



Political Science contact:

Steven Hoffman, Ph.D.  
[smhoffman@stthomas.edu](mailto:smhoffman@stthomas.edu)  
651-962-5723  
JRC 432

*“With the line between domestic and international issues becoming more blurred, the semester I spent in Egypt exposed me to the complexity and diversity of this region that can only be experienced firsthand.”*

- Rebecca Dunfee  
American University  
in Cairo

*“When I left for Chile, I was very interested in the 1973 coup and its aftershocks on Chilean culture. I now have an understanding of that event that reading history and political theory could have never given me. It’s one thing to read books and speculate, but quite another to see the building where it took place, walk through the graveyards and hear people’s stories from their own lips.”*

- Jesse Felix-Elleson  
IES Santiago, Chile

International Education Center  
44 Cleveland Ave  
Mail #44C  
Ph: 651-962-6450  
Email:  
[International@stthomas.edu](mailto:International@stthomas.edu)  
Web:  
[www.stthomas.edu/studyabroad](http://www.stthomas.edu/studyabroad)

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# Study Abroad for Political Science

## Why study Political Science abroad?

- To deepen your understanding of international and comparative politics
- To understand the relationship between culture and politics
- To expand your cross-cultural communication, foreign language, and problem solving skills as you interact with faculty and students from around the world
- To broaden your academic horizons
- To develop intellectually, emotionally, culturally, and socially

## 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 the 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 Political Science 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)

## Yeah, but...

- **Can I take my Political Science course(s) in English?**

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

- **If I’m not a Political Science major, can I fulfill a university core course abroad?**

Yes. Many study abroad programs have equivalent courses that will satisfy UST’s social analysis 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 Political Science students go abroad during the fall or spring of their junior, or the fall of their senior year, you should go abroad when it fits into your schedule, including J-Term or summer.
- The Political Science major and minor provide ample opportunity to take electives and special topics courses abroad. Study the list of courses available, note those identified as “political science”, and discuss with your advisor/department chair about possible approval of these courses for political science requirements.
- As part of your application process, you will 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 opportunities, and extracurricular experiences off-campus, just as you do when you are on campus.
- **The Washington Semester** is a 16-credit, off-campus program involving seminars, research, and internships that draw on government and private sector resources in Washington, DC. Discuss this option with your academic advisor or with Dr. Steven Hoffman, Political Science Chair and advisor for this program.

*Sample Schedule* for a Political Science major wishing to study abroad:

	<i>First Year</i>	<i>Second year</i>	<i>Third Year</i>	<i>Fourth Year</i>
<i>F</i>	POL 105	POL 205	POL 3XX	POL 3XX
			POL 3XX	
<i>J</i>	Study Abroad (Political Science elective)			
<i>S</i>		POL 225	POL 3XX	PPOL 4XX
		POL 275	POL 3XX	

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

 = time periods when *most* Political Science students consider going abroad.

## A Sample of Study Abroad Programs for Political Science Majors/Minors\*\*

### **The Americas**

Augsburg: Central America/Mexico

HECUA: CILA (Ecuador)

COPA: Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, Mexico

### **Asia**

IES: Nagoya (Japan)

Sophia University: Tokyo (Japan)

### **Middle East**

American University in Cairo (Egypt)

### **Africa**

Augsburg College (Namibia/South Africa)

### **Europe**

Denmark International Study Program

AIFS: Richmond Int'l University (England)

IES/Central College: Nantes, Paris (France)

IES European Union: Freiberg (Germany)

University of Limerick (Ireland)

HECUA (Northern Ireland)

John Cabot University: Rome (Italy)

Center for Cross-Cultural Studies (Spain)

### **USA**

HECUA (Twin Cities)

Washington, DC Semester

\*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.