International Opportunities for Students

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Study Abroad Programs Office

http://studyabroad.tamu.edu/

There is an increasing need for qualified individuals who have first-hand intercultural experiences and global awareness. Studying abroad can be used as a means of enhancing foreign language and research skills. Many graduate and professional students pursue careers in academic, managerial or administrative positions that benefit from conducting research, attending conferences, working, living or studying abroad. When considering study abroad, it is important for a student to consult with his/her committee chair early. Not all credits can be applied to a degree plan, so pre-trip planning and approval is very important.

Many Texas A&M partner organizations offer international opportunities to students. Students can check the Study Abroad Programs Office search engine to locate such experiences or contact their academic departments about programs and locations they recommend. http://studyabroad.tamu.edu/

Regardless of the type or length of activity abroad, the Study Abroad Programs Office can assist graduate and professional students with pre-trip logistics, health insurance, obtaining passports, crisis management abroad, scholarships, and many other related matters. Faculty members who are interested in learning more about facilitating international opportunities for students, should contact the Study Abroad Programs Office at studyabroad@tamu.edu.

Conducting Research Abroad

In some cases, graduate students are employed as part of a research project, and in others, they register for research hours at Texas A&M and go abroad independently. In all such cases, students should register their research experiences with the Study Abroad Programs Office to ensure emergency or other assistance while abroad.

• Research at Texas A&M University http://www.tamu.edu/research/
• Professional School Advising http://opsa.tamu.edu/
• Study Abroad Programs Office http://studyabroad.tamu.edu/

Faculty-Led Programs

To find the most recent Texas A&M graduate or professional school course offerings abroad, visit the study abroad website. The Study Abroad Programs Office has a library that houses brochures on a variety of different opportunities abroad, including those for graduate students. The office is located on the first floor of the Pavilion.

Internships/Work Abroad Options

• MSC L.T. Jordan Institute for International Awareness http://ltjordan.tamu.edu/fellows/
• Public Policy Internship Program http://ppip.tamu.edu/
• Study Abroad Programs Office http://studyabroad.tamu.edu/

Reciprocal Educational Exchange Programs (REEPs)

These programs give students the opportunity to enroll and pay tuition at Texas A&M but “switch places” with counterparts at foreign institutions. A complete listing of current exchanges are listed below.

• List of Departmental/College Exchange Programs http://studyabroad.tamu.edu/ – Click on Programs and search for exchange programs
• List of University Wide Exchange Programs http://studyabroad.tamu.edu/ – Click on Programs and search for exchange programs

“Non-Degree” Status at a Foreign Institution

Many foreign universities will accept non-degree-seeking students to study for a semester or year. In some cases, your faculty advisor or academic department may have an existing collaboration with a foreign university. If you wish to enroll at a foreign institution without seeking a degree, write directly to the school or schools of choice, asking for admission as a non-degree student. You may be able to receive credit for some of your coursework; it will depend on whether Texas A&M, the department, and your graduate advisory committee will accept the credit you earn overseas as transfer credit into your Texas A&M degree.

Degrees from Foreign Universities

Occasionally, a student may wish to receive an advanced degree from an international university. Of particular interest to many is the opportunity to receive a master’s degree in 12 months from the British University system or the Erasmus Mundus program, the European Union “Fulbright” for graduate students. While the experience would certainly be worthwhile, the student should be aware that a terminal degree is usually most valuable in the country from which it was granted. If you decide to pursue a degree in a foreign university, investigate whether they accept foreign students into their degree programs, and how that degree will fit into your long-term academic or career plans. You would then follow the foreign university’s application guidelines. Generally, approximately a 12-month lead time is necessary.

Funding to Go Abroad

Federal and other financial aid may be adjusted to accommodate for extra costs associated with research or study abroad. Students interested in exploring funding options should discuss this with your academic department, Office of Graduate and Professional Studies, and Scholarships & Financial Aid for additional funding opportunities to go abroad.

• Boren Fellowships https://www.borenawards.org/boren_fellowship/basics.html
• Fulbright Scholarship Programs for U.S. Students http://www.iie.org/fulbright
• Marshall Scholarships http://www.marshallscholarship.org/
• Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarship https://www.rotary.org/
• Texas A&M University Scholarships http://studyabroad.tamu.edu/
• The Rhodes Scholarships http://www.rhodesscholar.org/

The Soltis Center for Research and Education in Costa Rica

http://soltiscentercostarica.tamu.edu/
The Soltis Center for Research and Education in north-central Costa Rica was established in January 2009 to support research, education and outreach in Costa Rica and throughout Central America. The Center is located in San Juan de San Isidro de Peñas Blancas, about three hours northwest of San Jose. The modern facilities of the Center include dorms, a cafeteria, wet and dry labs, classrooms, a videoconference room and multiple use areas. The Center provides students and faculty with access to more than 250 acres of primary and second growth forests with an experimental watershed complete with a meteorological station, a canopy tower and weir dam. The Center is adjacent to more than 50,000 hectares of protected forest in the Children’s Eternal Rainforest and the Monteverde Conservation Area. The Zona Protectora Arenal-Monteverde extends to the Center through a forest corridor that descends in elevation from 1,800 meters at Monteverde to 450 meters above sea level at the Center. This natural reserve has four major tropical life zones and includes more than 3,000 species of vascular plants and more than 400 species of resident and migratory birds. At the regional level, the Center is located in the heart of the Peñas Blancas River Watershed, which extends over 40,000 hectares that transition from rainforest in the highlands to pastures and agricultural crops below the Center. The unique physical and cultural setting of the center provides students and faculty with research and educational opportunities in tropical ecology, civil engineering, ecosystem sciences, geosciences, public and rural health and agricultural economics.

On Campus Engagement in International Opportunities

You don’t have to go abroad to take advantage of international opportunities offered by Texas A&M. Students who remain on campus are encouraged to participate in many options available including the following:

- Academic certificates and minors with an international focus  http://studyabroad.tamu.edu
- Center for International Business Studies  http://mays.tamu.edu/center-for-international-business-studies
- Engineers without Borders-U.S.A.  http://ewb.tamu.edu
- Global Business Brigades  http://tamugbb.weebly.com
- MSC L.T. Jordan Institute for International Awareness  http://ltjordan.tamu.edu
- Norman Borlaug Institute for International Agriculture  http://borlaug.tamu.edu
- SCONA  http://scona.tamu.edu
- Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs  http://bush.tamu.edu/scowcroft
- Student Organizations  http://studentactivities.tamu.edu/app/organization

(To find internationally focused student organizations, please visit http://studentactivities.tamu.edu/app/search/index and search international.)