

Making Abroad a Reality for Engineers

Action Item Timeline

First Year:

1. Review the study abroad website and consult the major and minor advising guides (MAPS see study abroad website)
2. Meet with the Study abroad office staff during drop in advising hours to begin planning your goals for study abroad
3. Consult the Engineering Peer Advisors for advice on how to adjust your schedule in an effort to plan for abroad
4. Discuss studying abroad with your faculty advisor during spring quarter advising

Second Year:

1. Consult the application policies and make sure you are eligible to study abroad
2. Attend one of the Study Abroad 101 sessions
3. Plan out the classes you need to take before, during and after study abroad with your academic advisor
4. Meet with the study abroad office during drop in advising hours to insure that all logistical issues have been addressed
5. Check the SCU study abroad course equivalency data base and consult the web site for how to get courses approved (see resource section below)
6. Connect with returned study abroad students from the program to which you are applying (see Returned Student Database on the website)
6. Follow the application process steps and submit your application

Third Year:

1. Enjoy your time abroad; engaging with the local community
2. Consult the returned student resources on the SCU study abroad website and meet with study abroad staff to learn about opportunities to apply your learning from abroad.
3. Attend the welcome back event and meet other returned students and greet SCU exchange students
4. Once you have returned from studying abroad review your degree audit report ; checking that your major, core and minor units have transferred over properly
5. Consider studying abroad for Senior year

Frequently asked questions pertinent to Engineering

When should I start seriously looking into study abroad?

Students should begin to consider studying abroad during their first year. The earlier you plan to go abroad the better. Review your course schedule and speak to your faculty advisor about adjusting your schedule to make sure that going abroad will work for your academic plans.

Where should you study abroad as an engineer?

In order to graduate in four years and gain a global perspective on the field, students should attempt to take at least two or three engineering courses while abroad. Therefore they'll need to attend an institution that offers courses within their specific engineering major. Unless the student going abroad is also fluent in a second language they should also look for an institution that offers courses in English.

Once I decide I want to apply to study abroad when should I be meeting with advisors?

Consult your faculty adviser early about your plans. They will be able to guide you to classes that you can move around in your schedule in order to free up time to go abroad. They can also advise you on what engineering classes would be suitable to take while abroad. The Study Abroad Office can also be used as a resource for drop in advising hours

For more information, visit <http://www.scu.edu/globalengagement/contact/>

When should I study abroad and how many units should I take?

Most engineering students choose to study abroad during the fall quarter of their third year. This allows students to attend another semester-based school and still return in time to begin SCU's winter and spring quarters. Many students who plan accordingly can get five classes to transfer as major, minor, or core credits. All students studying abroad are required to take at least 15 semester credits while studying abroad. This translates to 22.5 quarter credits, making your time abroad well worth your while.

What are the best classes for engineers to take abroad?

It is ideal to take two to three courses that can count towards your major. This ensures that you stay on track academically while enhancing your professional development to understand the field from a global lens. As a means to balancing your curriculum and ensuring you graduate on-time, look in to the possibility of taking courses that will count towards your minor and core requirements. By balancing your academic units with major, minor and core requirements you will optimize your learning and receive credit for all of your coursework while abroad.

Is it possible to find work experience while abroad?

Yes, as part of Santa Clara study abroad, internships are offered in certain programs. The Santa Clara Study abroad program database allows you to search for programs with internships. As an engineer it may be difficult to find an institution that offers internships because as an engineer abroad you will likely already have a rigorous course load

(<http://www.scu.edu/studyabroad/students/options/program-search.cfm>).

How difficult is it to study abroad somewhere that isn't a part of the E3 global exchange program or any other engineering programs?

E3 global exchange is dedicated to offering engineering students and opportunity to go abroad. The majority of the exchange programs that are affiliated with Santa Clara University offering engineering

classes will be through E3, IES, CIEE, or Arcadia. The university also offers a direct exchange program in Lund, Sweden. Most other Santa Clara-affiliated programs are run through a program such as IES, Global E3 and Arcadia..

Does studying abroad hurt or help your resume?

Studying abroad definitely boosts your resume. When interviewed, many employers ask about your experience abroad. Given that engineering is becoming an increasingly globalized industry, international experience can provide you with the necessary skills to work effectively with people from around the world. Communication is a valued skill in engineering and having a meaningful experience abroad can help challenge and develop your communication skills and abilities. Studying abroad allows student to be more independent, learn languages in a deep and engaging way, understand other parts of the world, and work effectively with people from different cultures. The study abroad office and career center also have excellent resources to help you showcase and articulate your international experience on resumes, cover letters, and in interviews once you return from abroad.

What should I be doing to ensure that I am a competitive candidate for studying abroad as an engineer when the time comes to apply?

In order to be a competitive candidate it is important to have concrete reasons for why you wish to attend the program you are applying for. Studying abroad is not about the location so much as it is about the experience. In order to be a competitive candidate you need to articulate your values and goals for study abroad and display how your forethought and planning has allowed you to come to this conclusion

How do I get course credit for engineering classes abroad?

All courses taken abroad must be approved for credit before a student leaves the country. To get courses approved, compare course syllabi in an attempt to find classes that match SCU course equivalency. To obtain approval, Santa Clara department heads will need to receive a proposed syllabus or course description for the course abroad that you wish to take. After this has been approved by the department head, this course gets approved for Santa Clara transfer credit. See this link for more information <http://www.scu.edu/studyabroad/students/before/courseapproval.cfm>

Are engineering courses taught the same way abroad as they are at SCU

Most courses taken abroad are at large public institutions with large lecture halls and enrollment sections. While the material in these classes will be quite similar to the material taught at Santa Clara, the presentation of the concepts will be different. Abroad courses do not often require submission of weekly problems sets or have regular laboratories. Therefore, students must be responsible when it comes to practicing and learning the material on their own. In order to be successful, it's helpful to collaborate and study with students in your class and visit the library often for reference manuals and problems.

What did you think of your classmates in your engineering classes abroad?

For the most part the people in classes are great. It can take time to adapt to a different classroom dynamic. Depending on your program you may be studying with locals or you may be in a classroom with a lot of international students. The classroom atmosphere was also welcoming; people were very willing to share notes if you missed class and groups of students often got together to study together.

What resources did you find most helpful when planning your abroad experience?

The online resources provided by the Santa Clara Study Abroad Office website are very helpful especially the following links:

- *Course database*

<http://www.scu.edu/registrar/studyabroad-courses/index.cfm>

<http://www.scu.edu/studyabroad/students/before/courseapproval.cfm>

- *Frequently asked questions*

<http://www.scu.edu/studyabroad/students/faq.cfm>

- *Search approved programs*

<http://www.scu.edu/studyabroad/students/options/program-search.cfm>

<http://www.scu.edu/studyabroad/students/explore/Major-Minor-Advising.cfm>

- *Policies and Procedures*

<http://www.scu.edu/studyabroad/students/policies/>

- *Application information*

<http://www.scu.edu/studyabroad/students/policies/apply.cfm>

- *Study Abroad Drop-In Advising Times*

<http://www.scu.edu/globalengagement/contact/>