

# Study Abroad for Economics Majors

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*The Department of Economics encourages its students to add an international dimension to their education by participating in Berkeley Study Abroad (BSA). Study abroad provides an opportunity to expand your academic and cultural experiences while staying on track to complete your major in Economics. Economics coursework is widely available in universities worldwide, with many excellent opportunities. Each year, Economics students attend these and other programs around the world. With proper academic planning, students can have the experience of a lifetime with no loss of time in completing their degrees.*



## Why study abroad?

Studying abroad can provide you with many unique skills and experiences that are valuable to future employers, such as:

- Language skills
- Flexible thinking and openmindedness
- Independence
- International and cultural awareness
- Self-confidence
- Communication skills

Through BSA, you will observe different economic systems, issues, and policies in action and witness how other countries are responding to an increasingly interrelated economic world. At the same time, you can take advantage of unique course work and gain exposure to various schools of thought in the discipline of economics. All of this will help you obtain the broader perspectives, knowledge, and skills necessary to thrive in a rapidly changing global economy.

“Studying abroad in Egypt allowed me to see the challenges of a developing economy and contributed to my understanding of what role I can play in the field of development economics and international finance.”

*Dina Amin, Economics Major*



## When can I study abroad?

Study abroad programs are available at all class levels. The particular semester, summer or year that you study abroad depends on your individual progress in the major, what coursework you plan to complete abroad, and your immediate plans after graduation. We recommend that students complete at least one, if not all, of the upper division core courses at UC Berkeley before studying abroad (i.e. Intermediate Microeconomics, Intermediate Macroeconomics, and Econometrics).

Please consult with an Economics Undergraduate Advisor if this is not possible in your plans. Of the eight upper division courses required for the Economics major, no more than two of these courses can come from departments outside the UC Berkeley Economics Department. Depending on your course selection, you may be able to take up to two courses toward the Economics major while abroad.

### Plan ahead:

Applications typically are due six months to a year prior to the program's start date and some programs have academic or linguistic prerequisites that must be satisfied in advance. Please check the BSA website for guidance on “how to apply”:

[studyabroad.berkeley.edu/how-to-apply](http://studyabroad.berkeley.edu/how-to-apply)



## Where can I study abroad?

Berkeley Study Abroad has over 40 locations from which to choose (and over 100 different program options in those countries). Some offer intensive language and culture programs, others offer “set” courses which may fit your major. The majority allows you to choose from regular host university course choices (offered in English or the host country language).

Economics students planning to complete a portion of their major abroad have a wide variety of options. For example:

- The Fudan University program in Shanghai (Spring Semester only)
- The Business, Economics, and International Studies Program at the University of Commerce Luigi Bocconi in Milan, Italy (Fall, Spring, and Academic year)
- Study Economic Development and Growth in Sub-Saharan Africa at the University of Ghana, Accra (Fall, Spring, and Academic Year)
- Interested in summer-only programs? Consider studying at Yonsei University in South Korea or Pembroke University in the United Kingdom.
- Study the domestic implications of European integration in one of the EU member states.

Additionally, there are many independent programs run by other universities and organizations. The course approval process is the same for the major, though you should talk with an Admissions Office advisor about transferring your units back to Berkeley.



## What classes can I take?

Students wanting to fulfill major requirements abroad should consult closely with an Economics advisor. **Economics students will only be able to count approved elective courses towards major requirements. Core courses (Econ 100A/101A, Econ 100B/101B, Econ 140/141) must be completed at UC Berkeley.** We encourage students to take courses specific to the region they are studying in.

The Economics Department maintains a database of UCEAP course equivalencies. Students planning to study abroad through UCEAP are encouraged to review this database to find pre-approved courses. The database and further information can be found at:

<https://www.econ.berkeley.edu/undergrad/studyabroad>

### Course credit:

Students will earn UC credit for BSA courses they complete abroad. However, application of credit to major requirements is subject to the discretion of the department. To search for program and course options, go to the BSA website: [studyabroad.berkeley.edu/programs](https://studyabroad.berkeley.edu/programs) and follow the links to courses offered through UCEAP and Berkeley Abroad.

### Cost:

Study on BSA can be comparable to the cost of study at UC. In some cases, it is less. BSA participants pay UC fees and continue to receive UC financial aid while abroad. Furthermore, BSA students are eligible for special grants and scholarships from UC, the host country, and other sources.

### I'm interested! What are the next steps?

Economics students interested in study abroad through BSA should first research program options on the BSA website [studyabroad.berkeley.edu](https://studyabroad.berkeley.edu), then meet with an Economics advisor to discuss departmental regulations and the academic planning process. Application information and BSA advising are available at the Berkeley Study Abroad office, 160 Stephens Hall.