



Mass Communications Major - Education Abroad Advising Guide

[The Richard T. Robertson School of Media and Culture](#)

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Why study Mass Communications 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?

Typically, the best time for Mass Communications students to study abroad is summer and second semester sophomore year. Because the Mass Communications curriculum is so sequential, studying abroad in fall or spring could delay one's graduation. The key is to begin planning early (freshman and first semester sophomore year) so you can plan accordingly to study abroad one fall or spring.

What courses should I take abroad?

The Mass Communications 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. A growing trend is to complete an internship abroad (the equivalent to MASC 493). Four of the five concentrations require MASC 493 to graduate.

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 Mass Communications 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 Mass Communications 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 Mass Communications majors, students are by no means limited to these opportunities. For all available programs, please visit [VCU Study Abroad Programs](#) or contact Education Abroad.

Short-Term Faculty-Led 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.

Ireland: Irish Media and Travel Multimedia

Dr. Tim Bajkiewicz, tbajkiewicz@vcu.edu
3 credits in MASC 291 or MASC 491
(typically offered every other year)

Come to Ireland! We'll spend two weeks on the Emerald Isle, with a week in Dublin, the capital city, and a week in Galway in Ireland's beautiful West. You'll study and visit Irish media, including TV, radio, newspapers and online, and you'll produce and post online travel multimedia pieces.

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 the following MASC approved courses: Advertising Principles, Screen Practice 111, and Creative Advertising. Students are also invited to enroll in the Work Integrated Learning unit [Engaging with Industry](#).

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.

AUSTRALIA: Charles Sturt University

AUSTRALIA: CQ University

AUSTRALIA: La Trobe University

AUSTRALIA: Macquarie University

AUSTRALIA: University of Southern Queensland

AUSTRALIA: Univ. of Technology, Sydney

AUSTRALIA: Univ. of Western Sydney

BELGIUM: Artevelde University College

BELGIUM: Vesalius College

BOTSWANA: Univ. of Botswana

BULGARIA: American Univ. of Bulgaria

CANADA: Brock University

CANADA: Laurentian University

CANADA: Thompson Rivers University

CZECH REPUBLIC: Masaryk University

DENMARK: Aalborg University

ECUADOR: Univ. Casa Grande

ESTONIA: Univ. of Tartu

FIJI: University of the South Pacific

FINLAND: Univ. of Helsinki

FINLAND: Univ. of Jyvaskyla

GERMANY: Karlshochschule Int. Univ.

HONG KONG: CUHK

INDIA: University of Hyderabad

INDONESIA: BINUS Univ.

ITALY: Univ. Cattolica del Sacro Cuore

JAPAN: Kansai Gaidai University

JAPAN: Nanzan Univ.

JAPAN: Ritsumeikan Univ.

SOUTH KOREA: Ewha Womans University

SOUTH KOREA: Hanyang University

SOUTH KOREA: Keimyung University

SOUTH KOREA: Korea University

SOUTH KOREA: Ajou University

LATVIA: University of Latvia

LITHUANIA: Vilnius University

MALAYSIA: Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris

MOROCCO: Al Akhawayn University

NETHERLANDS: Radboud University Nijmegen

NETHERLANDS: Leiden University

NETHERLANDS: Tilburg Univ.

NEW ZEALAND: Massey Univ.

SOUTH AFRICA: University of Johannesburg

SPAIN: University Rovira I Virgili

SWEDEN: Karlstad University

SWEDEN: Lulea Univ. of Technology

SWEDEN: Södertörn University

SWEDEN: Linnaeus University- Kalmar and Växjö Campuses

SWEDEN: Univ. West

SWITZERLAND: Univ. de Lausanne

THAILAND: Thammasat Univ.

TURKEY: Yasar Univ.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES: American University of Sharjah

UNITED KINGDOM: Edinburgh Napier Univ.

UNITED KINGDOM: Univ. of Bradford

UNITED KINGDOM: Univ. of Central Lancashire

UNITED KINGDOM: Univ. of Chester

UNITED KINGDOM: Univ. of East London

UNITED KINGDOM: Univ. of Essex

UNITED KINGDOM: Univ. of Plymouth

UNITED KINGDOM: Univ. of Roehampton

UNITED KINGDOM: Univ. of Sunderland

UNITED KINGDOM: Univ. of Ulster

VIETNAM: International University- Vietnam National University HCMC

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. Prices range, though most programs are between \$10,000-\$15,000 for a semester including housing, meals, tuition, and on-site support services. Programs below are organized alphabetically by country.

INTERNSHIPS:

[API Mass Communications Internships](#)

Those seeking careers in advertising, communications, and journalism are well suited for global work experience. Many advertising companies work with global clients and journalism often is international in scope. Having a global perspective in these fields is an asset, so stand out with an international internship experience! Example intern duties might include client relationships, copy writing, editing, writing, creative, event management, social media management, website content development, branding, press releases, filming, and communication strategy.

[CAPA Mass Communications Internships](#)

Locations: Buenos Aires, Dublin, Florence, London, Shanghai, and Sydney

Sample Placements: Journalism: Men's Health, The Florentine, and Total Politics **Public Relations:** Bryan Morel PR, Captive Minds, The Walkabout Foundation

[CIS abroad Mass Communications Internships](#)

Sample Placements:

Australia: Mass Media: Audi, Cadbury, and Unilever

China: Bright Shadow Films

England: Illuminations Media, London Newspaper Group, and Athena Medical PR

France: Radio Bleue, La Cinematheque Francaise, Studio Magazine

Ireland: Mary Crotty PR

Italy: GANZO

New Zealand: Film and Television Production Studio, Community Radio, and Wellington Book Publication

Spain: Barcelona Metropolitan and Metropolitan Magazine

[ISA Mass Communications Internships](#)

Locations: Australia, Chile, China, England, Ireland, New Zealand, South Korea, and Spain

AFFILIATES:

GHANA: [University of Ghana](#) (available through [USAC](#))

Term: Fall, spring, or academic year

Courses available in the School of Communication Studies

INDIA: [CIEE India](#)

Term: Fall, spring, or academic year

Courses include: Communication classes in the School of Performing Arts, Fine Arts and Communication

NETHERLANDS: [Hague University of Applied Sciences](#) (available through [USAC](#))

Term: Fall, spring, or academic year

Courses include: Corporate Communication, Intercultural Communication, Introduction to Organizational Communication I, Media in Contemporary Society, Medial Relations Theory, and Placement Survival Skills

NEW ZEALAND: [Massey University](#) (available through [USAC](#))

Term: Fall, spring, or academic year

Courses available in Communication and Journalism

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

Term: Fall, spring, or academic year

Courses include: Ethical Issues in Journalism, Print and Photo Journalism, and Writing News and Features