Study Abroad in Philosophy and Theology

BELLARMINE UNIVERSITY
IN VERITATIS AMORE

"Bellarmine University aspires to be a Catholic University in the spirit of Thomas Merton. Merton traveled widely in his formative years and studied at Cambridge before transferring to Columbia. He was on a journey to the East, dialoging with Buddhists and other faith traditions when he met his untimely death. A theology major will want to follow in the footsteps of Merton, perhaps exploring the liberation struggles of a developing country, or the ancient Christian tradition of Europe, or a culture formed by another of the world's great religious traditions. Study abroad broadens and stretches one's perspective. It is a transformative experience. Everyone who can, should seize the opportunity."

J. Milburn Thompson, Ph.D. Professor, Theology Department

Study Abroad as a Philosophy or Theology major and . . .

- Debate philosophical issues with people from a different country
- Observe the religions of another country
- Gain international perspectives in theology & philosophy
- See world events through the lens of another culture
- Experience the lifestyle of another country
- Learn first-hand 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

"Study abroad has given me an insight into my own way of life that I never have been exposed to in any classroom at Bellarmine."
Jordan York, Philosophy Major, Semester Abroad, Kansai Gaidai University, Japan

Plan ahead . . .

As a philosophy or theology student, you can study abroad as a sophomore, junior or senior. There are 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 studied or taught abroad. It is never too early to start planning!
- Set some goals. There are many partners and programs abroad that offer philosophy and theology courses. The best one 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 now.

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http://www.bellarmine.edu/cas/philosophy/

Theology Department
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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/

BU student abroad in Ireland

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 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 still study abroad during the fall semester of senior year, although the location should be selected carefully to ensure that they may take specific classes needed for graduation. They should be sure to choose a site that matches Bellarmine's calendar so that you 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 Philosophy and Theology Departments 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.

Major requirements: Philosophy or Theology courses are offered in English at many of our partner universities. 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. Plan on taking some elective credits that are not offered at Bellarmine so that you may enhance the coursework 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 Philosophy or Theology for a semester or an academic year at partner universities abroad

The list on this page contains links to view course catalogs and/or titles of philosophy and theology courses offered at BU partner universities abroad. Most links provide access to a course description. You should review this list 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.

Rhodes University: Grahamstown, South Africa

Al Akhawayn University: Ifrane, Morocco

Bilateral Exchange Partners with Excellent Philosophy and/or Theology Options:*

Australian Catholic University: Ballarat, Brisbane, Canberra, Melbourne, North Sydney, & Strathfield, Australia
http://www.acu.edu.au/

Al Akhawayn University: Ifrane, Morocco
http://www.aui.ma./VPAA/shss/shss-index.htm
(Courses are offered in English, however some knowledge of French is highly recommended.)

Chinese University of Hong Kong: Hong Kong, China
http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/v6/en/

Edith Cowan University: Perth, Australia
http://www.psychology.ecu.edu.au/courses/social_science/index.php

Ewha Womans University: Seoul, S. Korea
http://www.ewha.ac.kr/english/html/002/002001007.html

Leeds Metropolitan University: Leeds, England
http://www.leedsmet.ac.uk/study/findacourse.htm
Leeds has an excellent Peace Studies program that would be a perfect complement to your Bellarmine Theology courses.

Rhodes University: Grahamstown, South Africa
http://www.ru.ac.za/academic/departments/

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

University of Helsinki: Helsinki, Finland
http://www.helsinki.fi/english/courses/

University of Notre Dame Australia: Fremantle & Sydney, Australia
http://www.nd.edu.au/

University of Roehampton: London, England
http://www.roehampton.ac.uk/home/

* 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 some sites, you can access course catalogs for these institutions online.

ISEP Exchange Partners with Excellent Philosophy and Theology Options:

Aalborg University- Aalborg, Denmark
www.en.aau.dk/

Bodø University College -Bodø, Norway
www.hibo.no

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

Thompson Rivers University -Kamloops, Canada
www.tru.ca

Leiden University -Leiden, Netherlands
www.leiden.edu/

Radboud University Nijmegen- Nijmegen, Netherlands
www.ru.nl/english

Södertörns högskola (Southern Stockholm)- Huddinge, Sweden
www.sh.se/

Universiteit van Tilburg- Tilburg, Netherlands
http://www.tilburguniversity.nl/faculties/feb/organisation/dept/

University of Bradford- Bradford, England
http://www.isep.org/students/Directory/member_site.asp?CSID=235&ID=367

University of Debrecen- Debrecen, Hungary
http://www.unideb.hu/portal/en

University of Eastern Finland-Joensuu, Finland
http://www.uef.fi/uef/english

University of Ghana- Legon, Ghana
http://www.ug.edu.gh/isep/index.php

University of Tartu- Tartu, Estonia
www.ut.ee/

Yonsei University- Seoul, S. Korea
www.yonsei.kr/eng

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 may chose to do major requirements, general education or elective courses.

International Internships and Service

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

Top summer and winter destinations specifically for Philosophy or Theology majors:

Chinese University of Hong Kong Summer Program
http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/osp/a/a1/a4.html

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

CCSA
www.ccsa.cc
CCSA offers summer and winter options in English speaking countries. There are courses in a variety disciplines in these programs.

KIIS
www.kiis.org
KIIS has summer options in non-English speaking countries. Most programs are conducted in English. The focus varies by program. Philosophy and Theology courses are offered on a regular basis.

"The Kansai Gaidai program had a philosophical & religious outlook on Eastern culture through class study and cultural immersion. I chose it because I had a great curiosity for Eastern philosophies at the time."

Jordan York, Philosophy Major, Kansai Gaidai University, Japan