



Study Abroad for Sociology

Sociology contact:

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The best decision I made during my four years at St. Thomas was to study abroad for a semester... My favorite part about spending time abroad... was searching to find out how people in other parts of the world lived their lives... And upon my return to UST, everything that I experienced abroad came back to complement my classroom education.

--Michael Anderson
 (Sociology Major, studied in Guatemala)

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Why study sociology abroad?

- To expand your understanding of sociology beyond the United States, including:
 - Socialization & deviance
 - Relationships & groups
 - Race, class & gender
 - Family & religion
 - Economics & politics
 - Social change
- To gain experience living and learning beyond your comfort zone.
- To appreciate diversity in the context of another culture.
- To expand your cross-cultural communication and problem solving skills.
- To broaden your academic horizons.
- To develop intellectually, emotionally, culturally, and socially.

Yeah, but...

- **Can I take my Sociology course(s) in English?**
 Yes. Sociology courses in English are offered worldwide. It is often possible to study Sociology in English and take introductory language at the same time.
- **If I'm not a Sociology major, can I fulfill a university core course abroad?**
 Yes. Many study abroad programs have equivalent courses that will satisfy UST's human diversity and 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.

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 Sociology 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)


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 sociology 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.
- The sociology major and minor provides many opportunities to take electives and special topics courses at other institutions. Study the list of courses available at the institution you wish to attend abroad, note those identified as ‘sociology’, and speak with your advisor about possible transfers of those courses back to UST as sociology courses.
- While we generally recommend that sociology major and minor courses (100, 210, 220, 365 or 366, 470) be taken at UST, some programs have comparable courses that can be substituted for specific courses. Speak with your advisor, then seek approval from the Department Chair.
- You may also want to speak with one of the sociology faculty or another sociology major about specific culture areas of interest (e.g., Dr. Karraker for Europe; Dr. Smith-Cunnien for South Africa).
- 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, intern-ships, volunteer and extracurricular experiences off-campus, just as you do when you are on campus.

Sample Schedule for a Sociology major wishing to study abroad:

	<i>First Year</i>	<i>Second year</i>	<i>Third Year</i>	<i>Fourth Year</i>
<i>F</i>	SOC 100	SOC 210	(Study Abroad)	SOC 470
		SOC elective	SOC elective	(Study Abroad)
				SOC elective
<i>J</i>	(Study Abroad) SOC elective			
<i>S</i>		SOC 220	(Study Abroad)	
		SOC 366	SOC elective	

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

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

A Sample of Study Abroad Programs for Sociology Majors/Minors*

The Americas

IES: Argentina, Chile, Ecuador
COPA: Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, Mexico

Europe

IES: Berlin, London
Ireland: University of Limerick,
England: Univ of Bristol, Univ of Warwick, Univ of York
Northern Ireland: Queen's Univ Belfast
Scotland: Univ of Edinburg, Stirling Univ

Oceania

Australia: Griffith Univ, James Cook Univ, Univ of Macquarie, Univ of Melbourne, University of Queensland, Univ of Western Australia
New Zealand: Univ of Auckland, Massey Univ, Victoria Univ Wellington

Asia

IES: Tokyo

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. Other programs and locations are available.