Study Abroad:
On the Edge of a New Adventure
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CSA Team Welcome

“ For me, Study Abroad was truly a leap into the unknown. It was the first time I’d spent longer than a few weeks outside Fife and I had to consult a map to find where exactly in the former GDR Leipzig was located! In many ways, it was a challenging year: the exhaustion in the first few weeks as I adapted to communicating in German all day, every day; navigating the bureaucracy; delivering my first English lesson to a class of ten year olds. But as the year progressed, I felt myself becoming more independent and confident that I could cope with the challenges, and the highs far outweighed the lows. Above all, my year abroad opened my mind to new intellectual interests, which not only shaped my Honours years, but also influenced my postgraduate study. Moreover, it instilled in me a belief in the value of Study Abroad which has naturally motivated my career path.

This booklet is an introduction to Study Abroad at St Andrews, an overview of programmes and a guide to some of the key information you will need to help you decide whether Study Abroad is for you. It’s also a small collection of reflections from students and staff who have studied abroad and feel transformed by the experience, whether it was last year or a little further back. If you study abroad, it will change you in ways that are not always immediately obvious. It will go by in a flash, but it will stay with you for a lifetime. Whether you are from Fife, or from elsewhere in the UK, or an international student, Study Abroad could add an important dimension to your St Andrews degree programme, but also influence the choices you make for a long time after graduation.”

Samantha Lister, Assistant Registrar (Academic Partnerships and International Experience)
Our team is part of the Registry Unit based in St Katharine’s West on The Scores. The team provides central administration for University exchange and study abroad programmes, and programmes delivered collaboratively with other institutions, both in the UK and overseas. We are here to support you through your study abroad experience, allowing you to make the most of your time overseas.

For further information about the team please see: www.st-andrews.ac.uk/studyabroad/team

Photo taken in the Alps by Abigail, worked in Flers, France
Photo taken in Casablanca by Elisabeth, studied at Qalam-wa-Lawh, Rabat, Morocco
Study Abroad: A St Andrews Tradition

Whether it is exploring Australian marine life as part of a Biology programme at James Cook University in Queensland; or studying Psychology at the College of William & Mary; or gaining a new perspective on International Relations at the University of Hong Kong, Study Abroad programmes play an important role in the University’s commitment to a learning culture that is challenging, imaginative and flexible.

Study Abroad is far from new: for hundreds of years Scottish students have ventured abroad in search of new academic challenges. Perhaps one of the earliest examples of this by a St Andrews student is Andrew Melville, who went from his studies here to the teachings of Ramus in Paris in 1564, returning to St Andrews many years later to become Principal of St Mary’s College.

Of course, Study Abroad has changed a lot since then! Yet some of the fundamental reasons to go abroad remain the same: an interest in new academic challenges and the desire to experience another culture and to see more of the world.

“Study abroad is about the experience of living in another country and fully embracing every opportunity that comes your way. Be brave, take a chance and you might just surprise yourself with what you discover.”

Fiona, Chemistry, worked in Switzerland.
Today, the University is delighted to offer undergraduates in Arts, Divinity and Science a number of exciting opportunities to spend a semester or year abroad as part of a St Andrews degree programme. We are partnered with large and small institutions, ancient and young, in Asia, Australia, Europe, the Middle East, North and South America. Some offer an intimate campus experience; others are located in the heart of a major metropolis, from Beijing to Melbourne to Los Angeles; not forgetting Paris, of course. Our students today are as drawn to the intellectual milieu of the French capital as Andrew Melville was in the sixteenth century! What unites all of our programmes is the quality of the academic provision, ensuring that participation in a St Andrews Study Abroad programme opens the door to a new and valuable academic experience at another world-class institution.

“As with my first two years at the University of Andrews, studying at the College of William & Mary offered me a world-class education at an historic and prestigious institution, but with the added bonus of some hot weather!”

Hayley, English, studied at the College of William & Mary.

FACT
Two of our oldest active exchanges are with the College of William & Mary, USA and Queen’s University, Canada. The Queen’s exchange dates back to 1948!
Why Study Abroad?

There are numerous benefits to studying abroad, but here are our top three:

1. **Broaden your academic experience**

   "I was able to take classes not available in St Andrews and the different teaching methods really stimulated me."

