

STUDY ABROAD FAQS

I. Where should I go?

Talk to Dr. Ruth Aranow in the Office of Academic Advising. She is the Study Abroad Coordinator and is very knowledgeable about the breadth of programs that could match your interests.

II. Should I go?

If you are making good progress toward completing the requirements for the political science major (and any additional majors/minors), study abroad can be a great opportunity to experience other cultures, learn languages, or visit other institutional settings. We recommend that you review your transcript and develop a plan for each semester up until graduation with the courses that you plan on taking to fulfill graduation requirements. Also, feel free to meet with the Political Science Advising Coordinator to discuss your interests and plans.

III. When should I go and for how long?

Usually, students take a semester off. Some prefer to stay for a whole year. This will depend on your own schedule and factors such as: what your commitments on campus will be, how you are progressing towards fulfilling graduation requirements, etc. Many students study abroad during Fall or Spring of their Junior year since most students want to be on campus throughout their last year at Hopkins. Yet others choose to do summer study abroad programs so that they can be on campus during the school year.

IV. What is the process for making this happen?

Once you have decided to go and are well on your way to being accepted in the program of your choice:

- 1) Pick up the BLUE study abroad approval form at OAA if you are interested in studying abroad during the school year for a semester or more. The summer programs have a different form at OAA.
- 2) Visit the Political Science Academic Coordinator during office hours or by appointment. You will go over your current progress in the program and talk about the type of courses you will take while there. You will also discuss whether or not courses will be transferred into Hopkins if relevant to political science graduation requirements.
- 3) Take the form back to OAA for their review and processing.

V. How do I get credit for these classes?

Upon returning to Hopkins once you have completed the study abroad program:

- 1) Visit OAA in order to get your classes transferred into the JHU system. As a result, these classes will now show up on your transcript.
- 2) Visit the PS Academic Coordinator with the following documentation for courses that you want to apply towards PS graduation requirements (all other courses need not go through this):
 - a) Transcript from study abroad sponsoring-institution with grades received for each course
 - b) Syllabus from each course

c) Papers/exams/work completed for each course

3) The PS Academic Coordinator will review the documentation and send a confirmation email regarding the decision to offer PS credit for each of the recommended courses. **SAVE THIS CONFIRMATION EMAIL--** it is crucial documentation required during the Junior Checklist process to prove that the course(s) has been approved to count towards graduation requirements.

VI. What types of courses can receive credit?

As far as Political Science graduation requirements go, we are looking at the following types of classes:

- 1) Political Science courses
- 2) Social Science courses
- 3) History courses

We approve the transfer of courses that are the equivalent of 3 credit hour courses (or multiples of 3). Courses that are too short will not receive credit. (This applies more often to summer programs). Please remember that you are free and encouraged to pursue your myriad interests in other fields while studying abroad. You only need to come to the PS department, however, if you want to receive transfer credit for the types of classes listed above, as they pertain to completing the political science major.

VII. Is there a limit to the number of study abroad transfer credits?

You can transfer up to a total of 6 political science courses. This includes study abroad as well as credits from all other university institutions (any and all off-campus courses). Furthermore, you can transfer courses to fulfill both sets of your social science and history requirements.