Studying Abroad in Biological and Chemical Sciences

Studying abroad is increasingly important for majors in the physical sciences such as biology, chemistry and physics. An international experience can provide you with necessary skills to work effectively with people from around the world and give you the opportunity to gain a new perspective of BCS that will be invaluable when you enter the job market. Employers in think tanks, laboratories, academia, non-profits, local, state, federal and international agencies value the skills and experiences gained by students who go abroad, with IBM and Deloitte acknowledging that the resilience, cultural awareness and knowledge of global issues gained are critical to the companies’ success.

Why should I go abroad?
Studying abroad is an opportunity to not only explore another place in the world, but also to gain many skills that will significantly enhance your studies and career. Some of the potential benefits of going abroad include:

- Gain an international perspective of biological and chemical sciences
- Experience another culture – and develop a greater awareness of your own
- Become more self-confident and independent
- Expand your cross-cultural communication and problem-solving skills
- Develop and improve your language skills
- Gain a competitive edge for any resume or graduate application
- Relate classroom lectures to real-world situations

Can I afford an international experience?
Yes! If going abroad is a priority, there is generally a way to make it affordable. Early planning helps students make cost-effective program decisions, and it also helps them prepare their finances through savings, scholarships, and financial aid. Though many programs are comparable to the cost of attending IIT, there is a great deal of variation in costs between programs, and students should carefully consider all of their options before making a decision. Utilize the Study Abroad Worksheet to help you compare programs side by side. Students can apply for financial aid and scholarships to approved international programs (check out our website for a great list!) and, in some cases, financial aid eligibility will increase to cover additional expenses in certain locations.

How will the study abroad program fulfill my graduation requirements?
Science majors have an extremely structured set of courses, but with careful planning, there is an international experience that will work for every BCS student. Many students have taken courses abroad in the sciences, though others may spend a summer abroad to fulfill humanities and general electives to free up time during the regular semesters to focus on coursework for their majors. The Office of Undergraduate Academic Affairs will work with you to ensure that all courses you plan to take are approved before you apply to a program, ensuring that your time spent abroad will count towards your requirements.

What kinds of programs are offered?
Faculty-led programs are created by IIT, and, as the name suggests, led by our own esteemed faculty. You pay tuition to IIT, and your financial aid works as though you are still on campus. Credit is IIT credit, not transfer credit, and it will count towards your GPA.

Exchange programs work on the principle of a one-for-one exchange of students, with a balance of students being maintained on a rolling basis. You will pay IIT tuition for the term you are abroad, in order to take courses at a foreign institution alongside students from the host country. Your institutional scholarships and federal aid will still apply. Proficiency in the host language may be required, though there are many universities around the world in which the language of instruction is English.
Partner programs are similar to exchange programs in that you take courses at a host institution with whom we have a relationship, but we do not maintain a balance of students. You pay tuition directly to the school, and federal aid may apply.

Third Party Provider programs are conducted either in foreign institutions or a special program center. You pay one fee to a program provider, and it often includes tuition, housing, insurance, and some field trips. Federal aid may apply, and many providers offer scholarship competitions.

Internships abroad are a great way to gain experience with an international flavor! Some are paid, some are for academic credit – we help you read the fine print.

External programs are those institutions or organizations with whom we have no relationship. We still work with you on determining if IIT would accept credit, and if so, we work with you to complete your application as normal.

Where can I go?
Anywhere! IIT offers programs on six continents, including many for BCS majors.

Our website will feature many more programs, but here is a sampling to get you started:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>University/Program</th>
<th>Program Type</th>
<th>Term Abroad</th>
<th>Course Language</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ireland</td>
<td>University College Cork</td>
<td>Exchange</td>
<td>Spring, Academic Year</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>University of Oviedo</td>
<td>Exchange</td>
<td>Spring, Academic Year</td>
<td>Spanish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>Queensland University of Technology</td>
<td>Exchange</td>
<td>Fall, Spring, Academic Year</td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>RISE Program</td>
<td>Paid Internship</td>
<td>Summer</td>
<td>English</td>
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Don’t see a program that works for you? Can’t decide between the many choices? Check out our website to explore more options and utilize the Study Abroad Worksheet, or work with your study abroad advisor to find a program that fits your needs!

How can I get started?
1. Check out our website at [www.iit.edu/study_abroad/early_planning](http://www.iit.edu/study_abroad/early_planning) to learn about the study abroad process, explore programs that work for your major and interests, review scholarship competitions, and more. Our Study Abroad Worksheet will help you compare your options.
2. Start talking with your academic advisors early on to get a jump on planning for how study abroad can fit with your degree plan. Other advisors or coaches may also have valuable input.
3. Drop by the Study Abroad Office during walk-in hours to talk with an advisor. We look forward to seeing you soon!

“Perhaps the best experience of my academic career, studying abroad gave me an opportunity to engage a new culture and evaluate myself, my role as an American and my place in a globalized world.”

Kevin Krupp
Copenhagen, Demark