   **Iben**, Social Anthropology, studied at the University of Copenhagen.

   Studying your degree subjects from a different perspective and in a different academic culture is an intellectually invigorating experience. You may have the opportunity to study specialisms not offered at St Andrews. Courses may complement your St Andrews studies but offer a new dimension, whether it is geography field trips in North America; modern European history in Strasbourg; or marine biology on the Great Barrier Reef in Australia. Study Abroad will open new doors academically and may help you to discover new academic passions. It could encourage you to think about postgraduate study in a certain field, or in a certain location.
2 Develop life skills and enhance your employability

Study Abroad demonstrates your self-motivation, willingness to embrace new challenges and your ability to adapt to new situations. It can develop your confidence and independence and teach you a lot about your own capabilities, personally and professionally. Study Abroad will set you apart in competitive job markets and open doors to new ventures and contacts that could influence your career.

3 Experience another culture and improve your language skills

“It is one thing to spend time studying, preparing for classes, sitting exams; it is quite another to live, eat and breathe the language around the clock: the challenges of using it in everyday life, of being able to order food and drink, converse about current affairs, the weather, philosophy or the arts, deal with bureaucrats and plumbers, landlords and librarians, negotiate one’s way around a new country and a new way of life.”

Annette Zimmermann, Language Development Officer, School of Modern Languages.

“Students who have studied abroad show future employers that they have a strong commitment to their own personal development as well as an ability to interact with different groups of people.”

Katherine Reynolds, Teach First.

Immersing yourself in another culture is a great way to learn a new language, enhance your existing language skills and discover a new world. Even cultures which may initially seem very close to your own will surprise you in many ways. However, you don’t always need a language to study abroad. Many of our European partners offer courses in English for students from disciplines other than languages, while offering the opportunity to try language classes alongside your studies. Whether or not you are taking classes in a foreign language, your education will definitely be extended beyond the classroom.
At a glance:
The University of California (UC) has ten campuses throughout California, nine of which accept undergraduate exchange students. In the north, students can apply to Berkeley, Davis, Santa Cruz and Merced, and in the south to Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, San Diego, Irvine and Riverside.

Who can go?
There are approximately seven places per year for St Andrews students in Arts, Divinity and Science. Please ensure you research your options carefully and check the UC website for details of their impacted majors. Joint Honours students studying subjects which are both listed as ‘impacted’ should explore the range of other St Andrews Abroad and School Study Abroad options.

Which campus can I go to?
Once you are selected by St Andrews you apply to the UC exchange programme. Campus allocation is determined by the UC depending on the classes you wish to take.

Finance:
Living expenses vary depending on campus allocation but may be in the range of $13,000 to $20,000 for one academic year. See the CSA UC webpage www.st-andrews.ac.uk/studyabroad/outgoingstudents/financeandscholarships

“This amazing and unforgettable year showed me once again all the unexplored options and challenges awaiting to be discovered and conquered. UCSB offers great research and academics, and thanks to its mountainside beach location, many opportunities to enjoy the outdoors. I enjoyed working in physics research with my professor during the year. In summer, I joined (and worked for) the student-run Excursion Club which offers a huge variety of outdoor trips (surfing, climbing, backpacking etc.).”

Lucie, Physics, studied at UC Santa Barbara.
Photo taken at Lake Minnewanka, Banff National Park, by Lucy-Jane, worked in Canada
Study Abroad offers an opportunity to broaden your academic experience. It can be challenging, but with careful preparation, a positive approach and a mature attitude, most students adapt to their new academic environment quickly and flourish. Students return to St Andrews after a semester or a year with new academic interests and ideas, and a confident and independent approach to their learning.

Study Abroad is open to students across a number of subjects in Arts, Divinity and Science over two programmes: **St Andrews Abroad** (see page 14) and **School Study Abroad Programmes** (see page 16). For work placements abroad for students of Biology, Chemistry and Modern Languages, see page 22.

**Can I go somewhere that isn’t listed on the CSA webpages?**
Study abroad for credit is only permitted on existing University approved programmes. The University has a range of Study Abroad programmes, all of which are carefully selected and monitored. We have good relations with our partners overseas and work closely with them to ensure our students enjoy a successful period abroad and a smooth return to St Andrews thereafter.

All of our programmes are reviewed annually (a process that includes evaluation of student feedback) and we may withdraw exchanges if staff or students report serious problems. This happens rarely as all of our partners are carefully selected and we maintain good relations with them, but our chief concern is the welfare and academic experience of all St Andrews students participating in Study Abroad.

