learn about different cultures. Taking the course abroad can enhance your international experience and give you a deeper knowledge of the culture in which you are living. In order to be eligible to take this course, you must have completed the IDC 100 and 200 requirements before the start of your experience abroad.

Q. Will students receive academic credit for study abroad experiences?

A. Yes. All credit earned in Bellarmino affiliated programs abroad is transferred back to Bellarmine. It is strongly recommended that the course transfers be determined (through discussions with appropriate Department Chairs) before the student departs.

Q. Is study abroad expensive?

A. Not necessarily. The cost of a semester or academic year of study abroad on exchange is virtually the same as study at Bellarmine (tuition, room and board, and student fees). The only additional expenses are the cost of transportation to and from the study site, health & evacuation insurance and minimal administrative fees. The cost for winter and summer programs ranges from \$2,450 to \$5,900. Most forms of financial aid are available.

Q. Will scholarships and grants be applied to study abroad programs?

A. Yes. In a majority of cases, departmental scholarships, KEES money, Pell grants, direct loans, and various other forms of financial aid can be applied to most study abroad programs as if the student were studying on campus. Special scholarships of up to \$10,000 for summer or semester study abroad are available to full-time Bellarmine students.

Q. When should a student start investigating study abroad?

A. While students are strongly encouraged to check into study abroad opportunities during their freshman year, all students are invited to investigate their options when they feel ready. Information tables and sessions about education abroad are offered on a regular basis. Bellarmine holds its annual study abroad fair in September. Students are invited to stop by the Office for Study Abroad and International Learning on the first floor of Horrigan Hall (CNHH 111).

For more information please contact:

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Or visit our website: <http://www.bellarmino.edu/international/studyabroad/>