Why You Should Go Abroad as an Engineer

All You Need to Know to Study Abroad!

Why Should I Study Abroad?

Will studying abroad help me grow as a person?
- Yes! Work or study abroad ranks among the most profoundly transformative experiences in 19-21 year-olds. It shows that you have the ability to cope and adapt to different environments, and you will gain more independence.

Will studying abroad help me understand different cultures?
- Yes! There is no better way to understand, respect, and appreciate different cultures than fully immersing into it. It will give you a new international perspective and help you better interact with those of a different cultural background.

Will studying abroad help me find a job?
- Yes, it can! Studying abroad makes you more marketable and prepares you for today's global workplace. Employers look for people who demonstrate strong communication skills, speak a foreign language, and understand different cultural contexts and points of view. It also gives you a wealth of experiences to draw on in job and graduate school interviews.

Can I afford studying abroad?
- Yes! Financial aid is often portable, and scholarships are available on the International Studies website. Depending on the program, out-of-state students may end up paying less for their abroad experience than they would at UVA, so planning is key!

Will I regret studying abroad?
- No! Studying abroad is an amazing opportunity to travel, meet new people, and gain a world of contextual skills. Students who return never regret their decision of studying abroad. Your whole perspective about yourself and the world changes!

For more information, visit https://engineering.virginia.edu/about/offices/international-programs
When is the Best Time to Go Abroad?

Academic and Timing Considerations

**Semester or Year**

Start planning early!!!

You should start planning study abroad as early as possible, especially if you want to go abroad for a semester or year. There are plenty of programs that offer direct enrollment into local universities, including UVA exchange programs and outside providers, like AIFS, IES Abroad, CIEE, and Arcadia.

If you’re wanting to study abroad for a semester or year, you should begin to identify which semester(s) makes the most sense for you to study abroad. You’ll need to take into account what courses you can find abroad for transfer credit and what classes are more flexible to move around in your curriculum. It all depends on your major and where you are with your requirements!

**Summer or J-Term**

There are a number of summer and January term study, research, and internship options available. Faculty-led summer and J-term programs are very popular in engineering, as they offer a great perspective on your coursework, can get engineering requirements filled, and don’t interrupt your time at UVA. But don’t limit yourself! You can use study abroad credits for major and minor requirements or to fulfill HSS and unrestricted electives.

**How to Begin!**

Start by finding a few countries that you are interested in, and think about if you want to do a semester program versus a summer or J-term. Then meet with an education abroad advisor to find a program in your major, determine how to find courses, and meet with your department’s advisor to get approval.

https://engineering.virginia.edu/about/offices/international-programs#accordion59362

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**Aleyna Bedir**

Civil Engineering ‘20

2020 January Term UVA in Italy

It was amazing to experience Rome through site visits to incredible works of Renaissance architecture and art! I gained an extensive understanding and appreciation for various Renaissance techniques used and the significance of their impact on art history. I believe that having this additional perspective on how the built environment gets shaped throughout history will be extremely valuable as I begin my career as a Civil Engineer.
How Do I Apply?

Steps to go abroad
✓ Consult with Office of Engineering International Programs
✓ Complete the online Education Abroad Workshop
✓ Talk with your department about timing and course requirements
✓ Learn about funding from the ISO (financial aid, scholarships)
✓ Research programs and apply online
✓ Participate in cross-cultural seminars (CORE)

International Studies Office and Abroad Advisors
The International Studies Office (ISO) facilitates education abroad for UVA students. It is located on the second floor of Minor Hall, by the Amphitheatre. In the ISO, Education Abroad Advisors manage UVA abroad programs, hold office hours, and take appointments to advise students on education abroad.

There is an Education Abroad Advisor for each region:
- **Annia Dowell-Wiltshire**: lsd9v@virginia.edu
  - Europe (EXCEPT Spain, Portugal, France, Belgium, Switzerland)
- **Emily Graber**: eg9cx@virginia.edu
  - UK and Ireland
- **Leah Hicks**: ldb7v@virginia.edu
  - East Asia, France, Belgium, Switzerland, Canada
- **Evan Owen**: edo9h@virginia.edu
  - Russia, Central Asia, UVA Commerce: Sustainable Practices in Denmark
- **Hayley Spear**: hss8jf@virginia.edu
  - Oceania, South Asia, Multi-Country & At-Sea
- **Margaret Walter**: mkg7g@virginia.edu
  - Africa, Middle East, London First
- **Liz Wellbeloved**: eaw5cf@virginia.edu
  - UVA in Valencia, Spain, Portugal, Latin America & the Caribbean

Transfer Credit Approval and Engineering Abroad Advisors
The Office of Engineering International Programs offers information, advising, and logistical support specifically for engineering students interested in education abroad. For more information, contact Dana Elzey (dme2j@virginia.edu) or Maya Drake (mel2j@virginia.edu).

For approval for engineering transfer courses, consult the Engineering Study Abroad Advisor for your major. All transfer courses must get a final approval from William Guilford (whg2n@virginia.edu).

