



Psychology Major - Education Abroad Advising Guide

"We are a global society and the majority of the world's population lives outside of North America. Studying abroad gives psychology majors a perspective on human behavior that is informed by an understanding of cultural similarities and differences."

- Dr. Wendy Kliewer

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Why study Psychology abroad?

- Invest in your future and add value to your degree
- Improve your chances of getting a job and expand career options
- Earn credits towards your degree
- Become more independent and self-confident
- Gain intercultural communication skills and expand your problem-solving skills
- Stand out to employers and prepare you to work in an increasingly diverse world
- Gain new perspective on your field
- Improve your language skills
- Develop a global network of faculty, students, friends, and locals

When is the best time to study abroad?

It is recommended that PSYC students study abroad sometime in their first three years, but that doesn't mean they can't in their senior year. The Department of Psychology offers amazing PSYC 494 research internship opportunities that most PSYC students take advantage of in their junior or senior since PSYC 494 requires PSYC 101, PSYC 214 and PSYC 317 as prerequisites.

What courses should I take abroad?

A student can take any approved PSYC classes abroad, but it is suggested that PSYC majors complete PSYC 101, PSYC 214, PSYC 317, and PSYC 451 at VCU.

The Psychology Department works closely with the Education Abroad office to ensure that classes taken abroad will fulfill requirements in your degree. The study abroad programs listed here were carefully selected for you. Students can choose to participate in programs that will fulfill major, minor, general education, and/or elective requirements.

How can I afford to study abroad?

Studying abroad does not have to be expensive! VCU offers a variety of program options to fit most students' budgets and the Education Abroad office assists students with identifying and applying for funding. Consider the following:

- **Use what you already have!** Most financial aid and scholarships that you already receive can be used toward study abroad. Other sources of funding may also help: pre-paid tuition plans, veteran's benefits, etc.

- **Scholarships:** There are VCU scholarships to study abroad as well as nationally competitive scholarships. Begin your search on our site and at StudyAbroadFunding.org and DiversityAbroad.com
- **Program length:** Per day expenses are often less expensive on semester programs than on summer programs and airfare may cost the same regardless of the length of your stay
- **Program type:** Programs with more structure that include group activities or excursions may be more expensive than exchange programs which include tuition, room, and board.
- **Cost of living:** If you're looking to save money on studying abroad, avoid destinations with a high cost of living like capital cities and popular tourist destinations.
- **What's included?** When considering the cost of a program, determine what the program fee includes...and what it doesn't. Some are almost all-inclusive and will cover the cost of a cell phone, insurance, group excursions and welcome/farewell receptions whereas other programs cover only the basics.

Notable Funding Opportunities for Psychology Majors

Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship: For US undergraduates with Pell Grants; for programs at least 28 days in length; diversity of student and destination is a priority; scholarships up to \$5,000 available; additional \$3,000 available to study critical need languages such as Arabic, Chinese, Turkish, Indic, Korean, Russian, etc.

Boren Awards for International Study: For US undergraduates to study in areas critical to US interests including Africa, Asia, Central & Eastern Europe, Eurasia, Latin America, and the Middle East; scholarships up to \$20,000; preference is given to study less commonly taught languages such as Arabic, Chinese, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, and Swahili.

Phi Kappa Phi: For undergraduates with at least a cumulative GPA of at least 3.75

Fund for Education Abroad: General scholarships up to \$10,000 for US undergraduates planning to spend a minimum of 30 days abroad; Hilary Echo Douglas scholarship for study in Vietnam; Rainbow Scholarship for LGBTQI students

What are my next steps?

1. **Attend a First Advising Session.** These group advising sessions are held Monday-Friday at 12:30 in the Education Abroad office.
2. **Investigate Programs.** Explore [VCU Study Abroad Programs](#) and talk to advisors and past participants for guidance
3. **Inform your academic advisor** of your interest in studying abroad
4. **Explore the approved course database** to view pre-approved courses; talk with your academic advisor for approval on other courses
5. **Explore your funding options.** Speak with a Financial Aid counselor, investigate and apply for scholarships

Featured Education Abroad Programs

The following are a list of programs recommended for Psychology majors. The sections below are organized by program type and include many different program models including group and individual programs, study abroad, service-learning abroad, research abroad, and internship abroad programs. While these are featured programs for Psychology majors, students are by no means limited to these opportunities. For all available programs, please visit [VCU Study Abroad Programs](#) or contact an Education Abroad advisor.

GEO Short-Term Programs

VCU faculty members recruit VCU students for short-term programs during the summer, spring break and winter intersession. Participants earn VCU credit. New programs are created every year, and most are open to students from any major. See our [website](#) for the most current list of faculty-led programs.

Direct-Enroll at the American College of Greece

The Global Education Office and the American College of Greece are pleased to offer VCU students a new summer study abroad program in Athens. The program offers an exceptional opportunity to take classes in a wide range of academic disciplines, all taught in English,

while living in historic Athens, Greece. Located on a breathtaking hillside at the edge of Athens, the ACG campus is an ideal setting for study in Greece, combining a fully immersive cultural experience and rich academic programs.

VCU Semester Programs

VCU's relationship with the universities below allows students to study at the institutions for a semester or an academic year while paying standard tuition and fees to VCU. Other expenses – such as room, board, airfare, insurance and spending money – are the responsibility of the student.

