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Study Abroad in Philosophy and Theology



"It has been said that all of philosophy begins in wonder ... wonder about the world around us, about why things are the way they are, why we are as we are. The study of philosophy at Bellarmine guides students in uncovering and understanding these questions. Studying philosophy abroad can provide new, and often different, perspectives on these matters that stand at the center of human existence".

David Mosley, Ph.D. Chair, Philosophy Department

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

- Debate philosophical and theological issues with people from a different country
- Explore the world's various religious traditions and experiences
- Gain international perspectives in theology and 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

"Theology's flexible curriculum and individualized research opportunities enables theology majors and minors to easily take advantage of Bellarmine's excellent study abroad options."

Elizabeth Hinson-Hasty, Ph.D. Chair, Theology Department

"While abroad, I was able to take part in multiple Pagan, Wiccan, and Buddhist faith rituals outside of the classroom. By attending these rituals, I was able to further my understanding of global religions, and I think the overall experience was invaluable to my education at Bellarmine and beyond." *Laura Pierson, Theology Major, Semester Abroad, Leeds Trinity University, England*



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 OSAIL 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.

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.bellarmino.edu/international/scholarships/>

“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*



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 OSAIL 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.bellarmino.edu/international/>

What happens next?

Visit the Office for Study Abroad and International Learning in Horrigan Hall Suite 111 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 winter program during or 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 or winter break of senior year. The location should be selected carefully to ensure that they may take specific classes needed for graduation or choose general electives. 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?

Bellarmino 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 OSAIL 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 OSAIL 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 Bellarmino 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.

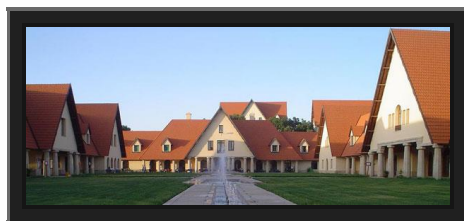
Study Philosophy or Theology for a semester or an academic year at partner universities abroad

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: Brisbane, Melbourne, & Strathfield, Australia

http://www.acu.edu.au/international/study_abroad_and_exchange

Al Akhawayn University: Ifrane, Morocco

<http://www.aui.ma/en/international.html>

(Courses are in English; however, some knowledge of French is highly recommended.)

Chinese University of Hong Kong: Hong Kong, China

<http://www.oal.cuhk.edu.hk/>

3.0 GPA required

Leeds Trinity University of: Leeds, England

<http://www.leedstrinity.ac.uk/international/study-abroad>

Rhodes University: Grahamstown, South Africa

<http://www.ru.ac.za/international/>

Universität Tübingen: Tübingen, Germany

[http://www.uni-](http://www.uni-tuebingen.de/international.html)

[tuebingen.de/international.html](http://www.uni-tuebingen.de/international.html)

Students must have completed at least 4 semesters of German prior to the start of program. Some courses are offered in English.

University of Helsinki: Helsinki, Finland

<https://www.helsinki.fi/en/studying/how-to-apply/exchange-studies>

Helsinki has one of the top-rated Theology Departments in the world.

University of Notre Dame Australia:

Fremantle & Sydney, Australia

<http://www.nd.edu.au/for/futurestudents/international-students>

* For the most updated partnership options please check with the Office for Study Abroad and International Learning.

ISEP Exchange

Bellarmino 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 Recommended Philosophy and Theology Options:

Masaryk University, Czech Republic

<http://cic.muni.cz/en/>

Université de Lille 3, France

<https://www.univ-lille3.fr/international/venir-etudier/>

Toyo University NEST Program, Japan

<http://www.toyo.ac.jp/site/english-ep/overview.html>

UPAEP University, Mexico

<http://www.upaep.mx/exchangestudents/>

American University of Sharjah

<http://www.aus.edu/ixo>

University of Essex

<http://www.essex.ac.uk/international/>

Short Term Program Options

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

International Internships and Service

In addition to summer/winter options listed on this page, there are many international internship and service opportunities available. International Studies Abroad (ISA) (<http://studiesabroad.com/experience/>) has a wide variety of programs in many countries, including Australia, New Zealand, Chile, Spain, and England. Internships and Service-Learning through ISA may be counted as IDC 301 credit with appropriate approval. Please consult the OSAIL 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.summer.cuhk.edu.hk/>

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 of 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
