

# Study Abroad for International Relations and Political Science Students

*“Studying abroad helps you develop your knowledge, skills, and self-confidence. You will learn about a new culture, and about your own culture as seen through the eyes of others. Studying abroad develops language fluency and sets you apart from other job-seekers in a very competitive market. Best of all, studying abroad will provide amazing new experiences and help you make new life-long friends.”*

## Study abroad can help you...

- Prepare to work in an increasingly diverse and international workplace
- Understand the fields of IR and PLS from an international perspective
- Expand your cross-cultural communication and problem-solving skills
- Broaden your academic horizons
- Improve your language skills

## Do I need to speak a foreign language?

NO! Most study abroad programs offer instruction in English, even in non-English speaking countries.

## Can I afford to study abroad?

YES! 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. Your financial aid applies to study abroad and, in some cases, your loan eligibility will increase to cover additional expenses. Furthermore, the Padnos International Center offers grants and scholarships specifically for qualified study abroad participants.

## Will I take longer to graduate?

NO! With good advance planning, you can take courses that satisfy elective requirements in your IR/PLS major or the general education program.

## What classes can I take while studying abroad?

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### General Education Requirements

Students may take selected general education requirements, including courses within the World Perspectives category.

### Major courses

Many study abroad programs offer a wide selection of courses, including IR/PLS courses that can be approved by the department to contribute to your IR/PLS major.

### Custom Theme Abroad

Another option is to fulfill your theme requirement while studying abroad. For information, visit the Padnos International Center website at

<http://www.gvsu.edu/studyabroad/>.

## Suggested program options for IR/PLS students

In addition to IR/PLS courses already approved for GVSU credit; other courses may also be available for transfer credit. Instruction is in English unless otherwise indicated.

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### Africa & Middle East

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#### **Ghana: University of Cape Coast (semester or year, *partnership*)**

The University of Cape Coast, established in 1962, is located on a hill overlooking the Atlantic Ocean. Elimina Castle and Cape Coast Castle are located a short distance from the university.

##### **Course Information:**

A number of course options for IR/PLS majors exist at University of Cape Coast.

To view course equivalencies and program details, visit: [www.gvsu.edu/studyabroad](http://www.gvsu.edu/studyabroad) and choose the “study abroad program” option, then “partnerships”

#### **Egypt: History and MES (summer, *faculty-led*)**

Ahlan Wa Sahlan! Welcome to Cairo! From your accommodation in the center of Egypt's bustling capital, walk a few blocks to view the treasures of the pharaohs or stroll along the Nile. Go shopping in the covered market or wander among the architectural wonders of Islamic Cairo. A short distance from Cairo lie the Pyramids, Coptic Christian monasteries, Alexandria, and the Suez Canal.

##### **GVSU course(s)**

HST 380: The History of Egypt (three credits)

MES 380: Contemporary Issues in Egyptian Society and Culture (three credits)

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### Asia & Oceania

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#### **Australia: Macquarie University (semester or year, *partnership*)**

Macquarie University is located in Sydney, Australia, one of the world's largest, most beautiful and cosmopolitan cities. You will enjoy the best of both worlds with the many activities offered in Sydney's booming city life, as well as the relaxing nearby beaches and Sydney Harbor. This vibrant city offers a little something for everyone.

##### **Course Information:**

A number of course options for IR/PLS majors exist at Macquarie University.

To view course equivalencies and program details, visit: [www.gvsu.edu/studyabroad](http://www.gvsu.edu/studyabroad) and choose the “study abroad program” option, then “partnerships”

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**Asia and Oceania continued.**

## **China: Summer School (spring and/or summer, *faculty-led*)**

This program will operate during the Spring and Summer terms in Shanghai, China. Students may enroll for the Spring term (6 weeks), the Summer term (6 weeks) or both (12 weeks). Each term you will register for two or three courses in language, area studies and/or general education. Courses will be taught by faculty from GVSU and from East China Normal University in Shanghai.

### **Course Information:**

A number of course options for this program.

