



Criminal Justice Major - Education Abroad Advising Guide

Criminal Justice Department

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Why study Criminal Justice 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 and what courses should I take?

You can go for a summer, semester or full year abroad. You may elect course work to fulfill requirements in your major, minor or general education requirements. You may choose a VCU summer program, participate through ISEP or travel with another approved program independent of these two. The Criminal Justice department encourages students to travel and study abroad and is happy to help. They offer some international/comparative criminal justice courses (CRJS 463 in particular) that would be valuable for a Criminal Justice major thinking to study abroad.

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 Criminal Justice 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 Criminal Justice 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 Criminal Justice 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 lead groups of 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 Sant'Anna Institute

The Global Education Office and the Sant'Anna Institute are pleased to offer VCU students a new summer study abroad program in Sorrento, Italy. The program offers an exceptional opportunity to take classes in a wide range of academic disciplines, all taught in English or Italian, while living in historic Sorrento, Italy. Sant'Anna's academic building overlooks the picturesque Bay of Naples on Italy's Amalfi Coast, allowing to experience the unique culture and customs of southern Italy in a walkable, cosmopolitan setting.

Students have the option to take a course taught by VCU faculty. In 2016, Dr. Amy Cook taught [Contemporary Issues in Criminal Justice](#).

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.

[ENGLAND: University of the West of England](#)

Semester or year exchange

The University of the West of England (UWE) is a VCU International Partnership University which allows students to study in Bristol, England for a semester or a year. UWE offers the following courses: Criminology, Criminology and Criminal Justice, Criminology and Law, Criminology and Sociology, and Criminology with Psychology

[AUSTRALIA: Curtin University](#)

Semester or year exchange

Located in Perth, Western Australia, [Curtin University](#) is a large public university that offers a wide variety of courses which include: Criminal Responsibility and Procedures, Fundamentals of Criminal Law, Human Rights and Social Justice, Law Society and Justice, and Social Justice and Diversity in Early Childhood.

[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 Criminal Justice courses taught in **English**:

AUSTRALIA: Charles Sturt University

AUSTRALIA: University of Canberra

CANADA: Brock University

CANADA: Thompson Rivers University

CANADA: University of Regina

KOREA: Keimyung University

NETHERLANDS: Tilburg University

UNITED KINGDOM: University of Bradford

UNITED KINGDOM: University of Central Lancashire

UNITED KINGDOM: University of Chester

UNITED KINGDOM: University of East London

UNITED KINGDOM: University of Essex

UNITED KINGDOM: University of Plymouth

UNITED KINGDOM: University of Roehampton

[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.

ENGLAND: [University of Leeds](#) (available through [API](#))

Term: Fall, Spring, or Academic Year **Courses include:** Introduction to Criminal Justice, Introduction to Criminal Law, Criminal Law, Victims Crime and Justice, Youth Crime and Justice, and Crime Law and Social Change

SCOTLAND: [University of Stirling](#) (available through [API](#))

Term: Fall, Spring, or Academic Year **Courses include:** Crime and Criminal Justice, Crimes of the Powerful, Criminological Theories and Applications, and Punishment and Society

IRELAND: [Griffith College](#) (available through [CAPA](#))

Term: Fall, Spring, or Academic Year **Courses include:** Criminal Law, Criminology, Media Law, Human Rights Law, and Intellectual Property