It has been said that “the best geologist is the one who has seen the most rocks,” therefore it is imperative for UCSB earth sciences majors to get out in the world and see what planet Earth is made of, how it works, and how other people regard and study it. The earth sciences are international in scope and should be studied globally. The department has always encouraged its students to go abroad at an EAP partner university to complete some part of their departmental undergraduate required and elective courses.

Earth sciences majors have chosen to study abroad in countries such as Chile, Australia, Italy, New Zealand, Spain, and England. With careful academic planning and application of study abroad units, Earth Sciences majors can have a unique academic experience at a foreign university with no loss of time in completing their UCSB degree.

**Why study abroad?**

UC’s Education Abroad Program offers Earth Sciences students a marvelous opportunity to study part of the Earth in one of 34 countries located on six continents. In recent years, Earth sciences students have studied erupting volcanoes in Chile and Italy, glaciers in Norway, active faults in New Zealand, and classic geologic sites in Scotland. Some of the universities offer field trips to neighboring countries, such as to the Alps in Switzerland, and the fjords in Norway. You would be learning about geology in the field rather than from a book or virtually from a website.

**Where should I study abroad?**

The universities in Australia, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom have splendid curricula that UC earth sciences majors have taken, particularly Melbourne in Australia; Dunedin, Christchurch, Wellington, and Auckland in New Zealand; and Leeds and Edinburgh in England and Scotland, respectively. UC students have also had marvelous experiences at Santiago, Chile; Bologna, Italy; and Lund, Sweden. Some universities offer a more specialized earth sciences curriculum than others.

For example, Lund specializes in Quaternary studies; some of the universities in Australia have courses in economic geology and mining; and some of the New Zealand universities are very strong in structural geology.

The lab research program in Osaka, Japan allows UC students to spend their entire semester conducting hands-on investigations under the supervision of top scientists through experiments, peer consultation, group work, and interactive discussions. Prior Japanese is not required.

Students with the necessary preparation in a modern foreign language (normally two years at the university level) should strongly consider enrolling in an earth science program.

**Plan Ahead!**

Applications are due as much as eight months prior to a program’s start date and some programs have academic or language prerequisites that must be satisfied in advance. Please check the EAP website for application deadlines: eap.ucsb.edu
program of study in Chile, Italy, Spain, France, Germany, or Sweden. Earth sciences is an international subject, and not every one in the world speaks or understands English. EAP offers a splendid opportunity to gain or improve language fluency while studying major subjects toward your earth sciences degree.

When should I study abroad?
The junior year is best because students have normally completed their lower division courses in the major and most of their General Education requirements, and still will have their senior year at UCSB to fulfill any requirements left undone during their year abroad. With very careful planning and close consultation with the department’s EAP advisor, you may elect to study abroad in your senior year.

Keep in mind that at least 20 units of upper-division coursework must be completed in residence at UCSB along with other residence requirements. The department’s EAP advisor will help you select partner university courses that will equate to departmental required and elective courses.

How do I get started?
Begin by identifying your goals for study abroad and then consult the EAP web pages (eap.ucop.edu) to identify appropriate EAP programs. To find programs which offer particular disciplines or to search courses taken by EAP students over the last 5 years by subject, keyword and/or location, explore the resources found under Program Search and Course Catalog. Navigate to host universities’ web sites on the available links to learn more about the schools and their departments.

Stop by the EAP office at 2431 South Hall. Peer advisors who have recently returned from studying abroad as well as staff advisors are eager to answer your questions.

Go see your department undergraduate advisor who will help you prepare a detailed study plan to allow completion of the B.S. or B.A. degree in earth science in four years. Additionally, you’ll want to meet with an advisor in the College of Letters & Science to discuss general education, residence and other requirements.

The Cost of EAP
Studying abroad through EAP can be comparable to the cost of study at UCSB. EAP participants pay UC fees and continue to receive UC financial aid while abroad. EAP students are also eligible for special grants and scholarships from UC and other sources.

“EAP brought me out of the bubble I was living in here in the U.S. It made me desire to travel the world, interact with all different cultures, learn their ways and understand their values. EAP will not set you back academically and it will be the highlight of your college career. It will change your outlook on the world, and you will gain a new perspective on topics you thought you had already nailed down.”

Ian Ryan
EAP Spain

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