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Introduction

The San Diego Community College District offers students the opportunity to study in different countries around the world in order to develop global competencies and to increase cultural awareness while making progress towards completion of academic goals.

Opportunities to study abroad are offered every semester through the San Diego and Imperial Counties Community College Association’s Study Abroad Consortium (SDICCCA-SAC). The consortium is a collaborative approach to developing and implementing study abroad programs for community college students. A representative of the consortium is located on most of the community college campuses in San Diego and Imperial Counties to help you with all matters related to studying abroad. It is the responsibility of the consortium and its affiliates to provide you with an academically sound, culturally enriching, personally rewarding, and safe study abroad experience.
We live in a time of increasing global interdependence. In order to function successfully in this new world order, we must gain cross-cultural understanding and appreciation. Especially in this post-September 11 era, it is more important than ever that we learn about cultures other than our own and learn to get along with them.

When you participate in a study abroad program, you not only learn about your host culture, you learn about your own culture. It’s only by leaving your home country that you can view it more objectively, understand what the U.S. stands for and what it means to be an American because you will have something to contrast it with. You will also learn about yourself – how you adapt to new situations, how you get along with people different from yourself, how you manage stress, how resourceful you are, and you will discover new interests and activities.

On a more practical level, you will enhance your resume with a study abroad experience both for the purpose of transferring to a four-year college or university and for the job market.
**How long is the program and what is the class schedule?**

Semester study abroad programs 8 – 12 weeks in duration. Classes may begin in San Diego one-two weeks prior to departure.

Classes are held either 4 or 5 days a week. A one-week break is often scheduled mid-way during the program.

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**What classes are taught abroad?**

Classes offered abroad are taught in English by faculty from consortium member colleges who are selected from a competitive pool of applicants. Two faculty typically teach the curriculum to students who are enrolled in the program. In addition, host country instructors are often hired to teach a Life and Culture course in English about their country, and, if applicable, host country instructors may be hired to teach several levels of the local language. Instruction takes place in classrooms in the host country that are used exclusively for our group of students, sometimes at institutions that also enroll local students. Examples of classroom facilities used in past programs include universities and language schools.
Faculty who are selected to teach abroad are chosen partially according to the appropriateness of their subject area to the site abroad. For example, professors of Art have been selected to teach in Florence, Italy; Professors of Biology have been selected to teach in Australia and Costa Rica; Professors of English have been selected to teach in England; Professors of Anthropology and Latin American Studies have been selected to teach in Costa Rica; a Professor of film studies has been selected to teach in Cannes, France.

Imagine studying art history in Florence, Italy – the center of the Italian Renaissance – walking in the footsteps of Michelangelo and marveling at architectural masterpieces and world famous paintings and sculpture! Imagine studying biology in Australia - one of the most biologically diverse areas in the world - experiencing unique plants and animals! Imagine studying Latin American History and Culture in Costa Rica!

There is no better way to make your learning experience more meaningful and to make your studies come alive than to participate in these programs! Field trips, excursions, and visits to sites of cultural and historical interest are also components of the program and will complement/supplement your classroom work.

Classes taught abroad meet general education requirements and are transferable to CSU and/or UC.

Students must be enrolled full-time while participating on a semester study abroad program. This means being enrolled in a minimum of 12 units.

Students who receive financial aid MUST be enrolled in 12 units in order to receive their full award.
What are the eligibility requirements?

Eligibility requirements to participate in study abroad programs include being 18 years of age or older by the date of departure, completing 12 college-level units with a GPA of 2.0 or higher, being in good academic standing and making satisfactory progress, and a student conduct review. Program space is limited and spaces are allotted on a first-come first-served basis.

Where will I live?

Housing options vary depending on the site abroad. One option is family homestays, in private or shared rooms, with two meals per day provided by the family. Living with a local family is undeniably the best way to familiarize yourself with the culture, make lifetime friends, and to improve your foreign language proficiency.

Another housing option is student apartments. This option entails more independence and responsibility including grocery shopping, food preparation and household chores.

Lastly, college/university residence facilities may be used.
**How much does it cost?**

Costs for participating in study abroad programs are higher than studying on your home campus. The additional expense goes towards such items as purchase of round-trip airline tickets, ground transportation, room and board, field trips and excursions, medical insurance, and on-site staff assistance. As a result, program costs have varied from the high $4,000 range to the high-$6,000 range. Registration fees, books and supplies, personal expenses, airport departure taxes, and passport fee, (if applicable), are not included in the program price.

**How can I pay for studying abroad?**

FINANCIAL AID is available to eligible students. These funds may be used by eligible applicants to meet some study abroad program expenses including tuition fees, books, transportation, and room and board. Participants who apply early and are awarded Financial Aid are usually eligible for a deferred payment schedule.