**When would I go abroad?**
Most Study Abroad programmes are aimed at **Junior Honours** students, though Study Abroad at Senior Honours level is permitted in some subject areas. Study Abroad at sub-honours level is not permitted.
**How long would I be away for?**
Some programmes are available for either **one semester** or a **full academic year**, while others involve a commitment to a full year of study. Semester dates and vacation periods range across all of our partner institutions, so you might find that you start earlier or finish earlier than you would if you were staying in St Andrews.

**I am a Joint Honours student, can I still go abroad?**
Many Joint Honours students participate in Study Abroad programmes. If you are applying to exchanges on the **St Andrews Abroad** programme, both of your Honours subjects must be listed as an exchange option on the CSA webpages. If you are applying to a School Study Abroad programme, you will require a Letter of Permission from your other School with your application.

**Can I study in more than one place?**
On some programmes it may be possible to split your Junior Honours year and spend each semester at a different institution. You should check with your Study Abroad Co-ordinator whether this is possible in your subject area. You should also consider the additional challenges involved in splitting a year in this way as it means adapting quickly to two new academic cultures.

**Will studying abroad increase the length of my degree?**
Our study abroad opportunities are fully integrated into our undergraduate degree programmes. Approved credits obtained overseas at our partner institutions will count towards your St Andrews degree programme.

**What courses would I study overseas?**
Students are encouraged to take full advantage of the academic opportunities on offer at the host institution, while ensuring that modules chosen are in subjects recognised as qualifying towards the St Andrews degree programme, at the correct level, and which will provide suitable preparation for return to St Andrews. School Study Abroad Co-ordinators guide you through the process of module choice so that you get the most out of your academic experience abroad.
The Learning Agreement is an academic contract that sets out the courses and credits that you will take abroad and confirms your School’s approval that the courses will transfer back into St Andrews credit and count toward your degree programme. While abroad, students take the equivalent of 60 credits per semester i.e. a normal full-time course load at the host institution.

It is important to remember that the academic culture, how you are taught and how you are expected to study, will vary across all of our partner institutions. Differences might include the academic advising system, class sizes, contact hours and the availability of academic staff, methods of assessment and expectations around written work. An important part of Study Abroad is thus adapting to a new academic environment.

Credit and grade conversion will be completed by St Andrews upon receipt of your transcript from the host institution. Your overseas credits and grades will be converted back into St Andrews credits and grades using standard Conversion Tables. All approved modules undertaken during Study Abroad count towards the degree programme, and so all converted grades are used in degree classification.

Further information about the Learning Agreement, the credit and grade conversion policy and the standard Conversion Tables are all available at: www.st-andrews.ac.uk/studyabroad/outgoingstudents/academicinformation

REMEMBER...
We cannot guarantee that all programmes will be available every academic year. New Study Abroad programmes are established regularly and new options will be added to the CSA webpages once the programme receives approval and the two institutions sign an agreement.
Study Abroad Spotlight:

Maddy, Art History and English, studied at Universiteit Leiden, The Netherlands

“When I first arrived in Leiden, the city seemed to stretch out in front of me like a labyrinth with small twisting streets, poems painted up on the walls, canals that transformed into stages for DJs, shops of every kind, delicious restaurants, biweekly markets, and countless museums. However, everyone was so nice that it quickly started to feel like home. The absolute best part of Leiden was the large number of Dutch and international students that filled it. Through orientation week, my classes, my dorm, and a student association called the International Student Network, I met the most interesting, intelligent, and fun-loving friends from The Netherlands, Taiwan, Australia, Sweden just to name a few. Together we went to weekly events in Leiden, visited Rotterdam and Amsterdam, and travelled to places like Budapest and Berlin. Not only did we learn from passionate teachers in our classrooms, but we discovered new places and cultures all over Europe and beyond. When our time in The Netherlands came to an end we all agreed that it had been the best experience of our lives. I urge any student who is seeking an unparalleled adventure to study at Leiden - for a semester or year you will never forget.”
St Andrews Abroad Programme

This exchange programme offers exciting opportunities to students in Arts, Divinity and Science to spend a semester or academic year abroad. Applications are competitive and the selection process is led by the Pro Deans.

Most of our partner institutions are based in North America, from the University of California’s Los Angeles campus in the heart of Beverly Hills, to the historic College of William & Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia, the second oldest higher education institution in the US. Our most recent collaboration is with Macquarie University in Australia.

For a full list of St Andrews Abroad partners and participating St Andrews Schools, please see: www.st-andrews.ac.uk/csa-app/search.htm

“What a happy year! I enjoyed myself tremendously and I still managed to have a thoroughly productive year too. Friendly atmosphere, approachable professors and stimulating lectures. I say that you had better start applying now because going on an exchange may just have been one of the best decisions of my life.”