- **Mechanical and Aerospace**: Natasha Leigh Smith (nls5m@virginia.edu)
- **Biomedical**: Shannon Barker (sb3xk@virginia.edu)
- **Chemical**: Eric Anderson (ewa3a@virginia.edu)
- **Civil & Environmental**: Leidy Klotz (lk6m@virginia.edu)
- **Computer Science**: Charles Reiss (cr4bd@virginia.edu)
- **Electrical & Computer**: Mircea Stan (mrs8n@virginia.edu) and Joanne Dugan (jbd@virginia.edu)
- **Engineering Science and Materials Science**: Dana Elzey (dme2j@virginia.edu)
- **Systems & Environment**: Reid Bailey (rrbailey@virginia.edu)

For more information:
- Engineering International Programs: Thornton B103
- Engineering Abroad Advisors: https://engineering.virginia.edu/about/offices/international-programs
- International Studies Office: 208 Minor Hall
- Education Abroad Advisors: https://educationabroad.virginia.edu/make-advising-appointment
UVA in Valencia
One of the Most Popular, Semester Long, Engineering Study Abroad Programs!

UVA Engineering in Valencia is an opportunity to spend the fall of your second year in Valencia, Spain. The program offers UVA engineering courses that you would take back On Grounds in English, taught by Spanish faculty. This will give students a unique opportunity to gain a different perspective on the coursework.

UVA in Valencia is an enriching and comprehensive experience for anyone interested in becoming well-versed in Spanish culture, literature, art, and language. Through living with a host family, a required Spanish language course, and cultural activities and trips offered during the semester, students will improve their fluency in Spanish and get to experience firsthand the vibrant culture of Spain.

Valencia is the third largest city in Spain. Located on the Mediterranean Coast and surrounded by immense beaches, it gracefully mixes old and new, with modern public service, business establishments, and leisure attractions, set against a backdrop of historically important civic and religious buildings, monuments, and museums. Valencia is well located with respect to other cities in Spain and, with its own airport, is convenient for travelling all around Europe!

UVA in Valencia now includes classes in APMA, BME, CHE, CHEM, CS, ECE, MAE, PHYS, STS, and SYS. There is a 2000 level Spanish language requirement, and participants are required to take at least one Spanish language or literature course. Students live with host families nearby UVA’s study center. Students can play soccer with local Spanish students, learn how to cook paella, and sail in the Mediterranean! Weekend excursions to Madrid, Granada, Toledo, and Barcelona are common.

Some Other Programs

Research Internships:
Daegu Gyeonbuk Institute of Science and Technology (DGIST) and Shibaura Institute of Technology (SIT): Students interested in research abroad may consider DGIST, located in a country-like setting in Daegu, South Korea’s third largest city, or SIT, located in Japan. Rising third and fourth years are eligible to apply.

Summer Internships:
Internships abroad can be done through UVA Independent Global Internships, UVA Internship Placement Programs, through outside Internship Placement Programs, or on your own! For more details, check out the ISO website, or contact Ingrid Hakala (ihm6t@virginia.edu) in the Office of Global Internships.

Community Service Projects:
SEAS offers numerous opportunities to engage in service learning projects, primarily in Guatemala, the Dominican Republic, and South Africa. Students interested can contact Engineering Students Without Borders. https://www.ewb-usa.org/
Popular Faculty-Led Programs

UVA in Germany
Summer Program: Global Technology Practice
Course: ENGR 4595 and GETR 3559
This 4-week program is designed to give students an introduction to the development and use of technology in Stuttgart, Germany and the role of cultural values in shaping technology practice.
Program Director:
Dana Elzey: dme2j@virginia.edu

UVA in Lithuania
Summer Program: Sustainable Engineering Design Challenges
Course: STS 2500
This 3-week program in Vilnius, Lithuania, and Prague, Czech Republic, gives students the opportunity to work on real-world requests for sustainability interventions.
Program Directors:
Maya Drake: mel2j@virginia.edu
Sean Ferguson: smf6p@virginia.edu

UVA in Greece
Summer Program: Creative Interaction Design
Course: CS 4501
This 4-week program in Crete, Greece, is an immersive, hands-on experience in the field of Human-Computer Interaction. It will expose students to the creative process of designing interactive products for public spaces of cultural and touristic interest.
Program Director:
Panagiotis Apostolellis: panaga@virginia.edu
UVA in Guatemala
Summer Program: Engineering & Public Health
Course: STS 3500 or GDS 3120
This 2-week course focuses on different aspects of Public Health ranging from infrastructure, healthcare, potable water, sanitation, and education. The program is joined by a group of 8 Guatemalan students. Spanish is not required but could be useful.
Program Director:
Eric Anderson: ewa3a@virginia.edu

UVA in Sweden
Summer Program: Global Sustainability Consulting
Course: SYS 2054 or SYS 3054
This 2-week program in Lund, Sweden, teaches students how the principles and values of sustainable development are integrated into organizations in Sweden.
Program Director:
Reid Bailey: rrbailey@virginia.edu

