



Education Abroad @ Boston College



#WhyGo – What students are saying:

“Being an outsider provided me so much perspective on myself, my ideas, my understanding of what is ‘normal,’ and how all of these things fit into the broader picture of what it means to be human.”— MCAS '19 (Venice International University)

“I took a course that explored the international aspect of environmental policy and the issues associated with it. This helped me direct my career and realize that I want to work in policy and the environment.”— MCAS '19 (University of Queensland)

“While talking to employers, I was able to focus on my study abroad experience and talk about how my semester enhanced my interest in Middle East policy and research.”— MCAS '19 (American University of Sharjah)

“A nurse can in no way be competent of the practices of all cultures. Experiencing another culture so intimately is wonderful for a nursing student.”
— CSON '19 (University of Bergen)

“I was able to complete an internship at a local law office and to embark on an independent study project in the philosophy department. I learned about Italian family law and how it differs from American law.”— CSOM '19 (University of Parma)

#WhyGo – What faculty are saying:



“More than ever before, scientists are forming critical collaborations on a global level. A semester abroad offers the opportunity to encounter and appreciate the perspectives that researchers from different cultures bring to their work. Don't believe the myth that it's too difficult for science majors and pre-health students to work this valuable experience into their schedule.”

Lynne A. O'Connell
Director of Undergraduate Studies, Chemistry Department



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www.bc.edu/international

Boston College students enjoy a long tradition of going abroad, whether it is to study, conduct research, intern, or participate in service learning. These experiences allow students to acquire critical skills such as a greater sense of independence, intercultural competence, adaptability, and language acquisition. The abroad experience inspires personal and intellectual growth; it leads students to gain a competitive edge for graduate school and in the job market.

OPPORTUNITIES ABROAD

Semester and yearlong programs

- 170+ programs
- Options for all majors
- English-taught courses in all disciplines
- Integrated component of the BC experience
- Students fulfill academic requirements and earn credit toward graduation
- Open to BC students in good academic and disciplinary standing, with a 3.0 GPA minimum

BC programs

- Pay BC tuition and remain eligible for all BC financial aid
- Housing options and fees vary by program
- Grades factor into the BC GPA and appear on the BC transcript
- Courses can count toward major/minor/core
- Enroll directly and receive services from a partner institution
- Select number of programs with BC resident director on site

Approved external programs

- Pay provider directly and use state/federal financial aid only
- Pay study abroad fee and international health insurance fee to BC
- Grades appear on the BC transcript, yet do not factor into BC GPA
- Courses can count toward major/minor/core

Summer programs

- Approximately 20 faculty-led and 5 internship programs offered each year
- 4–8 weeks in length
- Credits earned can count toward major/minor/core
- Grades factor into the BC GPA and appear on the BC transcript
- Open to all students regardless of GPA, including freshmen and non-BC students



Experiential learning abroad

A number of BC and approved external programs offer experiential learning components such as internships, service learning, and research. Summer internship sites include Dublin, Hong Kong, Madrid, Paris and Prague. Funding opportunities are available.

Research

- Build a foundation for a senior thesis project
- Prepare for graduate-level study

Internships

- Gain cross-cultural and professional skills needed in today's workforce
- Develop a competitive edge when applying for jobs or graduate school
- Placements meet a wide variety of interests in nearly every industry

Service Learning

- Volunteer and service components enhance the off-campus experience
- Put Jesuit ideals to practice while abroad
- Be part of a local community

BY THE NUMBERS

200+
programs, on six continents and for all majors

50%
of BC undergraduates go abroad

69%
chose a BC program for junior year

35%
are male

24%
identify as students of color

RETURNING STUDENTS REPORTED

64%
experience abroad was a factor in
post-graduate plans

95%
gained greater confidence

85%
learned to adapt to new or challenging situations

90%
time abroad was a significant source
of personal growth

95%
took courses in major/minor abroad

88%
took at least one course not available at BC

COST & FUNDING

With careful planning, students going abroad can spend the same amount as—or sometimes even less than—they would in Chestnut Hill. Students attending BC semester and academic year programs remain eligible for all of their BC financial aid. External program participants can use federal and state aid only. Financial aid cannot be applied toward summer programs; however, students may explore scholarship options.

The OIP offers advising and support for students applying for need-based and prestigious awards, and a variety of fellowships, scholarships, and grants. Look for a list of funding opportunities on the OIP website.

HOW TO APPLY

- All students are encouraged to attend the Study Abroad Fair in September.
- For semester/yearlong programs, the application process begins your sophomore year for study abroad as a junior.
- Apply for summer programs at any time.



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Semester and yearlong programs:

- Complete an online questionnaire
- Attend Study Abroad 101 session
- Meet with OIP advisor
- Submit OIP online application by the deadline

Summer programs and internships:

- Meet with OIP advisor (required for internships)
- Submit OIP online application
- Applications reviewed on rolling basis

To get started, visit the OIP website: www.bc.edu/international



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