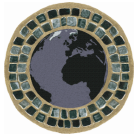


Study Abroad in Sociology

Imagine learning about social problems in Spain by volunteering with other college students and talking with the homeless in Seville, or visiting an archeological site in Delphi, Greece, or studying poverty in Ghana. All these opportunities are available to any student in the sociology major.



Education Abroad

"Study abroad provides the most euphoric learning experiences one can imagine...the greatest tests of one's intellectual and human dexterity come from engaging cultures dissimilar to ours."

— Dr. Francis Dodoo,
professor of sociology
and demography

"Studying in a nontraditional country is an adventure... I have been told that an adventure is part of a human's living spirit—the thrill of life comes from new experiences, encounters with different faces. I have finally conquered my thirst for adventure coming to an exciting new place rich in culture. I now understand what students mean when they say studying abroad will change your life."

—Danielle Pramick,
SOC undergraduate
student

<http://www.international.psu.edu/>



General Study Abroad Information

By its nature, sociology places great emphasis on cultural context. There is much to be gained from understanding the history and traditions of cultures outside your own. Study abroad is one very exciting way to begin to discover new approaches and build your professional skills.

Sociology students can study abroad at any time during their four years. However, keep in mind that studying abroad your last semester could result in delaying your graduation since courses may not be accredited at Penn State until the following semester. Most sociology students study abroad in the junior year and typically take General Education and/or BA requirements, or electives. Students may also take courses in the major, with prior approval of the department. Sociology majors may not take the following courses abroad: SOC 001, 003, 023, 207, 400W, 405, or 470. You may apply up to six study abroad credits in Sociology towards the major as long as you receive prior approval from the department. A listing of SOC courses accredited at Penn State can be found on to sociology Web site at www.sociology.psu.edu.

Studying abroad will automatically fulfill the International Cultures (IL) requirement. Studying abroad will NOT fulfill the BA Other Cultures requirement, unless you take a course abroad that fits the definition of the requirement.

Once you choose a program, you will next need to decide which courses you want to take. You should choose more than you intend to take to make sure that you have chosen options that will be available. All students planning to study abroad must complete a pre-departure agreement with their SOC adviser. To download the pre-departure agreement and to find out more about study abroad opportunities, go to the following Web site: www.sociology.psu.edu.

Departmental Sponsored Programs

The University of Ghana, Legon, Ghana (www.ug.edu.gh)

This program is designed for Penn State students who wish to focus on social sciences and research. The program is located at Ghana's premier university—The University of Ghana. Students will combine specially designed courses with direct enrollment courses in the University of Ghana. Dr. Francis Dodoo, Professor of Sociology and Demography, in the College of the Liberal Arts at Penn State, will accompany the students to Ghana. Dr. Dodoo's research interests include sexual behavior, urban poverty and gendered power in Africa, as well as black immigrants in American society. He will teach a research methods course in sociology and students will also take four additional courses among the offerings at the University of Ghana. Students will live in a student residence, where they will be responsible for providing their own meals. Organized trips will give students a chance to see local historical sites, be a part of traditional cultural festivities, see other parts of Ghana, and even visit a neighboring French-speaking country.

Other Study Abroad Programs Offering Courses in Sociology

Listed below are several programs that are recommended for sociology students. We have provided here only a partial list of the programs endorsed by the Penn State Education Abroad office that might be right for you.

Africa and the Middle East

The American University in Cairo, Egypt (www.aucegypt.edu/pages/default.apx)

The American University offers a wide variety of courses in Arabic language, history and culture, Middle East studies, archeology, art history, history, political science, and sociology. Classes are taught in English and Arabic and students may live on or off campus. It is recommended that students take an Arabic language class while abroad.

University of Cape Town and CIEE Study Abroad Center, Cape Town, South Africa (www.ciee.org)

Students can learn about contemporary South African society and issues and take courses in African languages and literature, humanities, arts, community service, and sociology. The University of Cape Town is located in an urban, coastal city with a diverse population. Students have the choice of living on campus, in apartments, or with a host family. It is recommended that students have taken previous coursework in African studies.