Tamara, Biomolecular Sciences, studied at Western University.

“Studying at one of the USA’s most prestigious universities was an outstanding opportunity to experience a different country and education system. William & Mary exposed me to vastly different styles of teaching – including more participatory teaching; students and teachers work extremely close together. The fact that many of my professors were former State Department officials or former politicians gave me an incredible insight into the policy side of International Relations.”

Callum, International Relations, studied at the College of William & Mary.
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<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>St Andrews Abroad Partner Institutions</th>
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<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>University of Melbourne</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Macquarie University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>Queen’s University</td>
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<td></td>
<td>University of Toronto</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Western University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hong Kong</td>
<td>University of Hong Kong (pending final approval)</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>University of Auckland</td>
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<tr>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>National University of Singapore</td>
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<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>University of California</td>
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<td>University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill</td>
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<td>University of Pennsylvania*</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Purdue University</td>
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<td>University of Richmond</td>
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<td>University of Virginia</td>
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* Normally, we only have one place available at the University of Pennsylvania which is restricted to Scottish students due to the attached funding (the Robert Lincoln McNeil Scholarship). Please see the CSA webpages for further details: www.st-andrews.ac.uk/studyabroad/outgoingstudents/financeandscholarships/scholarships

New partnerships are frequently formed, and subject options with existing partners vary annually so please consult the CSA webpages for the most up-to-date information. www.st-andrews.ac.uk/studyabroad/outgoingstudents
School Study Abroad Programmes

These programmes are specific to a certain Department or School. Several Schools in Arts and Science have Erasmus links with other European institutions, offering a variety of programmes, from studying Vikings in Oslo as part of a Mediaeval History degree, discovering the Dutch masters in Leiden as part of an Art History degree, or studying Chemistry in Bonn.

FACT:
Some of our European partners offer courses in English as well as the host language, so there are some great opportunities, even if you are not studying languages.

And it is not just Europe... Several Schools have also established Study Abroad programmes with partners in Asia, Australia, the Middle East, North and South America.

For a full list of School Study Abroad programmes, please see the CSA webpages.

“Studying abroad in Hong Kong was the best thing I have ever done. From a university of 8,500 students to a global megacity with the same number of skyscrapers, St Andrews to Hong Kong was like being transported to a different world. Aside from the city itself, my academic experience was fantastic. Don’t get me wrong – it was challenging and incredibly busy; but, at the same time, it was stimulating, engaging, and full of opportunities.”

Jennifer, International Relations, studied at the University of Hong Kong.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Partner Institutions (Undergraduate level)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Arabic</td>
<td>Qalam wa Lawh, Morocco; Arabic for Non-native speakers (ANNIS) at Qatar University; Dhofar University (pending final approval)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Art History</td>
<td>Universiteit Leiden; Université de Lausanne; Università degli Studi di Padova; Università degli Studi di Verona</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>University of Helsinki; James Cook University; Université Pierre et Marie Curie (Paris VI)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>Universität Bonn; École Nationale Supérieure de Chimie de Lille (ENSCL)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Classics</td>
<td>Universiteit Leiden</td>
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<tr>
<td>Divinity</td>
<td>Universiteit Leiden; VU Amsterdam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>Università Bocconi</td>
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<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>Trinity College, University of Dublin</td>
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<tr>
<td>French</td>
<td>Institut d’Études Politiques de Paris (Sciences Po); Université Paris-Sorbonne (Paris IV); Université de Perpignan; Université de Toulouse II – Le Mirail</td>
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<tr>
<td>German</td>
<td>Universität Bonn; Universität Wien</td>
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<tr>
<td>History</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Relations</td>
<td>Universität Hamburg; University of Hong Kong; University of Iceland; Institut d’Études Politiques de Paris (Sciences Po); Renmin University of China; Universität Tübingen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Italian</td>
<td>Università degli Studi di Padova; Università degli Studi di Verona; Università degli Studi di Torino; Università Ca’ Foscari Venezia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management</td>
<td>Università Bocconi</td>
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<tr>
<td>Philosophy</td>
<td>Aarhus Universitet</td>
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<tr>
<td>Russian</td>
<td>Placements organised through RLUS <a href="http://www.rlus.co.uk">www.rlus.co.uk</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Social</td>
<td>University of Copenhagen; Stockholms Universität</td>
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<tr>
<td>Anthropology</td>
<td>Universidad de Alcalá; Universidad de Granada; Universidad de Montevideo; Universitat Pompeu Fabra; Universidad de Santiago de Compostela; Universidad de Valladolid</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spanish</td>
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Application and Selection

*When do I apply?*
The application process for most programmes begins during first semester of second year, so it is important to start thinking about your options early. Selection for most Study Abroad programmes will take place between December and February. It is important to note that if you are offered a place, it will be conditional upon successful completion of sub-honours, attendance at a compulsory pre-departure meeting in April, and your agreement of the University’s Study Abroad Terms & Conditions.