You are strongly encouraged to apply for Financial Aid as soon as possible!

Apply for financial through the Financial Aid Office at the college that is “hosting” the study abroad program you are interested in. This may or may not be the college where you are currently enrolled.
Financial Resources
For Study Abroad**

LOANS

Check www.ed.gov for federal loans.

FinAid (finaid.org) – renowned college financial aid site
Go to www.myrichuncle.com.

Student loan buying guide –
(www.greentreegazette.com/StudentLoan/BG) - online resource for student loans.

Go to www.Salliemae.com

Go to www.plato.org

FUNDRAISING

Check http://www.cylc.org/shared/fundraising_guide.pdf for information regarding how to fund raise.

SCHOLARSHIPS

FOR AFRICAN-AMERICAN STUDENTS – Go to www.BlackExcel.org/link4.htm, ,
ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA - Go to www.akaeaf.org
ARThUR H. GOODMAN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND –
Awards scholarships ranging from $1,500-$3,000 to minority students and working women who better their community.
www.cdcloans.com or call: 1-800-611-5170
CALIFORNIA COLLEGES FOR INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION (CCIE): Go to www.ccieworld.org, click on “enter,” click on POCCSA grant activities. $250 - $1,500 scholarships are available. Deadline is November 15 for spring programs, May 15 for fall programs.

Ask the Chamber of Commerce for names of American companies owned by foreign companies and approach these U.S. companies for money. Go to the website of these companies and look for foundation/scholarship information.
FASTWEB.COM - American college scholarship database. Registration required (no fee)

GILMAN – This is a scholarship program funded by the Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs to enable students who would not normally be able to study abroad to do so. $3,000 - $5,000 scholarships are available. Deadlines are early to mid October for the following spring and early to mid April for the following fall. These scholarships are currently not available for the summer. Go to www.iie.org/gilman. City College students have been awarded this scholarship every semester! You can be awarded one, too!

HISPANIC COLLEGE FUND – Go to hispanicfund.org

HISPANIC SCHOLARSHIP FUND – www.hsf.net

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION FINANCIAL AID – IEFA is the premier internet resource for financial aid information for students wishing to study in a foreign country. www.iefa.org

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION FINANCE CORPORATION – IEFC has developed a range of student loan programs for the growing population of students who want to study in another country. www.iefc.com

NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR EXCELLENCE – Go to www.excellence.org/programs.html

NATIONAL SECURITY EDUCATION PROGRAM – NSEP offers scholarships to students wanting to study in developing countries. Go to www.ndu.edu/nsep.

SAN DIEGO COUNTY HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – Call 619-702-0790 or go to www.sdchcc.com. This is a portal for sponsored links.

*Be a savvy consumer with your personal information.
SAN DIEGO FOUNDATION – Go to sdfoundation.org/scholarships. There are sometimes scholarships earmarked specifically to help City College students study abroad.

Go to the Office of Student Affairs in D-106 to see what scholarships they are currently offering. They publish a pamphlet with a scholarship list in it in the middle of every fall semester. Other scholarship opportunities are publicized as they become available

Go to www.fastweb.com, the internet’s largest free scholarship search.

STUDENTAWARDS.COM – students can search from thousands of unique scholarships, bursaries, grants and other forms of financial assistance.

STUDYABROAD.COM – financial aid advertising page.

STUDYABROADFUNDING.ORG: The Institute for International Education (IIE) announces an online directory StudyAbroadFunding.org to help increase diversity in study abroad. In addition to the traditional country and field of study search options, award entries are now searchable by categories such as race and ethnicity, gender, and selections for student leaders and athletes, low-income students, students with disabilities and a variety of other designations. http://www.studyabroadfunding.org
BOOKS

A STUDENT’S GUIDE TO SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS, AND FUNDING PUBLICATIONS IN INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION AND OTHER DISCIPLINES (APRIL 1997, MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY). Contains 79 pages of annotated citations including websites. Can be purchased for $5.00 which includes postage and handling. Send a check or money order made payable to Michigan State University and a note indicating you wish to purchase the GUIDE, to Michigan State University, Rm. 209, Office of the Dean, International Studies and Programs, Center for International Studies and Programs, East Lansing, MI 48824


FREE MONEY FOR FOREIGN STUDY: A guide to more than 1,000 grants and scholarships for study abroad. Order through amazon.com.

**Be a savvy consumer. Check the website before giving personal information.

What is expected of me during the program?

Students must be enrolled full-time during a semester study abroad program. This usually means enrolling in a minimum of 12 units.

