



# Study Abroad for Women's Studies

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*"Experiencing and living in a culture different from my own allowed me to realize the complexities that influence how women's issues are perceived and dealt with in other cultures."*

--Kelsey Thornton (WMST major, studied in Madrid)

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UNIVERSITY  
 of ST. THOMAS  
 MINNESOTA

## Why study Women's Studies abroad?

- To understand the field of women's studies and the theory and practice of it from an international perspective.
- To expand your cross-cultural communication and problem solving skills through service-learning, community-based learning, or an internship.
- To gain insight into the lives of women and girls in different parts of the world.
- To enhance your critical thinking skills and gain confidence in yourself personally and professionally.
- To fulfill requirements for the major/minor.
- To fulfill Core or language requirements.

## Yeah, but...

### • **Can I take my Women's Studies courses in English?**

Yes. Women's Studies courses in English are offered worldwide. It is often possible to study WMST in English in a non-English-speaking country and take introductory language at the same time. Or, if you have the appropriate prerequisites, you may take WMST courses in another language.

### • **Can I afford it?**

YES! The cost of studying abroad is within the reach of most UST students. Financial aid applies to semester study abroad, and students not currently receiving financial aid may be eligible for loans. In addition, there are special scholarships for studying abroad.

## So...what do I do next?

- Begin planning right away. It is never too early to start planning. Stop by the IEC, sign up for a "First Step" session (go to their website for details, see left), and use their library to begin researching destinations.
- Set some goals. There is not one program best suited for all Women's Studies students. You need to determine which one best fits you. Prioritize your goals. Consider your long-term academic, professional, and career goals.
- Think about what you want to learn from (and what you can contribute to) the program, college, and country where you want to be.
- Prepare academically. You may need to take prerequisites or plan for classes upon your return.
- Start a budget.
- To help with the above, talk to:
  - ✓ Dr. Sherry Jordon, Director of Women's Studies
  - ✓ Study Abroad Advisor at International Education Center (IEC)


## Academic Planning:

- In consultation with your academic advisor, create a tentative “4-year” academic schedule ASAP (see sample below). By doing this, you will determine when, during your academic career, studying abroad best fits you. Although most Women’s Studies students go abroad during the spring of their junior year or fall of their senior year, you should go abroad when it fits into your schedule, including J-Term or summer.
- It is best to take Women’s Studies core courses at St. Thomas-- that is, WMST 205 and 327 before going abroad.
- As part of your application process, you must identify particular courses of interest and get them approved *before* you depart. Finally, in addition to studying abroad, you should also consider research, service-learning, internships, volunteer and extracurricular experiences off-campus, just as you do when you are on campus.

## Sample Schedule for a Women’s Studies major wishing to study abroad‡:

	<i>First Year</i>	<i>Second Year</i>	<i>Third Year</i>	<i>Fourth Year</i>
<i>F</i>		WMST 327	Study Abroad	Study Abroad
		(a one-semester course to take either fall or spring)	Take WMST courses in Humanities, Social Sciences, Natural Sciences, or Ethnic Studies	
<i>J</i>	J-term(s) abroad			
<i>S</i>	WMST 205	WMST 327	Study Abroad	WMST 480
			Take WMST courses	
<i>Su</i>				

‡Only Women’s Studies courses are listed here, but don’t forget about your core courses and/or electives abroad!

 = time periods when *most* Women’s Studies students consider going abroad.

## A Sample of Study Abroad Programs for Women’s Studies Majors/Minors

### The Americas

Augsburg: Mexico  
 HECUA: Ecuador\*  
 IES: Chile\*, Ecuador\*

### Asia and Oceania

Japan: IES: Nagoya, Tokyo  
 China: IES: Beijing  
 Australia: Univ of Wollongong, Univ of Canberra, Macquarie Univ  
 New Zealand: Univ of Waikato, Victoria Univ.

### Europe

Denmark: DIS, Copenhagen  
 England: Lancaster University, IES London  
 France: IES Nantes\*, Paris\*, Central College, Paris\*  
 Germany: IES Berlin\*, Freiburg\*  
 No. Ireland: HECUA; Butler, Queen’s Univ Belfast  
 Norway: HECUA  
 Spain: IES Barcelona; Madrid\*, Salamanca\*

\* Study is in the host language, not English

\*\*This is **not** meant to be a comprehensive list.

Please consider both short term (summer and J-Term), and long term (semester and year-long) programs.