About the International Experience

All Justice Studies and Forensic Science undergraduate majors are required to satisfy the International Experience requirement. The primary goal of this requirement is to introduce students to international and intercultural perspectives, in preparation for living and working in an increasingly globalized world. The experience may also expose students to more effective and viable practices, principles, and ideas about justice that they may use to transform their local communities and institutions over the course of their careers.

The International Experience is designed to provide high-quality global learning that is flexible, affordable, and relevant to the students’ individual interests. There are many options for fulfilling the requirement, and students may be able to apply financial aid towards the cost of some SJSU or CSU-sponsored study abroad programs. Scholarships are also available through CHaHS and other sources. Often, students find that it saves money to study abroad because housing costs are much lower in many other countries compared with Silicon Valley.

To satisfy the Justice Studies Department International Experience requirement, students must study abroad for at least nine days in an approved program, course of study, or class. Students may satisfy the "study abroad" requirement using any course from any subject —the course does not need to be a JS or FS designated course, and its units do not have to count toward the total for the major.

Benefits of Studying Abroad

- **Personal Growth**
  - Maturity, adaptability, sense of adventure, broader framework for decision-making, independence

- **Education and Career Advantages**
  - Expanded knowledge of institutions, businesses, and organizations, opening educational opportunities, fresh perspectives on careers

- **Communication Skills**
  - Improved language skills, second language acquisition, greater understanding of terms, gestures, and “body language”

- **Intercultural Competency**
  - Increased willingness to reach across cultural divides, greater comfort among diverse groups, understanding one’s own cultural values and biases

- **Globalization**
  - Appreciation of historical roots of contemporary global issues, tolerance of conflicting world views, becoming a citizen of the world

- **Joie De Vivre**
  - long-lasting friendships, memories that last a lifetime, unique experiences

Programs Offered

To study abroad, there are 4 main programs to choose from at SJSU:

- **Study Abroad Programs:** SJSU offers a range of bilateral exchange Study Abroad Programs for a single semester or academic year. Programs are available at over 33 universities in 18 different countries. You can find the program that is right for you by searching by region, country, or your major/minor. Website: https://goabroad.sjsu.edu

- **International Student Exchange Programs:** SJSU is partnered with the non-profit International Student Exchange Program (ISEP). It has agreements with 328 colleges and universities around the world. ISEP is dedicated to helping students overcome the financial and academic barriers to studying abroad. Website: https://www.isepstudyabroad.org

- **Faculty-Led Programs:** Faculty Led Programs (FLPs) are overseas courses taught by SJSU faculty from various academic fields for up to 5 weeks during the summer or winter sessions. FLPs are considered SJSU Special Session courses, and they range from 3 - 6 units, with many courses meeting general education requirements. Per unit fees for these programs are dependent upon the unique costs of running programs in particular locations. http://www.sjsu.edu/gei/flp/

- **CSU International Programs:** The California State University Chancellor’s Office manages study abroad programs at a network of international universities. Students pay SJSU tuition, but programs are also partially subsidized by the CSU system making them very affordable. All programs run for one year. CSU International Programs (CSUIP) are some of the highest quality programs in California. Website: http://csuip.calstate.edu/

http://www.sjsu.edu/justicestudies/
Scholarships

- Justice Studies Department Scholarships
  [http://www.sjsu.edu/justicestudies/]
- Dean’s International Scholarship
  [http://www.sjsu.edu/casa/]
- SJSU Wide Scholarships
  [https://sjsu.academicworks.com/]
- USA Study Abroad Scholarships
  [https://studyabroad.state.gov/]
- Education First Study Abroad Scholarships
  [https://www.efcollegestudytours.com/]

Alternatives

In lieu of study abroad at SJSU, other international experiences may be validated. Examples of experiences that may be validated include study abroad at another university or college, independent international experiences (e.g., service or volunteer trips), or being an international student. Sometimes validation requires taking a one-unit online international experience seminar, APSC 198TL.

Exemption from the “study abroad” portion of the requirement may only be approved by the Associate Dean of the College of Health and Human Sciences. Only compelling individual life experiences or physical limitations will be considered grounds for an exemption.

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