



CENTER FOR
INTERNATIONAL
PROGRAMS ABROAD

Emory's Guide to Science Study Abroad

*Specific pre-health flyer also available

* Visit the departmental websites for more exciting opportunities

Why should I study abroad?

As a science student, whether pre-health or not, you should not miss the opportunity to study abroad. Besides enhancing your academic qualifications, also with graduate school in mind, studying abroad promotes an increased understanding of the world and your place in it, as well as enhancing your knowledge of yourself and fostering a sense of independence. Other



countries, other cultures view sciences differently—some more holistically. Speaking a foreign language will help communicating with scientists from around the world— that is increasingly important. Few science majors have studied abroad, and you will stand out!
Even though it may be difficult to fit it in: early planning will make it possible.

Will study abroad interfere with my post-grad plans?

No! Even though a tight schedule is a constraint, careful planning and a sense of flexibility make it possible for a science/pre-health student to study abroad, have an enriching experience, and stay on track to one day get their professional degree.

Careful planning around grad school application time lines and MCATs are necessary—but many others have done it!



Science Q & A for Study Abroad



Where can I go?

A. You want to/need to take pure science courses:

Language competence and a direct enrollment program will determine your choice. Unless you are fluent in Spanish or French, stick to the English speaking programs. On the reverse side, you will find concrete university names which offer a broad variety of science courses that have been blanket-approved by Emory faculty. You will find that information under the Resources section of each program on the CIPA website. Other universities may offer equally fitting courses - look up courses, send syllabus information to cipa@emory.edu - and CIPA will communicate with the science faculty to determine whether there is an Emory equivalent. It is that simple.

B. You don't want to/need to take pure

science courses but plan to deepen your general understanding of sciences/ medicine and humans by taking anthropology in Kenya or designing your own research project in public health or healthcare in Costa Rica, for example. Then choose from the broad variety of courses offered through CIPA.

Are there summer options? Many - these 3 focus directly on science: Ecology and Evolutionary Biology in Australia, Chemistry Studies in Italy and the new Interdisciplinary program in South Africa with an integrated science research track. Other programs explore a variety of academic disciplines - don't miss out on them.

For more information about opportunities or advice on study abroad for science students contact Dean Preetha Ram, 215 White Hall and visit the Science Experience Abroad pages of the Office for Undergraduate Education.

http://www.college.emory.edu/current/courses/special_programs/sea/index.html

A Class of 2000 Emory College graduate and member of the Class of 2004 of the Vanderbilt School of Medicine says, "Spending time abroad deepened my understanding of the people's of the world and the immigrant perspective. Many medical programs feature training in clinics in which many times the patients are recent immigrants to the United States. My experience abroad, along with some foreign language experience, made it easier to interact with and understand my patients from non-U.S. backgrounds, and our interactions were more successful."

Center for International Programs Abroad (CIPA) at Emory University
1385 Oxford Road, Atlanta, GA 30322
Tel: 404-727-2240 Fax: 404-727-6724
Email: cipa@emory.edu; Web: <http://www.cipa.emory.edu>

Three Myths About Study Abroad

1. There is no room in my schedule. GERs, major requirements, and pre-health requirements add up to no more than 30 courses, out of the 32 courses that normally constitute four years at Emory. However, this number decreases as courses cross over between the different requirements. Pending approval, courses taken abroad can count towards your GERs; there are many



science blanket approvals already. It also is possible to take lab sciences abroad. The only courses you may not take abroad are Writing Requirements.

As you can see: Emory faculty, CIPA and our mutual advising should open a study abroad time for YOU.

2. I need to take the sequential lab courses (Bio 141 & 142, Chem 141 & 142, etc.) each year to prepare for the MCAT.

The lab science courses at Emory generally span the entire academic year which does not easily allow for division

into one semester abroad and one semester on Emory's campus. Most students who are leaning towards medical school complete their lab sciences and take their MCAT before their fourth year, leaving the fall of their senior year open for medical school interviews. You can double up your lab sciences during the first two years so you can study abroad your junior year, or you can take lab science courses over the summer to avoid doubling up during the academic year.

3. Study abroad is too expensive.

When you study abroad on an Emory program, all of your current financial aid can be used for your semester abroad. Such aid includes Emory and non-Emory grants, scholarships, federal assistance, state aid, and work-study stipends. And then there is the CIPA Study Abroad Grant that includes science study abroad in any location! If awarded, it pays for the flight and gives you a \$1,500 stipend.



How should I plan to study abroad as a science student?

First, make a rough schedule of your four years at Emory. It helps to start thinking about study abroad as early as your first year in college. Figure out when you are going to take your lab sciences and your Writing Requirements; then decide when you will take which GERs and when you will complete courses for your major. These options could be, for example, to take a lab course over a summer session at Emory or double your lab science courses for a year or two. Many students avoid doubling up the lab science courses because of the workload, but you should keep in mind that the workload of two lab sciences is significantly less than the first year of professional school!

Another option to add flexibility to your schedule would be to take time off between college and professional school. Many science students do this, and it would offer more flexibility in planning your academic career, as you would not have to worry about fitting interviews, the potential MCAT, and the additional requirements in only four years.

Then, choose your program. You should choose a program (see <http://www.cipa.emory.edu> for a complete list) that best fulfills your academic priorities. Ideal programs for a student with a tight academic schedule would be those that offer direct enrollment at large universities abroad. If you have more flexibility, you can attend programs that focus on topics you are generally interested in (Argentinean culture? African Dance?...), that incorporate independent research or a community based service component that offers the most intense cultural immersion window.

These universities have a broad variety of science courses:

- University of St. Andrews, Scotland
- University of Sussex, England-local hospital volunteer program
- Australia (7 universities)- all sites accommodate course needs of science students
- University College London, England-academic strengths in biology, chemistry, physics, and psychology
- American University, Cairo, Egypt-wide array of

science course offerings

- University of Cape Town, South Africa-multiple course offerings in bio, chemistry and physics
- King's College London, England-pre-med program especially designed for U.S. med school prep.

... and then there are the many other programs that offer other exciting study/research and/or service opportunities ... please look at the CIPA website.

And ask a study abroad advisor about the science blanket approvals!

Financial aid, scholarships, and grants automatically carry over while you study abroad. Work Study students may be eligible for stipends. The CIPA Science Study Abroad Grant is there—see details on the CIPA website.

Can I get involved in the healthcare community, can I engage in science research while abroad? YES! You can incorporate your pre-health career goals not only into your coursework abroad, but also through volunteering or shadowing local health-care professionals while abroad. Previous Emory study abroad students have had excellent professional experiences, from volunteering with an EMS team in Australia to shadowing a local physician in Scotland, that enabled them to gain hands-on experience with another country's healthcare system. More and more programs offer service opportunities in health-care related communities. And with support from your academic science advisor, you may even be able to organize a specific science research project with a professor at the foreign university. Take the initiative.