*What does the application process entail?*
Applications to all programmes require the completion of an application form and some programmes will also include an interview process.

For most programmes, you will also be required to apply to the host institution, who will make the final decision on your admission to the programme. CSA will help you with this process.

Keep a look out for emails and posters about Study Abroad information sessions and fairs. These events provide an opportunity to learn more about the various exchange institutions and a chance to speak to students who have previously studied abroad and hear what they have to say.

*What are the grade requirements?*
Honours entry is a minimum requirement for Study Abroad, but some programmes will have a higher grade requirement, or other criteria. Applicants to *St Andrews Abroad* should have a minimum average grade of 13.5 in their intended Honours subject(s) in first year. Application is competitive and the main criterion is a strong academic record. *School Study Abroad* programmes have their own entry criteria, so it is important to check these with your Study Abroad Co-ordinator at an early stage. You can also find information and most application forms on the CSA webpages, under ‘Where can I go?’.
**What makes a good application?**

Study Abroad is a wonderful opportunity but may also be a challenging, and at times, difficult, experience. We are looking for students who are independent, highly motivated, responsible and mature. We are also looking for students who will be good ambassadors for St Andrews; who will make the most of opportunities at the host institution and integrate with the host community. Study Abroad is, above all, an academic experience, and often the best applications are those which also demonstrate particular interest in the academic opportunities available at a host institution.

From an early stage you should speak with CSA or the Study Abroad Co-ordinator of your subject who will offer advice to you on the requirements for the different programmes and the application procedure involved.

**How many places are there?**

Many Study Abroad programmes depend on inbound/outbound balance and consequently the number of places available may vary in any given year.

**Can I apply to study in my home country?**

This is not prohibited, but you should think carefully about your reasons for applying to the programme and be prepared to make a good case to the selection committee. For competitive programmes, the selection committee may give priority to students whom they feel will benefit the most from the opportunity to experience another culture.
Photo taken at Lake Atitlan, by Zoe, worked in Guatemala
“When I studied in France in the early 1980s, everything seemed different there. There were traditions I’d never heard of: marketplaces filled with chrysanthemums for Toussaint in November, chocolate fish at Easter, lily-of-the-valley for 1 May. There were surprising debates going on: politics, literature and philosophy certainly didn’t stir up such passions among people my age in Britain. The food was strange, the road traffic was mad, the music was dreadful, the language wasn’t anything like the one in my textbooks... and it was all wonderful. All year, every day, from morning to night, I learned. Among many other things, I learned to open my eyes and ears, to accommodate other norms, to change my mind, to adapt and, above all, to begin understanding one of the world’s great cultures together with its beautiful language.

If you decide to spend time studying in a country other than your own, and if you truly open your mind to the differences you will encounter, you will be transformed by the experience. Of course you’ll be taking a certain risk. That’s the great thing about it.”
Working Abroad

Completing a work placement abroad is a good opportunity to gain work experience in another culture or language and to acquire valuable skill sets. Students on specific degree programmes in Modern Languages, Biology and in Chemistry may apply to undertake a work placement abroad as an integral part of their degree programme. Full details of these programmes are available through the Schools.

Modern Languages: With Integrated Year Abroad degrees

WIYA programmes involve a full academic year abroad in a host destination where either French, German, Italian, Russian or Spanish is spoken. Upon completion of the WIYA year, students return to St Andrews to begin Junior Honours in their fourth year.

The School of Modern Languages encourages suitable WIYA candidates to apply to the British Council’s Language Assistantship programme, which is well established and a popular option for St Andrews students.

Full details are available at:
www.britishcouncil.org/language-assistants

Students intending to be British Council Language Assistants are encouraged to take the TEFL Introductory Course offered by the English Language Teaching Centre at the University of St Andrews and supported by CSA and the School of Modern Languages.
www.st-andrews.ac.uk/studyabroad/outgoingstudents/thingtobeforeyougo/preparatorycourses

Students may organise their own work placements to suit intended career paths, but they should discuss this with their WIYA Co-ordinator early in their second year. Permission will only be granted where the School is confident that the placement will provide a suitable WIYA programme.

