

Office for Undergraduate Studies Guidelines for  
Students Requesting to Participate in Two Study-Abroad Programs  
(As of April 14, 2008)

We begin with the premise that students should develop a plan with their advisors and the Assistant Deans in the College of Arts and Letters to integrate their experiences studying abroad with their academic goals. A successful experience studying abroad, in coursework or internships, requires careful research to identify programs compatible with one's academic needs. If students wish to attend two study abroad programs, they must at a minimum be in good academic standing, demonstrate that they can fulfill all university and major requirements in time to graduate on schedule, and provide a rationale for why studying in two separate programs is essential for their academic development.

As these are exceptional requests, a student will be required to write an appeal that provides a well-articulated rationale for how two different programs complement his or her academic plan. The focus of this request must address the following question: Is studying abroad on two different programs essential to the successful completion of a student's academic goals? In developing this rationale, students should address the following:

- The extent to which the academic opportunities abroad are not available at Notre Dame.
- The ways the specific content of the courses they plan to take builds upon and extends the work students have done so far at Notre Dame. Students should draw from past coursework to ground their academic plan as they project what they will take abroad and in their senior year.
- The ways students' intended coursework relates to the overall trajectory that students have mapped out for their major.
- The extent to which an internship complements the specific coursework students have completed at Notre Dame, students' future plans, and the specific coursework students are doing in a given study-abroad program. The quality of the academic courses accompanying an internship component is an important concern.
- The ways that students' experiences in coursework and/or an internship can guide the student in research projects and eventually prepare them to apply for fellowships, graduate school, or other employment opportunities.

The benefit of studying abroad for a full year is more than the sum of two semesters – linguistically, culturally, and intellectually. Students should weigh the pros and cons of studying abroad in one program for a semester versus an entire year in two separate programs and consult with their advisers, with the Assistant Deans in Arts and Letters, and the Office of International Studies to determine an appropriate plan.