To view course equivalencies and program details, visit: [www.gvsu.edu/studyabroad](http://www.gvsu.edu/studyabroad) and choose the “study abroad program” option, then “faculty-led”

## **India: Business and Culture (spring, *faculty-led*)**

India is a stable democracy that blends its own rich tradition and British legal and educational systems. Program participants will visit Delhi, India's capital; the legendary Taj Mahal; and Mumbai, a large, cosmopolitan metropolis. They will attend classes at an Indian university located in the lovely, temperate city of Pune, about 100 miles from Mumbai.

### **GVSU course(s)**

BUS 301: International Business and Culture in India (three credits)

ECO 349: Emerging Market Issues (Course within Theme 15 and World Perspectives)  
(three credits)

## **Japan: International Christian University in Tokyo (summer or year only, *partnership*)**

This program is part of an exchange program that brings Japanese students to GVSU. It is only open to GVSU students who prefer to spend an academic year in Japan. The University is located in Mitaka City, a suburban community near Tokyo proper. Courses in political science, business, history, and economics are available in English. Students also study Japanese during their stay.

A number of course options for IR/PLS majors exist at International Christian University.

To view course equivalencies and program details, visit: [www.gvsu.edu/studyabroad](http://www.gvsu.edu/studyabroad) and choose the “study abroad program” option, then “partnerships”

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## Central and South America

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### **El Salvador**

**(spring, *faculty-led*)**

The goal of the program is to increase one's awareness of issues of social justice and human rights. You will learn about El Salvador's rich culture, the political-economic context for social welfare programs, community development, and the role of social workers in El Salvador.

#### **GVSU course(s)**

SW 354: International Service (3 credits) = IR 380 (3 credits towards electives)

### **Mexico**

**(semester or year, *partnership*)**

UDLA is located in the municipality of San Andres Cholula, only fifteen minutes from the city of Puebla and 90 miles from Mexico City. This geographic region brings together the influences of pre-Hispanic, colonial, and modern Mexico and is recognized by UNESCO as a cultural treasure of the world. On a clear day one can see Malinche mountain and three of Mexico's tallest volcanoes from campus. Although specific course equivalencies are not yet available, this university offers a wide range of courses that can be used to fulfill IR and PLS electives.

#### **Course Information:**

A number of course options for IR/PLS majors exist at International Christian University.

To view course equivalencies and program details, visit: [www.gvsu.edu/studyabroad](http://www.gvsu.edu/studyabroad) and choose the "study abroad program" option, then "partnerships"

### **Nicaragua**

**(summer, *faculty-led*)**

The focus of the program is the psychology of social inequality, or the unequal distribution of power and resources across class, race, and gender. Nicaragua has a long history of struggles against social injustice, and thus provides an ideal vehicle for studying issues of inequality. The program will begin on the GVSU campus, where we will study inequality within the context of the culture and history of Nicaragua.

#### **GVSU course(s)**

PSY 380: Psychology of Social Inequality = IR 380 (3 credits towards electives)  
(3 credits)

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## Europe

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### **England: Kingston University** **(summer, semester or year, *partnership*)**

Kingston University, with an enrollment of 13,500 students, has many years of experience receiving overseas students on study abroad programs. Visiting students take the same classes as Kingston students, offering them an opportunity to integrate into student life. Kingston is located on the River Thames, only 20 minutes by train to London.

#### **Course Information:**

A number of course options for IR/PLS majors exist at Kingston University.

To view course equivalencies and program details, visit: [www.gvsu.edu/studyabroad](http://www.gvsu.edu/studyabroad) and choose the “study abroad program” option, then “partnerships”

### **France: ESSCA – Angers** **(summer, semester or year, *partnership*)**

During the winter semester, GVSU students can opt for the international business program at this business school located 90 minutes from Paris. Angers is medieval city of 150,000 in the Loire Valley. This program focuses on the European business environment, as well as modern history and contemporary social, economic, and political issues. It is a unique opportunity for students who want to examine European affairs first-hand and to understand the European Union.