Asia

[Kansai Gaidai University, Osaka, Japan](http://www.kansaigaidai.ac.jp/asp/) (www.kansaigaidai.ac.jp/asp/)

Kansai Gaidai University is located just outside Osaka, Japan and offers easy access to the cities of Osaka, Kyoto, and Nara. Students can take courses in anthropology, Asian studies, Japanese language and culture, political science, sociology, and religion. All students are required to take one spoken Japanese course while in Osaka and must have taken at least two semesters of Japanese prior to admission to the program. Students may opt to live on campus in dormitories, or to stay with a host family while in Osaka.

[National University of Singapore, Singapore](http://www.nus.edu.sg) (www.nus.edu.sg)

A large selection of courses in liberal arts and social sciences are available to students who attend National University. Singapore has a diverse ethnic population, primarily consisting of citizens of Chinese, Malay, and Indian backgrounds, which allows students to learn about different Asian cultures, customs, religious practices, festivals, and cuisine. English is the common and official language of business and government. Students live on campus in dormitories.

Australia and New Zealand

[The Australian National University, Canberra, Australia](http://www.anu.edu.au) (www.anu.edu.au)

Australian National University is located in Canberra, Australia's capital. Students can take courses in government and political studies, psychology, sociology, fine arts, and Asian studies. Internships are also available. Canberra is mid-way between the beaches of New South Wales and the ski slopes of the mountains. Students may live on or off campus.

[RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia](http://www.rmit.edu.au) (www.rmit.edu.au)

Located in Melbourne, RMIT University is close to the city's largest shopping and transport center. The university offers a large selection of courses in arts, communications, and sociology. No on-campus housing is available and most students live in a hotel or youth hostel until they find an apartment with the help of RMIT's accommodation office.

Europe

[Summer Education Abroad Program, Todi, Italy](http://app.outreach.psu.edu/summerabroad/study-todi-Italy/) (http://app.outreach.psu.edu/summerabroad/study-todi-Italy/)

This is a summer only program offered to students who are interested in Italian art, language, and art history. Students receive 9–10 credits for the program, which combines field trips and classroom study. Students live with host families and spend six weeks in Todi and one week in Rome. Todi is a small town in the region of Umbria dating back to Etruscan times and includes excellent examples of Gothic and Renaissance architecture.

[Universidad de Sevilla, Universidad Pablo de Olavide and CIEE Study Abroad Center, Seville, Spain—Liberal Arts or Advanced Liberal Arts tracks](http://www.ciee.org) (www.ciee.org)

Students who choose to study at the Universidad de Sevilla must have a minimum of five semesters of college-level Spanish. Students take courses in Spanish, humanities, and social sciences and all classes are taught in Spanish. This is one of the oldest and most prestigious study abroad programs in Spain and allows students to participate in cultural activities and excursions in Seville, and Andalusia. Students live with a host family while in Seville.

United Kingdom and Ireland

[The University of Bath, Bath, England](http://www.bath.ac.uk/) (www.bath.ac.uk/)

Bath is well known for its spas, and is a cosmopolitan, modern city. The city has been designated a UNESCO Heritage city because of its Roman architectural remains and Georgian terraces. A large selection of courses, including sociology, is available and students can live in residence halls or in apartments.

[University College, Dublin, Ireland](http://www.ucd.ie/) (www.ucd.ie/)

Dublin is the capital of the Republic of Ireland and has numerous museums, historical attractions, pubs, and shops. Students may take courses in sociology, economics, political science, geography, and social policy. Limited on-campus housing is available, and most students stay in a hostel or hotel until they find an apartment.

For Further Information

Karen Sones
Lead Counselor
211 Oswald Tower
University Park, PA 16802
814-865-2217
klo1@psu.edu

<http://www.sociology.psu.edu/undergraduate/abroad.shtml>