Students undertaking a Russian WIYA are placed on a university language course under the auspices of Russian Language Undergraduate Studies Ltd, a UK-based organisation. For details see: www.rlus.co.uk
Chemistry: External Placement degrees
Chemistry students undertaking an External Placement as part of their degree programme often secure placements outside the UK. The School assists students in obtaining eight- to thirteen-month (most commonly twelve-month) placements in leading research laboratories in the UK, Europe and North America. Typically, students join a research and development group within a company and receive a salary for the duration of the placement.

Biology: External Placement degrees
Biology students enrolled on the MBiochem, MMarBiol and MBiol have the opportunity to undertake external placements. These last for seven to twelve months, in leading companies/research institutes in the UK and abroad.

“Working abroad is undoubtedly the best way to learn the language and to immerse yourself in the culture of the country that you are in, as well as giving you the opportunity to travel! I found the best way to meet people and to improve my Spanish outside of work was to join local clubs. The highlight of my year was probably a choir exchange to Santiago de Compostela, Galicia. Teaching private classes gave me lots of teaching experience and gave me a greater understanding of the bilingual programme which was the subject of my year abroad project. Overall my Spanish has improved a lot and living in Spain has given me a great understanding of Hispanic culture. It’s definitely added to my CV and I’ll be returning in the future!”

Sara, Spanish, worked in Madrid as a British Council Language Assistant.
Study Abroad: a colourful journey

Photo taken in Venice, Italy by Hope, worked in Naples
Erasmus+

The Erasmus+ programme is a European project run by the European Commission. It is intended to support activities in education, training, youth and sport in all sectors of lifelong learning, including higher education.

The University has an Erasmus+ Charter and participates actively in the programme. We have secured funding for 2017-2018 and will apply for funding for Erasmus+ activities in 2018-2019. We value our European and international partnerships, and the opportunities they provide for student and staff mobility, and the exchange of knowledge, ideas and perspectives.

At the time of publication, the UK’s ability to participate in the Erasmus+ programme from 2019-2020 onwards is uncertain, following the result of the UK referendum on EU membership in June 2016. Information and updates will be posted on the University’s Study Abroad webpages, and also at: www.erasmusplus.org.uk
Study Abroad Spotlight:

Laura, French, Arabic and International Relations, worked as a British Council Language Assistant in France

“I spent seven months working in Le Mans, France as an English Language Assistant through the British Council, and was in receipt of an Erasmus+ grant during my time there. The academic benefits of such an experience, even outside of the university sphere, were significant. My language skills improved greatly and I grew in confidence as I was given more and more responsibility in my role as an assistant, regularly communicating in French with other school staff. Being able to work with experienced teachers supported my professional development and encouraged me to get more involved with the life of the school. Working as a private tutor for primary age children was yet another benefit made possible through my year abroad that was an excellent means of getting to know local families with extensive knowledge of the region. It also helped me gain important transferable skills that will be relevant to future employment. More generally, the small time commitment of only 12 hours a week left lots of time to pursue further French study in preparation for my final Honours years in St Andrews – something I have been consistently thankful for, especially as I approach final exams and graduation.”
Accommodation

If you are thinking about Study Abroad, an important aspect to consider is your accommodation abroad.

**Will the host institution offer me accommodation?**

Many partner universities offer, but do not guarantee, university accommodation to exchange students.

Student accommodation varies from country to country and institution to institution. You should be aware that accommodation services may differ from St Andrews, and the accommodation options here may not be available at all of our partner universities.

Some universities and host organisations will provide advice on renting in the private sector or direct students to accommodation agencies.

Accommodation abroad is your responsibility so you will be encouraged to plan ahead and research your options. You can consult CSA for advice before your departure. Further information is also available at: www.st-andrews.ac.uk/studyabroad/outgoingstudents/accommodationinsuranceandlivingabroad

**What about accommodation on my return?**

Student Accommodation Services do their best to accommodate students returning from Study Abroad programmes, provided applications are submitted by the published deadlines. If you are returning after one semester abroad it is possible to apply for accommodation for one semester only. First semester only contracts are also possible. Applications for either semester should be made in line with the usual deadlines.
Study Abroad Spotlight:

Ellen, French and Geography, worked as a British Council Language Assistant in Reunion Island

“For my year abroad I worked as a British Council language assistant in secondary schools in the French overseas department of Reunion Island. In picking an overseas territory for my year abroad I did not make things easy for myself! I was very far away from all my friends and family, very few people spoke English (quite a few of the locals barely spoke French!) and the climate and environment couldn’t have been more different from what I was used to. But it was the best decision I’ve ever made.

