

SUCCEEDING IN FOREIGN CLASSROOMS ABROAD

Helpful Tips from SCU International Ambassadors

Teaching Styles

- Get to know professors well, especially since some professors can be more critical of students in front of whole class.
- Not a lot of busy-work and many classes are lecture- based.
- In Greece, there are a lot of discussion/opinionated lectures with little homework but keeping on the reading is important.
- Knowing the local language is important and many teachers are not expected to help after class
- Class attendance at Spanish universities is optional, but you should go.
- Don't be surprised if professors don't give you much attention.
- The Spanish school calendar is very different; you might have trouble finishing class which ends in February if you're only abroad for the Fall.

Work Load

- Reading is very important.
- Don't take overwhelming classes, but do challenge yourself.
- Get to know researching online through the SCU website.

Time Management

- Many programs are not lenient with skipped classes, breaks and long weekends purposely given for vacation time.
- Talk with professor, many will reorganize dates of mid-terms and tests if majority of class was travelling over the weekend.

Technical Issues (Computers, Internet, etc.)/School Supplies

- Bring a laptop! Take advantage of internet cafes.
- Bring note-cards.
- Bring college-ruled lined paper since paper in Paris is usually different, such as graph-like style.

Other Challenges/Tips

- Language classes are some of the most important classes!
- Be prepared to hear descriptions of America and history in a different light.
- Getting high grades is hard in a Parisian system.
- Pay attention to the social issues in your country and work in those fields.
- Take advantage of extra-curricular learning opportunities like kung-fu & calligraphy classes in China, for example and look for volunteer or internship opportunities by asking program directors. In China, many opportunities are available (thebeijinger.com or Craigslist Beijing).
- Educate yourselves outside of the class by talking to the locals, such as eating or drinking coffee with your professors after school.

