STUDY ABROAD

UNC-Chapel Hill guarantees that a global education is available to every student. According to UNC Chapel Hill’s strategic plan, Carolina Next: Innovations for Public Good, “our graduates must demonstrate global competencies and skills to thrive as engaged citizens and successful professionals.” Study abroad can positively impact a student’s academic success, career path, and personal growth.

UNC–Chapel Hill’s study abroad programs are high-quality, credit-bearing academic experiences available at hundreds of locations worldwide to students in all academic programs, majors, and minors. Carolina strives to ensure that study abroad programs are accessible, affordable, and safe. A wide range of study abroad options meet the academic needs, financial realities, schedules, and language abilities of Carolina students. Programs include undergraduate student exchanges, faculty-led, direct enroll, and short-term immersion programs during the summer, semester, and academic year. Financial aid can be used toward study abroad program costs. We award some $1 million in study abroad scholarships annually. Students can also choose from an array of virtual study abroad or exchange programs for completing fully remote coursework or internships through UNC exchange partner universities or study abroad organizations.

The UNC Study Abroad Office (https://studyabroad.unc.edu/) in the College of Arts & Sciences is the primary unit responsible for managing study abroad programs for undergraduate students enrolled in the College (including Honors Carolina), and some professional schools.

- The Kenan-Flagler Business School Undergraduate Global Programs (https://www.kenan-flagler.unc.edu/programs/undergraduate-business/global-programs/) office administers semester, summer, and short-term immersion programs for all major and minor students admitted to the Kenan-Flagler Business School.
- The Hussman School of Journalism and Media (http://hussman.unc.edu/ug/studentservices/globalprograms/) administers semester, summer, and short-term immersion programs for students admitted to the Hussman School.
- Undergraduate students in the Gillings School of Public Health, School of Education, School of Information and Library Science, and School of Nursing are eligible for education abroad opportunities specific to their degree programs.

Study abroad credit is awarded to students participating in approved programs administered by the Study Abroad Office and other UNC global programs offices. Students may earn academic credit for approved internship, research, and service-learning programs abroad (including virtual programs). Students seeking to participate in student-initiated programs for academic credit may submit a petition for approval to the Study Abroad Office.

The credit approval process for study abroad courses is coordinated by the UNC Study Abroad Office or the UNC school sponsoring the program, and credit is awarded after the program ends and official transcripts have been received. UNC students may earn course credit that fulfills elective, General Education, language, and major/minor requirements abroad. All students who participate in approved study abroad programs earn experiential education (EE) General Education credit (including virtual programs). Major/minor credits for study abroad courses that have not been pre-approved must be granted by the director of undergraduate studies or designated authority in the relevant department.

Study Abroad Grading

The University awards course credit for a study abroad program when the student has earned a grade of C or its equivalent and when a similar course is offered by the university. For courses in which grades are reported on a scale other than A–F, students will earn credit only if the study abroad institution or program verifies that the passing grade represents achievement at the level of C or higher. If students receive final grades of C- or below (or the equivalent, if reported on a scale other than A–F), they will not earn credit or satisfy academic requirements and the course will impact the UNC GPA as a failed course. For courses completed in units other than semester hours, the university will convert credit earned to semester hours. Some programs, such as UNC–Chapel Hill faculty-led and short-term immersion options, offer UNC-graded course credits.

Additional information on study abroad credit and grading can be found on the Study Abroad website (https://studyabroad.unc.edu/earning-credit-from-spring-2021-forward/).

UNC students have a unique opportunity to earn a second bachelor’s degree during their four years of undergraduate study by enrolling for two or three semesters at the National University of Singapore (NUS), one of Carolina’s strategic global partner institutions, and fulfilling degree requirements at both UNC and NUS. The joint degree program is available to students majoring in biology, economics, English literature, geography, global studies, history, or political science. There is no additional tuition cost to joint degree students. For more information about the joint degree program, contact the UNC Study Abroad Office (abroad@unc.edu), (919) 962-7002.

Students are encouraged to begin planning for study abroad as early as possible after enrolling at UNC to ensure that a global experience is part of their academic program. The first step is to attend a Study Abroad 101 information session. Students can then schedule a one-on-one advising session in the Study Abroad Office, or contact the global programs staff in their professional school. Study abroad staff assist students in selecting the best programs for their academic, financial, personal, and professional goals.

Deadlines for UNC Study Abroad Office

September 10*: Study Abroad Office applications and study abroad scholarship applications due for spring semester study abroad

February 10*: Study Abroad applications and study abroad scholarship applications due for fall semester, academic year, and summer study abroad

Deadlines for other UNC global programs, offices, and virtual programs vary year to year.

* Some programs may have earlier deadlines. Please check with the UNC Study Abroad office regarding your specific program(s) of interest.

Contacts

UNC Study Abroad Office (http://studyabroad.unc.edu/)
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