Study Abroad For Math Majors

The Mathematics Department encourages its students to study abroad through the Education Abroad Program. In a world which is becoming increasingly globalized, exposure to other cultures can help students gain new perspectives and achieve a greater understanding of the world in which we live. College is an ideal time to take advantage of the opportunity to live abroad for a summer, a semester, or a year. In addition to developing your self-confidence, independence and perspectives, your international experience will benefit your career goals and/or graduate school opportunities.

Why study abroad?

UCEAP offers unparalleled opportunities to obtain the broader perspectives, knowledge, and skills necessary to be effective professionally in our rapidly changing global world. Possibilities are numerous to further your study of mathematics, as well as innumerable other subjects, in many countries around the world.

The benefits of studying and living abroad are tremendous. You can:

- Take advantage of unique academic coursework opportunities in mathematics
- Participate in a different educational system
- Improve critical thinking skills
- Advance your cross-cultural and problem-solving skills
- Expand your world view by experiencing another culture firsthand
- Develop self-confidence and independence
- Prepare for a career in an internationally competitive world
- Enhance your resume for job or graduate school applications

Returning UCEAP students often describe their experience abroad as a life-changing and uniquely valuable one for future choices of professional and personal goals.

Where should I study abroad?

UCEAP participants have the choice of over 40 countries in which to spend a year, a semester, or a summer. Students also have the option of studying in English or in a foreign language.

While mathematics courses in English are offered at a number of UCEAP host universities, particularly strong English language programs can be found in the Australia, Hong Kong, Ireland, New Zealand, Sweden, Singapore and the UK. Additionally, UCSB math majors have also attended the Budapest Semester in Mathematics and received credit towards their major for the math courses taken there (budapestsemesters.com). Note that this program is not offered through UCEAP. For a summary of programs for math and science majors, go to this UCEAP website.

Students may want to pick a program to fulfill GE requirements or go on one of UCEAP’s intensive Language and Culture programs offered in over ten countries around the world.

When should I study abroad?

While it is possible for math students to go abroad at almost any point in their academic careers, the particular quarter, semester, summer or year that you study abroad depends on what
courses you plan to take. Students interested in Language and Culture programs, or in fulfilling major preparation and general education requirements, can participate as early as their sophomore year.

Students wanting to fulfill upper-division major requirements should be aware that students at foreign universities begin their specialization in mathematics earlier than US students. Consequently, mathematics courses abroad are often taught at a more demanding level, especially in the upper-division. Please consult the with the department’s undergraduate advisor.

What classes should I take?
All UCEAP students automatically earn UC credit for the work they complete abroad. However, the application of credit to major requirements is subject to the discretion of your department and approval of the college.

Pre-approved math courses at the UCEAP programs below may be found at [https://eap.ucsb.edu/academics/Mathematics](https://eap.ucsb.edu/academics/Mathematics): (petition still needed).

Australia -- University of Melbourne, University of Queensland
Germany -- Technical University Berlin (coursework in German)
Hong Kong – Chinese University of Hong Kong, University of Hong Kong
Ireland – Trinity College Dublin, University College Dublin
New Zealand – University of Auckland
Singapore – National University of Singapore
Sweden -- Lund University

Remember: You still must petition the Math department for course approval when you return!

Keep in mind that at least 20 units of upper-division major coursework (12 upper-division minor units) must be completed in residence at UCSB along with other residence requirements. Consult an advisor in the College of Letters & Science for more information.

How do I get started?
Determine what courses you need to take while abroad in order to graduate on time. Then research UCEAP programs where you can find those courses. Research programs through the UCEAP website. Check out the pre-approved coursework on the UCSB EAP website. Be sure to navigate to host universities’ websites on the available links to learn more about the schools and their departments.

Stop by the UCSB 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 undergraduate advisor in the department office and make an appointment to speak with an advisor in the College of Letters & Science.

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 UCSB EAP web site for application deadlines.

Department of Mathematics
South Hall, Room 6607
University of California, Santa Barbara
Santa Barbara, CA 93106
math.ucsb.edu