Whilst not quite being the year-long holiday in paradise that most people assume it was, it was without a doubt the most incredible and unique experience. During the school holidays instead of travelling around Europe, I got to visit Mauritius and Madagascar. Instead of visiting museums and going to the cinema, I climbed mountains, watched volcanoes erupt and swam in waterfalls. Although British Council experiences vary hugely, I loved working with the children and it gave me a whole new perspective on learning and languages.

A year abroad isn’t quite as easy as it may seem, but it is really worth it. Challenge yourself, and you’ll be surprised at what you’re capable of.”
It is important to consider the financial implications of going abroad before you apply. Remember to do your research and discuss your plans with your family if they are supporting your study.

**What are the costs of studying abroad?**
The costs vary depending on location and programme. Costs might include:
- Travel expenses
- Living costs
- Tuition fees
- Insurance
- Vacations
- Visa costs

To give you an idea of the cost of studying at various institutions, have a look at the institutional profiles on the CSA webpages: [www.st-andrews.ac.uk/studyabroad/outgoingstudents/financeandscholarships](http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/studyabroad/outgoingstudents/financeandscholarships)

**Tuition Fees**
The majority of Study Abroad programmes involve payment of your [standard tuition fees](http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/studyabroad/outgoingstudents/financeandscholarships/tuitionfees) to St Andrews and no tuition fee liability at the host institution. Full details and exceptions are available on the CSA webpages and will be explained pre-departure: [www.st-andrews.ac.uk/studyabroad/outgoingstudents/financeandscholarships/tuitionfees](http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/studyabroad/outgoingstudents/financeandscholarships/tuitionfees)

You should research what your funding body offers with regards to tuition fee loans and grants for Study Abroad programmes. For example, RUK students may not be eligible for the full tuition fee loan on a full year non-Erasmus+ Work or Study Placement programme. In this context, RUK students spending the full 2017-2018 academic year on a non-Erasmus+ Study or External Work Placement were eligible to apply to the University for a needs-based Tuition Fee Scholarship to a maximum of £3,600 for the placement year.
Insurance
St Andrews students authorised to study or work abroad as part of their degree programme are covered by the University’s travel insurance policy, which includes unlimited medical expenses, cancellation and curtailment and repatriation. However, some host institutions, particularly in the US, will also require you to purchase their campus insurance, and this can amount to a few hundred dollars.

See page 26 for further details.

US Federal Loans
If you normally apply for a US Federal Loan, you should contact the US Loans Team at St Andrews as early as possible to discuss your funding options:
usloan@st-andrews.ac.uk

Are there scholarships available?
We are delighted to be able to offer a number of Study Abroad scholarships for particular destinations. Students selected for our exchange programmes with Queen’s University and Western University may be awarded a prestigious Canadian Robert T Jones Jr. Scholarship, amounting to $6,000 Canadian.

The Robert Lincoln McNeil Scholarship, a generous award which covers room, board and most living expenses, is awarded every year to a student who has grown up in Scotland and who is awarded an exchange place at the University of Pennsylvania.

Moncrieff Travelling Scholarships
Miss Marjorie Moncrieff, Secretary to the Department of Zoology from 1954 to 1982, has left a legacy to the University to fund travelling scholarships for undergraduate Study Abroad students in the Faculty of Science.

Moncrieff Travelling Scholarship – First Abroad
Each year, one First Abroad Scholarship of £12,000 will be allocated to an eligible student who demonstrates both academic excellence and financial need. Students will be asked to provide additional evidence to support their application, such as confirmation that they have completed one of the University’s Access programmes.
Moncrieff Travelling Scholarships – Study Abroad
In addition to the First Abroad Scholarship, this fund will also offer a range of award values to undergraduate students in the Faculty of Science undertaking Study Abroad programmes for credit. This includes both the St Andrews Abroad and School Abroad programmes. These scholarships will be awarded to students of academic excellence to whom Study Abroad would otherwise be unattainable. Scholarships range from £500 to £5,000.

