Study Abroad Opportunities for Students Interested in NEAR EASTERN STUDIES

When Can I Study Abroad?
Near Eastern Studies students and Arabic Studies minors are eligible to study abroad during either the fall or spring semester of their junior year. For students who plan ahead, it may be possible to study abroad for an entire academic year, but students must be in early contact with the Director of Undergraduate Studies.

Various BC summer seminars are also offered every year in which students may participate as early as the summer after the freshman year. Students are encouraged to consider the 3-week intensive summer seminar, SL131: Mediterranean Conflations in Tel Aviv, Israel, when it is available.

Should I Study In A Foreign Language Destination?
Even if students have already met the BC language requirement, they are strongly encouraged to study abroad in a foreign language destination. Students who already have strong language skills can select a program where they will take all courses in French, such as Université Saint-Joseph in Beirut, Lebanon. (Please note that this university is strongly recommended by faculty, but students should check with the Office of International Programs to assure that safety would allow their attendance in a given year.)

For students who do not have foreign language skills, there are several prestigious programs in non-English speaking countries that offer excellent courses in English. Students who have beginning or intermediate language skills can select a program that combines regular courses in English with language courses, such as the BC program at Al-Akhawayn University in Ifrane, Morocco. Also, the approved external programs Hebrew University of Jerusalem Rothberg International School in Israel and American University of Beirut in Lebanon offer courses in English. (Please note that AUB is strongly recommended by faculty, but students should check with the Office of International Programs to assure that safety would allow their attendance in a given year.)

What Classes Should I Take Before Studying Abroad?
Early planning is essential to make sure that students will meet all BC requirements, and to ensure that they will have a strong background in Near Eastern Studies for study abroad. Since most international education systems require a higher degree of specialization at an earlier level, this strong background will allow students to take advantage of the best offerings at the host institution, including upper-level seminars.

At a minimum, all Near Eastern Studies students and Arabic Studies minors should take at least two of the following courses prior to study abroad:
- Language Memory and Identity in the Middle East (SL147/SC148)
- States and Minorities in the Middle East (SL150/SC150)
- Near Eastern Civilization
- Modern Middle Eastern and Arabic Literature (SL148/EN348/RL292)
- [when available] Mediterranean Conflations (SL131) 3-week intensive summer seminar

All Near Eastern Studies students and Arabic Studies minors must meet with their departmental advisor before studying abroad. Prior to this meeting, students should obtain their degree audits and map out a tentative schedule for the semester(s) abroad and for the remaining time on campus at Boston College to show how students plan to meet the remaining major requirements.

What Classes Should I Plan To Take Abroad?
The ideal type of course is one that fits with the Near Eastern and/or Arabic Studies minor but is not available at BC. Courses that focus on the region in which students are studying and those that reflect the academic strengths of the host university department are highly recommended.

To receive major credit for courses taken abroad, students must provide a course syllabus and obtain approval from the department chair.

Near Eastern and/or Arabic Studies students should remember that the department allows a maximum of three courses to be taken abroad with department approval.

What If I Am Planning To Do An Honors Thesis?
In recent years, many students have used their experiences abroad to help generate or supplement a compelling honors thesis. For some Near Eastern and/or Arabic Studies minors who already have a topic in mind, studying abroad provides an excellent opportunity to conduct on-site research and establish contact with faculty at the host institution. All students are strongly encouraged to think about how their semester or year abroad can be integrated into an honors thesis.

Students who are planning to do an honors thesis are strongly urged to plan ahead. Students are advised to establish a thesis topic and identify a BC faculty member willing to supervise their work before departing and to maintain e-mail contact with their thesis advisor while abroad. Students should discuss whether or not they need to take a specific course while abroad.
How Can I Find Out More Information?

- Visit OIP in Hovey House during business hours
- Go to the OIP website: www.bc.edu/international
- Go to the SELL website: http://fmwww.bc.edu/SL/SL.html
- Attend an OIP "Information Session" to learn about study abroad opportunities
- Visit the OIP Resource Room at the Hovey House to speak with an Advising Assistant about study abroad
- Set up an appointment with an International Study Advisor to discuss specific programs

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University Partnership with Programs for Students Interested in SELL: Near Eastern and Arabic Studies:

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updated 5-9-12