#### **Course Information:**

A number of course options for IR/PLS majors exist at ESSCA.

To view course equivalencies and program details, visit: [www.gvsu.edu/studyabroad](http://www.gvsu.edu/studyabroad) and choose the “study abroad program” option, then “partnerships”

### **Hungary: ESSCA - Budapest** **(summer, semester or year, *partnership*)**

ESSCA Hungary is situated in the heart of the city of Budapest, close to public transport. Budapest is a beautiful city set along the Danube River. It is considered the business and cultural center of Hungary. Students have the option of participating in the Budapest program during fall semester and the Angers program during the winter semester to complete a full academic year abroad program.

#### **Course Information:**

A number of course options for IR/PLS majors exist at ESSCA.

To view course equivalencies and program details, visit: [www.gvsu.edu/studyabroad](http://www.gvsu.edu/studyabroad) and choose the “study abroad program” option, then “partnerships”

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Europe continued.

### **Italy: John Cabot University** **(summer, semester or year, *partnership*)**

John Cabot University was founded in 1972 as a college of liberal arts and sciences. All courses are taught in English except Italian language and literature. The main campus in Rome is near the Vatican. Students are surrounded by thousands of years of history and art.

#### **Course Information:**

A number of course options for IR/PLS majors exist at John Cabot University.

To view course equivalencies and program details, visit: [www.gvsu.edu/studyabroad](http://www.gvsu.edu/studyabroad) and choose the "study abroad program" option, then "partnerships".

### **Norway: University of Oslo** **(summer, semester or year, *partnership*)**

Founded in 1911, the University of Oslo is Norway's largest and oldest institution of higher education. Today the University has approximately 30,000 students. On campus you will find an extensive range of cultural and social activities.

#### **Course Information:**

A number of course options for IR/PLS majors exist at University of Oslo.

To view course equivalencies and program details, visit: [www.gvsu.edu/studyabroad](http://www.gvsu.edu/studyabroad) and choose the "study abroad program" option, then "partnerships".

### **Poland: Crakow University of Economics, Cracow** **(winter semester, *partnership*)**

Located in southern Poland, the city of Crakow has an abundance of museums, theatres, concerts, and festivals. As one of the few major European cities that escaped devastation during World War II, many of Crakow's medieval structures still stand. Students can take a variety of political science, history, and economics courses in English, including a program of instruction entitled, "Poland: Economy in Transition." Students receive a stipend from the government for expenses. For additional information visit: [www.fetc.ae.krakow.pl/ibs/](http://www.fetc.ae.krakow.pl/ibs/)

#### **Course Information:**

A number of course options for IR/PLS majors exist at Cracow University of Economics.

To view course equivalencies and program details, visit: [www.gvsu.edu/studyabroad](http://www.gvsu.edu/studyabroad) and choose the "study abroad program" option, then "partnerships".

### **Spain: University of Deusto, Bilbao** **(summer, *non-GVSU affiliate*)**

The university is located opposite the world-famous Guggenheim Museum in the green, northern city of Bilbao. This program will include coursework in Spanish Business and International Relations, and includes visits to companies and cultural sites. A three-day visit to Madrid is included. Students can earn elective credits in International Relations, Business and Spanish.

#### **Course Information:**

A number of course options for IR/PLS majors exist at University of Deusto.

To view course equivalencies and program details, visit: [www.gvsu.edu/studyabroad](http://www.gvsu.edu/studyabroad) and choose the "study abroad program" option, then "non-GVSU affiliates".

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## **STAIR : University of Debrecen and Cracow University of Economics (year only, *partnership*)**

STAIR is a cooperative academic program between Cracow University of Economics (CUE) in Cracow, Poland and University of Debrecen (UD), Debrecen, Hungary and Grand Valley State University. The primary goal of this program is to facilitate student and faculty exchange between the partner universities in the area of international relations. Selected GVSU candidates will earn a bachelor-level diploma supplement in international relations from both the University of Debrecen and Cracow University of Economics.