600th Anniversary Scholarships for Study Abroad
St Andrews Students Abroad, one of the 600th campaign projects, has established a scholarship fund to help more St Andrews students with the costs of Study Abroad. For further information on Study Abroad scholarships please see: www.st-andrews.ac.uk/studyabroad/outgoingstudents/financeandscholarships

Other Scholarships
From September 2017, the CSA team will also be launching scholarships to support Arts students studying abroad. Further details are available at: www.st-andrews.ac.uk/studyabroad/outgoingstudents/financeandscholarships
Photo taken at Mount Fitz Roy, Argentina by Natasha, worked in Uruguay
Preparing For Your Time Abroad

What happens next?
Once you have been selected to go on a Study Abroad programme, CSA and your Study Abroad Co-ordinator will liaise with you about next steps and help you to prepare for your time abroad.

Every April there is a compulsory pre-departure meeting held for all students who are undertaking credit-bearing study or work abroad (or in the UK) the following academic year, with full details of academic, financial and practical information. This will be advertised via email and the Wednesday Memos.

Support while you are abroad
If you choose to study or work abroad as part of your degree programme, it is important to remember that you remain a registered St Andrews student while you are away. The University keeps in regular touch with you while you are abroad, and there is a strong support network available to you. CSA, your School, Student Services and our Study Abroad Intern are all available to help with any questions or concerns during your Study Abroad placement.

“Spending a year abroad was definitely a challenge. The workload was greater than at home and I had to start from scratch in terms of making friends and getting to know how things work (with everything from cell phones to exam criteria). Budgeting for the year was also much harder than I’d expected. That said, now that the exchange is over, I wish I could have a second year in Toronto and I hope to apply for graduate studies in North America.”

Daniella, English, studied at the University of Toronto.
Study Abroad Spotlight:

Naomi, Chemistry, worked in The Netherlands

“I spent my year abroad working in The Netherlands. I gained invaluable experience working in a Research and Development department which has really improved my CV. You see a lot of job adverts asking for previous experience and that was what I was able to gain during my year abroad. It was really a unique experience; I felt valued as my project was something up and coming, so little research had been done on the subject and the company entrusted me with it. I advise anyone in Chemistry considering going on a placement year to just do it! It will be unforgettable and such an asset to your CV. It also helped me to decide what I would be interested in applying for once I leave university.

I made friends for life; I even visited one of them in France and met their family. The Netherlands itself was beautiful and the people are so different to the British. I went to a few concerts and festivals while I was there, and I can safely say I will attend these again in the future. They’re unlike any you will have been to in the UK, and definitely a must see if you go there. I was able to sample what it would be like to work away from home and I now know I will be applying for jobs all over the world when I graduate.”
Contacts and Further Information

Where can I get more information? A good starting point is the CSA webpages: www.st-andrews.ac.uk/studyabroad. Here, you will find an up-to-date list of partner institutions and links to their webpages, information to help you make the right choice, guide you through application and selection, and help you plan your programme. Studying abroad is an important decision and we encourage you to start thinking about your options as early as possible.

CSA Student Consultation Hours
These run from 2-4 pm, every Monday to Friday during term time. You are very welcome to come along to one of our drop-in sessions and speak to a member of the CSA team. Consultation sessions can be busy, so please try to come prepared with your questions and having read our online information.

You can also email us at: studyabroad@st-andrews.ac.uk
**School Study Abroad Co-ordinators** can advise you about the particular options available on specific degree programmes, and the academic implications of studying abroad.

**Can I speak to other students who have been abroad?**
Join the Collaborations & Study Abroad Facebook group and meet current Study Abroad students, as well as students from partner institutions who are studying in St Andrews. [www.facebook.com/studyabroad.standrews](http://www.facebook.com/studyabroad.standrews)

**Study Abroad Intern**
Our Study Abroad Intern can also put you in touch with a student who has already been to a particular destination. Every year a student who has recently returned from Study Abroad works with the CSA team to promote programmes and help students prepare for Study Abroad. Get in touch with CSA’s Intern by emailing: csaintern@st-andrews.ac.uk

**Ask AHA!**
The At Home and Abroad Society at St Andrews is dedicated to helping students prepare for Study Abroad. Check out their webpage: [ahasoc.wp.st-andrews.ac.uk](http://ahasoc.wp.st-andrews.ac.uk) or Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/AtHomeAndAbroadSocietyahaSocStAndrews](http://www.facebook.com/AtHomeAndAbroadSocietyahaSocStAndrews)

Start navigating your way to your Study Abroad programme!