Participants must recognize that participating in a study abroad program is different from attending classes in San Diego. Students who study abroad are ambassadors of the U.S. and as a result, their behavior comes under close scrutiny. Host country nationals will make judgments about Americans based on the way program participants conduct themselves. Additionally, living in another country entails becoming familiar with and getting used to different societal norms, behavior patterns, and laws. As a result, the San Diego Community College District will require that participants sign a document indicating that they agree to
adhere to the district Student Conduct Code at all times whether in class, in housing accommodations, on excursions/field trips, or on their own. If it is determined that a participant is not conducting him or herself according to SDCCD standards, in or out of the classroom, he/she may be terminated from the program.

In addition, the company the district contracts with to put the elements of the program in place (airfare, housing, etc.) also has the right to enforce appropriate standards of conduct and may at any time terminate a student’s participation in a study abroad program for failure to maintain these standards or for any actions or conduct which is considered to be incompatible with his/her personal welfare and/or with the interest, harmony, comfort and welfare of other participants. If participation is terminated, a student will be removed from classes, housing accommodations, excursions, etc., will not receive a refund of fees, and will assume any additional costs incurred in returning to the U.S.

Is it safe to study abroad?

Your safety and security are of primary importance to the San Diego Community College District. The District will make every effort to assure that you are safe while abroad. Of course part of the responsibility lies with you; if you are told not to go to certain locations at certain times of day, if you are warned to refrain from visiting specific places, if you are told not to participate in host country political demonstrations, and about the severity of host country laws related to certain behaviors, we must rely on your good sense to follow the warnings and directives given to you.

At the same time, the District monitors U.S. State Department travel warnings, has prepared its own emergency response plan, and only contracts with logistical support providers who
have their own well developed emergency response plan. If a situation arises in the host country that would put your safety or security in jeopardy, we will cancel a program and/or arrange for your transportation back to the U.S.

In addition, study abroad program costs include medical insurance. After you review the provided medical insurance, you can decide if you wish to supplement it with additional coverage and/or with trip cancellation, baggage insurance, etc.

If you have more questions about safety and security regarding study abroad, please go to www.studentsabroad.com/health.html

**How do I enroll in a study abroad program?**

**I.** The first thing to do is meet with your Campus International Education Coordinator. The San Diego Community College District International Education Coordinators for 2008 - 2009 are:

- Marion Froehlich, San Diego City College, Room A-1-Q
  - Tel: 619/388-3652, E-mail: mfroehli@sdccd.edu
- Hossna Sadat, San Diego Mesa College, Room A-111
  - Tel: 619/388-2213, E-mail: hsadat@sdccd.edu
- Judy Patacsil, San Diego Miramar College, Counseling Center
  - Tel: 619/388-7564, E-mail: jpatacsi@sdccd.edu

Your Campus Coordinator will give you a program brochure including enrollment form if you do not already have one and discuss the details of the program with you. He/she will also confirm that your GPA is at least 2.0 and that you will have completed at least 12 units prior to departure.
Topics you might think about and be prepared to discuss with your coordinator are:

1) why you want to participate in this program and what you hope to gain from the experience
2) your preparation for and willingness to study during a shortened semester
3) your ability to live within a budget
4) how you feel about being away from the U.S., friends, and family for three months
5) how you feel about differences in customs, food, etc.
6) if you have lived away from home before/traveled before
7) if your family/significant other is supportive of your decision to study abroad
8) if you need any assistance or special services to fully participate in any of the activities, academic or otherwise, of the program
9) if you have any health concerns we should be aware of
10) if you have a passport

II. Submit the Student Conduct Release Form to the Dean of Student Affairs on your home campus. Your Campus Coordinator will provide you with this form. The Dean will complete the form and then forward it to the Coordinator. If the Dean has noted something on this form, you will receive additional counseling.

III. Meet with your counselor to discuss the best classes for you to take abroad based on your educational plan. Although you are not required to only take classes that meet the requirements of your educational plan (unless you have a funding source that requires it), most students choose to do this in order to complete their educational objective in a timely manner.
IV. Contact the financial aid technician if you would like to apply for financial aid. Remember that this individual is located at the college that is “hosting” the study abroad program.

V. Submit your enrollment form and deposit after you have determined that the academic program meets your needs, you will be able to finance the opportunity, and you are committed to participating in the program. Your Coordinator will assist you with this stage of the process.

VI. The deposit ranges from $400 - $500. All participants must pay this deposit, even if you are expecting to receive financial aid.

VII. Review the SDCCD Student Conduct Code provided by your Campus Coordinator and sign the accompanying agreement.

VIII. Stay in touch with your Campus Coordinator and the host college representative to be apprised of upcoming events such as information meetings, pre-departure orientations, additional documents to complete, etc.

Is there anything else?

Congratulate yourself on making a great investment in your academic, professional, and personal future!

Vice Chancellor’s Office
Instructional Services
619/388-6865
081908