AUSTRALIA: Curtin University

Semester or year exchange

Curtin University is a VCU International Partnership University, which allows students to study in Perth, Australia for a semester or a year. Located in the capital of the state of Western Australia, Perth's sunny, warm climate and relaxed, friendly atmosphere make it an ideal location to study abroad. Perth consistently ranks amongst the world's most livable cities and boasts more sunshine hours than any other Australian capital! Curtin's green and beautifully landscaped subtropical campus is filled with a diverse student body including a large international student population. Students have taken courses in Child Development Psychology, Adult Developmental Psychology, Social Psychology, Perception, Abnormal Psychology, and Psychological Experimental Methods.

International Student Exchange Program (ISEP)

Choose from over 300 universities around the world offering summer, semester and year-long programs. Apply to up to 10 institutions on a single application. ISEP offers two types of placements: ISEP-Exchange (program fee based on VCU's in-state tuition, room and board) and ISEP-Direct (program fee based on host university's tuition, room and board). For best chance of exchange placement, apply by August 15 for spring programs and January 15 for fall/full-year programs.

ISEP institutions offering Psychology courses taught in English:

AUSTRIA: Karl-Franzens-Universitat Graz

BOTSWANA: University of Botswana

CANADA: Laurentian University

DENMARK: Aalborg University

ENGLAND: University of Bradford

ENGLAND: University of Central Lancashire

ENGLAND: University of Chester

ENGLAND: University of East London

ENGLAND: University of Essex

ENGLAND: University of Plymouth

ENGLAND: University of Roehampton

ENGLAND: University of Sunderland

NORTHERN IRELAND: University of Ulster

FIJI: University of the South Pacific

GHANA: University of Ghana

HONG KONG: CUHK

HUNGARY: University of Debrecen

INDIA: University of Hyderabad

ITALY: University Cattolica del Sacro Cuore

ITALY: University degli Studi di Urbino

KOREA: University of Korea

LITHUANIA: Vilnius University

MALAYSIA: UPSI

MALTA: University of Malta

MEXICO: Tecnologico de Monterrey

MEXICO: UDEM

MOROCCO: Al Akhawayn University

NETHERLANDS: Leiden University

NETHERLANDS: Tilburg University

NEW ZEALAND: Massey University

SPAIN: University de Almeria

TURKEY: Yasar University

UAE: American University of Sharjah

ISEP in Host Language:

AUSTRIA: Karl-Franzens-Universitat Graz

AUSTRIA: Universitat Salzburg

FRANCE: Universite d'Angers

FRANCE: Universite de Caen

FRANCE: Universite de Franche-Comte

FRANCE: Universite de Grenoble II

FRANCE: Universite de Lille III

FRANCE: Universite de Nantes

FRANCE: Universite de Nice

FRANCE: Universite de Picardie Jules Verne

FRANCE: Universite de Savoie

FRANCE: Universite Montpellier III – Paul Valery

GERMANY: TU Bielefeld

GERMANY: TU Dortmund

GERMANY: Katholische Universitat Eichstatt

GERMANY: Justus-Liebig-Universitat Giessen

GERMANY: Universitat Hannover

GERMANY: Universitat Marburg

GERMANY: Universitat Trier

SWITZERLAND: Universite de Fribourg

SWITZERLAND: Universitat Bern
SWITZERLAND: Universitat Zurich
ARGENTINA: Universidad Blas Pascal
ARGENTINA: Universidad Catolica de Córdoba
ARGENTINA: Universidad de Palermo
ARGENTINA: Universidad del Salvador
BOLIVIA: Universidad Privada Boliviana
CHILE: Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Valparaiso
CHILE: Universidad Católica del Norte
COLOMBIA: Universidad Icesi
COSTA RICA: Universidad Nacional in Heredia
MEXICO: ITESO

MEXICO: Tecnológico de Monterrey (ITESM)
MEXICO: Universidad de Monterrey (UDEM)
MEXICO: Universidad La Salle
MEXICO: UPAEP
MEXICO: Universidad Regiomontana
SPAIN: Universidad Complutense de Madrid
SPAIN: Universidad de Almería
SPAIN: Universidad de Málaga
SPAIN: Universidad de Murcia
SPAIN: Universidad de las Islas Baleares
SPAIN: Universidad Rovira i Virgili

Affiliate and Alternative Programs

The following programs are sponsored by 1) study abroad organizations/providers, 2) other US institutions, or 3) foreign universities who accept visiting international students. There are many other programs available aside from the ones listed below.

IRELAND: [University of Limerick](#) (available through [API](#) and [CIS](#))

Term: Fall, Spring, or Academic Year **Courses include:** Human Development and the Life Span, Psychology of the Personality, Psychology and Social Issues, Cognition, Social Psychology, and Abnormal and Clinical Psychology

NORWAY: [University of Oslo](#) (available through [USAC](#))

Term: Fall, Spring, or Academic Year **Courses include:** Social Cognition, Psychosocial Development, Brain and Cognition, Introduction to Personnel Psychology, Personality and Abnormal Psychology, Applied Social Psychology, and Promoting Change through Social Psychology

THAILAND: [Mahidol University](#) (available through [CIS](#))

Term: Fall, Spring, or Academic Year **Courses include:** Introduction to Psychology, Developmental Psychology, Psychological Approaches to Personality, Abnormal Psychology, Introduction to Industrial and Organizational Psychology, and Introduction to Educational Psychology

Internships:

[API Psychology and Social Science Internships](#)

[CIS Psychology Internships](#)