UVA in Argentina
J-Term: International Consulting
Course: SYS 2054/3054 or COMM 4293
This 2-week program in Mendoza, Argentina, gives students practice problem-solving in an international consulting context. In teams, students will propose solutions to real-world challenges experienced by wineries in Argentina.
Program Directors:
Stefano Grazioli: grazioli@virginia.edu
Ryan Nelson: melson@virginia.edu
Programs Around the World

Africa
- South Africa, Arts and Sciences in Cape Town through CIEE
- Egypt, UVA Exchange: American University in Cairo

Asia
- China, UVA Exchange: Peking University
- China, UVA Exchange: Tsinghua University
- Hong Kong, UVA Exchange: The Chinese University of Hong Kong
- Hong Kong, UVA Exchange: University of Hong Kong
- Hong Kong, UVA Exchange: Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
- Japan, UVA Exchange: Shibaura Institute of Technology (summer)
- Japan, UVA Exchange: Sophia University
- Japan, UVA Exchange: Waseda University in Tokyo
- Singapore, UVA Exchange: National University of Singapore
- South Korea, UVA Engineering: Daegu Gyeongbuk Institute of Science and Technology (summer)
- South Korea, UVA Exchange: Korea University
- South Korea, UVA Exchange: Seoul National University

Central & South America
- Argentina, J-Term: UVA in Argentina
- Brazil, UVA Exchange: Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro
- Chile, IES: Santiago: Chilean Universities Program
- Chile, IES: Santiago
- Ecuador, IES: Universidad San Francisco de Quito
- Guatemala, UVA in Guatemala: Public Health, Engineering, and the Environment (summer)
- Peru, IFSA: Pontificia Universidad Catolica del Peru

Europe
- Denmark, UVA Exchange: University of Southern Denmark
- France, UVA Exchange: Hautes études d’ingénieur (HEI) in Lille
- Germany, Berlin: Summer Global Internship Program
- Germany, UVA Exchange: Technical University Berlin
- Germany, UVA Exchange: Technical University Dortmund
- Germany, UVA Exchange: Technical University Munich
- Germany, UVA in Germany: Global Technology Practice (summer)
- Ireland, UVA Exchange: University College Dublin
- Ireland, CIEE: Engineering, Technology, & Society in Dublin
- Ireland, IES: Dublin: Dublin City University
- Ireland, IES: Dublin: Trinity College Dublin
- Ireland, IFSA: Galway: National University of Ireland
- Ireland, IFSA: Limerick: University of Limerick
- Ireland, IFSA: Maynooth: National University of Ireland
- Ireland, IFSA: University of College Cork
- Italy, Arcadia: Rome
- Spain, IES: Madrid: Engineering, Math & Science
- Spain, UVA in Valencia: Engineering
- Sweden, UVA Exchange: Lund University
- Sweden, UVA in Sweden: Global Sustainability Consulting (summer)
- Turkey, UVA Exchange: Bogazici University
- Turkey, CIEE: Arts & Sciences in Istanbul
- United Kingdom, UVA Exchange: University of Bath
- United Kingdom, UVA Exchange: University of Birmingham
- United Kingdom, UVA Exchange: University of Edinburgh
- United Kingdom, UVA Exchange: University of Glasgow
- United Kingdom, UVA Exchange: University of Nottingham
- United Kingdom, IFSA: Cambridge: Cambridge University
- United Kingdom, IES: London: City University
- United Kingdom, IFSA: Belfast: Queen's University Belfast
- United Kingdom, University College London
- United Kingdom, IFSA: Brighton: University of Sussex
- United Kingdom, IFSA: Bristol: University of Ulster
- United Kingdom, IFSA: London: University of Westminster
- United Kingdom, Wales, Arcadia: Swansea University

Oceania
- Australia, Summer Internships with Arcadia University
- Australia, UVA Exchange: University of Melbourne
- Australia, UVA Exchange: University of New South Wales
- Australia, UVA Exchange: University of Queensland
- Australia, UVA Exchange: University of Tasmania
- Australia, Arcadia: Sydney: Summer Internship
- Australia, IES: Sydney: University of Sydney
- Australia, IFSA: University of Adelaide
- Australia, IFSA: Brisbane: Griffith University
- Australia, TEAN: James Cook University
- Australia, TEAN: Melbourne: Monash University
- Australia, TEAN: Brisbane: Queensland University of Technology
- Australia, TEAN: Sydney: University of Technology Sydney
- Australia, TEAN: Perth: University of Western Australia
- Australia, TEAN: Wollongong: University of Wollongong
- Fiji, UW Madison-Platteville: Fiji University of South Pacific
- New Zealand, UVA Exchange: University of Auckland
- New Zealand, UVA Exchange: University of Otago
- New Zealand, IFSA: Massey University in Wellington

North America
- Canada, UVA Exchange: McGill University
- Canada, UVA Exchange: University of British Columbia