



Biology contact:

Anthony W. Lewno
OWS 364
651.962.5227
awlewno@stthomas.edu



"I would definitely recommend studying abroad to anyone who is interested in exploring a new side of science...."

-Melissa Konsti
(Biology Major
'04)

International Education
Center
Mail #44C
Ph: 651-962-6450
Email:
International@stthomas.edu
Web:
www.stthomas.edu/studyabroad

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UNIVERSITY
of ST. THOMAS
MINNESOTA

Study Abroad for Biology

Why study biology abroad?

- To live *in* the ecosystem that you are studying
- To study lab and/or field biology in an international setting
- To understand biology from an international perspective
- To expand your cross-cultural communication and problem solving skills
- To broaden your academic horizons
- To develop intellectually, emotionally, culturally, and socially

By its nature, biology takes place in a global environment. Science defies national boundaries and is most powerful when approached collectively.

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 biology majors. 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:
 - ✓ your academic advisor
 - ✓ Study Abroad Advisor at International Education Center (IEC)
 - ✓ Tony Lewno, Biology's Study Abroad Advisor and Transcript Evaluator (see left)

Yeah, but...

• **Can I take my biology course(s) in English?**

Yes. Science courses in English are offered worldwide. It is often possible to study biology in English and take introductory language at the same time.

• **If I'm not a biology major, can I fulfill a university core course abroad?**

Yes. Many study abroad programs have equivalent courses that will satisfy UST's lab science requirement.

• **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.


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 biology students go abroad during the spring of their junior, or fall of their senior year, you should go abroad when it fits into your schedule, including J-Term or summer.
- With very few exceptions, your 200- and 400-level biology courses must be taken at UST, but you may take up to 8 credits at the 300-level abroad. In addition to taking biology courses, you should also consider taking allied courses abroad. Finally, complete your coursework overseas with nonscience courses such as language, culture, core courses, and/or electives.
- As part of your application process, you must identify particular courses of interest and get them approved *before* you depart. Tony Lewno will work with you to transfer those course credits into the Biology Department.
- Finally, in addition to studying abroad, you should also consider research, service-learning, intern-ships, volunteer and extracurricular experiences off-campus, just as you do when you are on campus.

Sample Schedule for a biology major wishing to study abroad:

	First Year	Second Year	Third Year	Fourth Year
F	Biology 201	Biology 204	300 level Biology	300 Level Biology
	Gen Chem I	Organic Chemistry I	Physics I?	400 Level Biology?
	Math I	Stats?	(core course/elective)	core course/elective)
	English	(core course/elective)	(core course/elective)	core course/elective)
J	J-Term(s) abroad			
S	Biology 202	Biology 206 (1/2)	300 level Biology	300 level Biology
	Gen Chem II	Organic Chemistry II?	Physics II?	400 level Biology?
	Math II or Stats	300 level Biology	(core course/elective)	(core course/elective)
	English	(core course/elective)	(core course/elective)	(core course/elective)

*Only science courses are listed here, but don't forget about your core courses and/or electives abroad!

 = time periods when *most* biology students consider going abroad.

Programs:

Types of programs* include field or lab, rural or urban, remote or integrated, and with Americans or immersed, depending on what you want to study, where you want to go, and the experiences you seek.

Examples of programs used previously by UST biology students**:

Europe

DiS (Denmark)
Lancaster University (UK)
University College Cork (Ireland)

Central & South America/Caribbean

UST Biology Department's J-Term in
Costa Rica
COPA (Mexico and Costa Rica)
SFS (Turks and Caicos Islands)

South Pacific

School for Field Studies (SFS) (Australia)
James Cook University (Australia)
University of Queensland (Australia)
Southern Cross University (Australia)
Victoria University (New Zealand)
University of Otago (New Zealand)

Africa

SFS (Kenya), SIT (various)

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

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