



## VCU LEAD - Education Abroad Advising Guide

### VCU LEAD

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### Why study Global Leadership 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
- Develop global leadership skills like intercultural competence, empathy, and adaptability

### When is the best time to study abroad and what courses should I take?

As LEAD students come from many disciplines, you should work with your academic advisor, study abroad advisor, as well as LEAD to determine the best time to study abroad. Please consult our major advising sheets if one has already been created for your major. The courses you take abroad may be approved as credit towards your LEAD certificate.

### 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](http://StudyAbroadFunding.org) and [DiversityAbroad.com](http://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 VCU LEAD students:**

**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 [global.vcu.edu/programs](http://global.vcu.edu/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 VCU LEAD students. 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 VCU LEAD, students are by no means limited to these opportunities. For all available programs, please visit [global.vcu.edu/programs](http://global.vcu.edu/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.

#### **Ecuador: Leadership and Engagement**

The Global Education Office and VCU LEAD are pleased to offer an innovative summer study-abroad program in Quito, Ecuador. The program offers an exceptional opportunity to learn about the diverse culture of Ecuador through interaction with various sectors of the Ecuadorian community. Participants will engage in service to the local community, lectures and historical tours about the history and culture of Ecuador, and outdoor adventures that explore the remarkable beauty of the cloud forest.

### **Departmental and Partnership Exchanges**

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*

Located in Perth, Western Australia, Curtin University is a large public university that offers a wide variety of courses. 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 liveable 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. Curtin University offers Work Integrated Learning (WIL) units with internship and service-learning components.

### **[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 [Global Engagement Programs](#) provide students with additional benefits that allow them to enrich their experience abroad by becoming actively engaged with local communities. GEPs include a pre-session course, on-site Residence Director assistance, local excursions, ISEP organized language course, and community engagement opportunities like volunteer work, service-learning for academic credit, independent study, community service, internships, and research projects. There are currently two GEP sites:

[ISEP Direct in Ghana](#)

[ISEP Direct in Costa Rica](#)

### **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.

**AIFS:** Our academic partner in the UK, [Richmond the American International University in London](#), offers the following courses in leadership:

MGT 5410 - Human Resource Management

This course combines elements of different disciplines ranging from industrial relations, social psychology, personnel management, motivation, recruitment and selection, leadership, communication, manpower planning, aspects of training and development and related processes. It is appropriate for students seeking to follow a career in Human Resource Management or in other areas of functional management.

MGT 6405 - Leadership

This course is designed to give students a firm understanding of the importance of leadership in the development and implementation of organisational strategic vision. It combines the study of leadership as social process, involving interaction of leaders and followers in different contexts; an examination of critical thinking and ethics; and an analysis of leadership competencies in leading organizations, groups, and individuals. It provides background on historical and contemporary issues concerning the role, responsibility, and process of leadership. Differentiation of leadership roles within organizations by structure, size, membership, and mission are analysed. Students use readings, projects, class exercises, and case analyses to examine leadership in diverse settings.

Richmond's School of Business also offers coursework in Entrepreneurship.

Our partner in New Zealand, [Victoria University](#), offers an extra-curricular program called the "Victoria International Leadership Program." It's not credit bearing; the goal is to enhance participants' academic experience and employability.

**CAPA:** [Certificate in Civic Engagement](#) in London, England:

#### ***General description***

The institute creates opportunities for students to learn about community activism through observation of, and participation in, important local, national and trans-national agencies. In addition, students are taught to understand and analyze the theoretical perspectives that underpin social activism.

Participants will engage with the realities of political power in communities; will consider what is meant by the "civil society" and the relationship between that concept and notions of civil rights in action.

By the end of the institute, students will have a clear sense of the ways in which globalization impacts upon communities in urban environments. They will participate in the social dynamics of London and observe the ways in which the lives of residents reflect the diversity of one of the most radically transformed environments in the world.

### ***What is the certificate in Civic Engagement?***

A certificate is similar to a minor, except that a certificate explores a complex topic using courses across several majors. The certificate demonstrates that knowledge cannot be confined within the artificial constructions we call disciplines, and requires an approach to knowledge that is wider than that of the traditional disciplines.

Students can develop the skills needed for a life of active and engaged citizenship; gain direct experience of connecting ideas and action; explore a path to a career in the civic sphere, non-profit sector, or politics; learn how to create positive social change and receive recognition for public service and learn to connect such work to their major.

**Total requirement: 18 credits**

**CEA:** locations with at least one leadership course

- [Aix-en-Provence, France: IAU](#)
- [Barcelona, Spain: Pompeu Fabra University](#)
- [London, England: University of Westminster](#)
- [Prague, Czech Republic: Anglo-American University](#)
- [San Jose, Costa Rica: Veritas University](#)

**CIEE:** [Intercultural Communication and Leadership course](#) available at:

#### **Europe**

[Prague, Czech Republic](#)  
[Rennes, France](#)  
[Berlin, Germany](#)  
[Dublin, Ireland](#)  
[Lisbon, Portugal](#)  
[Alicante, Spain](#)  
[Madrid, Spain](#)  
[Palma de Mallorca, Spain](#)  
[Seville, Spain](#)  
[Uppsala, Sweden](#)

#### **Middle East**

[Amman, Jordan](#)  
[Istanbul, Turkey](#)

#### **Latin America**

[Buenos Aires, Argentina](#)  
[Havana, Cuba](#)  
[Guanajuato, Mexico](#)  
[Lima, Peru](#)

#### **Asia**

[Nanjing, China](#)  
[Seoul, South Korea](#)

#### **Africa**

[Legon, Ghana](#)  
[Dakar, Senegal](#)  
[Cape Town, South Africa](#)  
[Stellenbosch, South Africa](#)

#### **CIS:**

- Global Leadership Certificate at [Macquarie University](#) for semester-length programs
- Programs in [New Zealand](#), [South Africa](#), and [Perugia, Italy](#), offer at least one leadership course per semester
- [Greek Leadership summer](#) program (for students in fraternities or sororities): one-credit, week-long seminar followed by regular courses at Florence University of the Arts

**ISA:** locations with at least one leadership course:

- [Auckland, New Zealand](#)
- [Florence, Italy](#)
- [Gold Coast, Australia](#)
- [Valparaiso, Chile](#)
- [San Jose, Costa Rica](#)
- [Wollongong, Australia](#)

**SAI:** Global Leadership Certificate

- [American University of Paris \(Paris, France\)](#)
- [Florence University of the Arts \(Florence, Italy\)](#)
- [John Cabot University \(Rome, Italy\)](#)