



Study Abroad in Physics

“Quote from SA
Physics Adviser.”

Michael Korth
Professor of Physics

There is no such thing as a “local” company or issue anymore. An international experience will provide you with the necessary skills to work effectively in industry, academia, and the public sector. Every U of M student should consider gaining international experience through study abroad.

Study abroad can help you...

- Find great physics coursework and curriculum
- Understand how physics is studied in an international context
- Expand your cross-cultural communications and problem solving skills
- Prepare to work in an increasingly diverse and international workplace
- Broaden your academic horizons
- Globalize your world view
- Improve your language skills

Within Minnesota or outside our borders, high quality employment opportunities will bring you into context with other cultures and languages. Many study abroad programs are available to you. You can study Physics, pick up a second language, study the history and culture of a region, or find one program with all of these components.

Set goals and plan for results

The process of selecting a study abroad program is similar to selecting your major or minor.

- Begin planning as soon as possible. It is never too early to start.
- Set some goals. There are many good study abroad programs, and the best one for you depends on what you want.
- Prioritize your goals. Consider long-term academic and professional goals, as well as on-campus degree requirements.
- Prepare academically. You may need to take language or other prerequisite courses for your chosen program.
- Give yourself time to research and talk to advisers and students who have studied abroad.

We have screened hundreds of international programs and identified several with a proven track record for on-site service, academic excellence, and good fit with the needs of physics students. From highly structured May Session programs that will whet your international whistle to a full semester or year long programs that will immerse you in a different culture while you complete

your requirements toward graduation, look for a program that meets your individual needs.

Can I afford to study abroad?

YES! Some study abroad opportunities are very affordable. Program fees cover full-time tuition, housing, and most meals. Early planning for study abroad helps you make cost-effective program decisions, and it also helps you prepare your finances through savings, scholarships and financial aid. Financial aid applies to study abroad and in some cases, your eligibility will increase to cover additional expenses.

The University of Minnesota offers more than \$500,000 in scholarships for study abroad. Many programs offer special discounts for U of M students or scholarships support. Check with the Center for International Programs for other scholarship opportunities.

What are my next steps?

Talk with a study abroad advisor or faculty member

Come in to the Center for International Programs (CIP) office to talk with a CIP adviser, or talk with the study abroad adviser in physics.

Investigate Programs

For a full listing of study abroad opportunities talk with an advisor, take a look at the U of M Learning Abroad Catalog, and visit the CIP web site: www.morris.umn.edu/cerp/abroad. Identify programs that meet your needs and discuss your choices with your advisor.

Talk to your advisor in teacher education

After you identify a program, meet your advisor in your major to determine how the program will fit with your requirements. The Registrar’s office will help identify courses approved for General Education requirements.

Center for International Programs

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www.mrs.umn.edu/cerp/abroad

Academic Considerations for Physics Students

Physics encourages students to study abroad for the awareness it gives them of other cultures. In general, the study of physics is universal and there is no particular advantage to studying physics in another society. Thus, the reason to go abroad is not about physics, but about the awareness of other societies and cultures.

Physics majors can go in almost any semester from the first year to their senior year, however study abroad for an academic year requires careful planning with the physics discipline study abroad adviser.

What are the particular programs in physics that the discipline would recommend to students?

This advising sheet contains a long list of programs and universities that offer courses that would be applicable to UMM physics major and other degree requirements. Virtually all of these programs are offered in English. Courses at these universities could be applicable and substitute for comparable physics courses at UMM.

This list does not exhaust the possibilities for study abroad in physics, it simply means that these have been reviewed by the physics faculty and they have been found to have courses comparable to UMM physics courses. Or in some cases, these are courses complimentary to UMM offerings.

If students discover a physics program not on this list, they are certainly free to approach the physics study abroad adviser to

discuss the value of that program and its applicability to the UMM physics major.

It should be noted again, that the key factor in physics is that students can go abroad at almost any time, but to do so for more than one semester in physics will require careful planning.

Looking for Program Options in Physics

There are several universities that work especially well if you plan to take Physics courses while studying abroad. In addition to courses that meet your general interests and liberal education requirements, you should be able to fulfill major requirements at these sites.

These sites offer many courses in Physics, and some include fields not available at the University of Minnesota. All of the universities offer other fields such as sciences, math and a wide array of courses in the arts, humanities, business and social science. Advance planning with the Center for International Programs and your major adviser will ensure that courses taken during study abroad will fit smoothly into your degree program.

Find courses available through study abroad at a particular site by contacting the Center for International Programs office at 231 Community Services Building, or the program sponsor, or visiting the host university's web site. Information about courses open to study abroad students is not always readily available and correspondence with the host university's departments may be necessary. Detailed course information is sometimes hard to come by prior to departure. Some flexibility in what you want to take is important! All of the programs listed here and the U of M study abroad catalog are sponsored or co-sponsored by the University of Minnesota, which means the U of M is confident about academic quality, safety, and student support services. Each program will provide pre-departure and on-site orientation, housing, academic support, international health insurance and on-site assistance.

Here are a few universities that would be especially good for Physics students:

Instruction in English:

Australia

University of Melbourne, Melbourne

Netherlands

Utrecht University, Netherlands

Hungary

Budapest University of Tech, Budapest

South Africa

University of Fort Hare, South Africa

Sweden

Karistad University, Sweden

United Kingdom

University of Strathclyde, Scotland

Lancaster University, England

Instruction in French

France

Universite de Nantes, France

Universite de Rennes I, France

Instruction in German

Austria

Kari-Franzens-Universitat Graz, Austria

Germany

Philipps-Universitat Marburg, Germany

Tech Universitat Braunschweig, Germany

Instruction in Spanish

Argentina

Universidad Nacional de Cuyo, Buenos Aires

Mexico

ITESM - Monterrey, Mexico