The program offers an opportunity for students to study in two different countries/cultures, learn new languages, improve global competency, and engage in a learning environment which fosters an advanced transatlantic understanding between North America and Europe. GVSU students are required to participate in two semesters of study abroad, one semester in Poland and the other in Hungary.

The Padnos International Center and the STAIR Academic Board will select six students each fiscal year to receive the STAIR Exchange Student Scholarship of \$6,000 per semester for two semesters

### **Course Information:**

A number of course options for IR/PLS majors exist at University of Deusto.

To view course equivalencies and program details, visit: [www.gvsu.edu/studyabroad](http://www.gvsu.edu/studyabroad) and choose the “study abroad program” option, then “non-GVSU affiliates”.

## **Turkey: Middle East Technical University (summer, semester or year, *partnership*)**

Imagine a world-class research institution, a forested campus of over 11,000 acres, a rich history with ancient artifacts continually unearthed on campus, and regular bus service to clear Mediterranean beaches: you have Middle East Technical University in Ankara. METU is renowned for its strong programs in the humanities and social sciences. Courses should be chosen from offering at the following site:

### **Course Information:**

A number of course options for IR/PLS majors exist at Cracow University of Economics.

To view course equivalencies and program details, visit: [www.gvsu.edu/studyabroad](http://www.gvsu.edu/studyabroad) and choose the “study abroad program” option, then “non-GVSU affiliates”.

## Summer Internship Programs

### **GVSU London Internship Program**

Students who participate in this program work full time, five days a week, for 8 weeks. Internships take place in businesses, museums, international organizations, non-government organizations, law offices, etc. Students enroll in an internship course at Grand Valley State University supervised by a GVSU internship coordinator. The program begins with a week-long orientation prior to the commencement of the internship.

### **GVSU Madrid Internship Program**

Madrid offers unparalleled opportunities for students seeking a professional internship in a Spanish-speaking workplace. Placements are available for undergraduates in one of Madrid's many businesses or NGOs. The program begins with a 3-week intensive Spanish language course that prepares students to work in a Spanish-speaking environment. In the afternoons, students participate in excursions and cultural activities that introduce them to Spanish culture and society. Subsequently, students participate in a 9-week internship, working 36 hours a week.

### **GVSU Paris Internship Program**

Paris offers excellent internship opportunities in many French-speaking workplaces, including international organizations, businesses, and NGOs. The program begins with a 3-week intensive French language course that prepares students to work in a French-speaking environment. In the afternoons, students participate in excursions that introduce them to French culture and society. Following this, students participate in a 9-week internship, working 35 hours a week in a professional setting.

## Non-GVSU Programs

**If you wish to study abroad in a location not listed in this document, you may elect to participate in a non-GVSU program. Students who participate in non-GVSU programs are still required to complete GVSU's online application for study abroad. PIC staff will assist you in your research for a non-GVSU program. Non-GVSU programs listed below may be of particular interest to IR/PLS majors.**

### **School for International Training (SIT) Study Abroad Programs**

SIT offers program options focused on themes such as Peace and Conflict Studies, Social Justice, or Development Studies. These programs enable students to gain language proficiency, further understanding of the host culture, and develop knowledge of a particular subject. The following programs are recommended:

Cyprus: Transnational Identities and Intercommunal Relations

Switzerland: International Studies, Organizations and Social Justice

Chile: Culture, Development, and Social Justice

Cambodia: Reconstruction, Reconciliation, and Civil Society

For additional information: <http://www.sit.edu/studyabroad>

### **International Education (IES) – EU Program in Freiburg, Germany**

This single-semester IES European Union program offers outstanding learning opportunities in political science and international relations. Students study the development and activities of the EU, with field trips to many locations relevant to the EU's past and future. Courses emphasize the historical and institutional development of the EU, its internal policies, issues of culture, and its relations with outside nations. This program includes a Model European Union simulation. Participants meet with government, NGO, and business workers. Visit: [www.IESabroad.org](http://www.IESabroad.org)