Study Abroad

International Programs and Services
Benedictine University
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Dear Benedictine University Students,

When students first learn that Benedictine University offers programs abroad, many ask two very important questions: What is study abroad, and why should I participate?

Studying abroad gives you an opportunity to continue your education while living and traveling in a country outside the United States. Experiencing a different culture firsthand instills a new appreciation of our global context, and can enhance your awareness of and sensitivity to other cultures. Studying and working abroad can challenge your assumptions and routines while deepening your knowledge of a chosen academic subject.

This unique opportunity will expose you to the lives and work of people in other cultures. New settings test your assumptions and place you in unfamiliar situations that broaden your ability to set goals in new and challenging environments. You will be able to interact with people and cultures with different perspectives while developing the interpersonal communication and intercultural competence that potential employers value. You will have the opportunity to network within your area of study with industry leaders in other countries, which will help you develop a more sophisticated multicultural perspective. You may even discover new career possibilities.

The University’s Office of International Programs and Services works diligently to provide quality programs abroad. Those who participate in study abroad programs are given the opportunity to take courses that will meet major, minor, academic core or graduation requirements. Our dedicated staff provides step-by-step assistance throughout the entire process, including a debriefing when you return home.

It is the hope of Benedictine University that all students participate in some sort of international experience, whether it’s a semester, yearlong, faculty-led or short-term program, an internship abroad or a mission trip. This brochure will explore the different types of programs we offer, help you to begin the process and answer many questions about what it means to be a student of the world.

Thank you for your time and enjoy the world through study abroad!

Sincerely,

Marc D. Davidson
Assistant Director, International and Study Abroad Services
How Do I Study Abroad?

The Office of International Programs and Services (IPS) staff is available to help you plan for studying in another country. No matter what your major or minor is, we can help you find an appropriate study abroad opportunity that fits within your academic program. Study abroad programs are available for both undergraduate and graduate students.

Study Abroad Checklist:

Step 1: Learn about study abroad options
Visit one of our study abroad fairs or information sessions to learn about options offered to Benedictine University students, or visit IPS to make an appointment for an initial advising session.

Step 2: Meet with IPS staff
• Review program options
• Discuss the passport application process
• Discuss possible financial aid options
• Review study abroad at ben.edu/ips

Step 3: Select your program
• Select a program
• Request a program specific application
• Complete the BenU application
• Apply for a passport if needed

Step 4: Prepare for your trip
• Review entry requirements to host country
• Check the Center for Disease Control (CDC) for health requirements
• Apply for host country visa if needed
• Attend orientation sessions
• Research your host country
• Enroll in Smart Traveler Enrollment Program at step.state.gov/step

Step 5: Go abroad!

Application deadlines
Each program has a specific application deadline. Please adhere to these deadlines to ensure that our staff has adequate time to review all necessary information.

Mandatory Orientation

Students are required to attend a pre-departure orientation session where we will discuss cross-cultural concepts, culture shock, safety and security issues, and checklist items regarding passports, visas, money and packing. Failure to attend will jeopardize your ability to receive credits from your abroad program. You will be notified of the orientation dates via email.
Passports
Make sure your passport is valid for six months after your planned return date to the United States. If you need to renew your passport or apply for the first time, start this process immediately by going to travel.state.gov/passport. You must submit a copy of your passport to IPS.

Visas
The majority of Benedictine’s study abroad programs require a student visa. Applications for visas are taken on an individual basis with guidance from IPS. You will receive detailed information on visas at your initial meeting with the assistant director of International and Study Abroad Services. IPS cannot guarantee approval of foreign visas as host country’s embassies have the right to deny visa applications based on their own criteria.

Academic Planning
IPS staff members want all study abroad students to have an amazing experience while abroad – this includes making sure completed international coursework counts toward your major or minor. A course pre-approval process has been developed to ensure that credit for courses taken abroad will transfer to Benedictine University.

Financial Planning
Students can apply for a variety of study abroad scholarships. Visit ben.edu /ips for a comprehensive list of scholarships. Students who participate in one of our exchange programs may apply all University, state and federal aid to cover expenses for a semester or yearlong program. Students who decide to participate in a third-party program offered outside of IPS may apply federal aid to their costs.

Internship Information
Are you interested in gaining hands-on work experience while earning credits for your major? International internships provide Benedictine students with a unique experience that combines a desire to learn about different cultures with skills that will be valuable for you in your future career.

Benedictine University works with partner institutions and other organizations to provide undergraduate and graduate students with internship abroad opportunities. Students can find opportunities for internships which earn credit for their academic program and are within their field of study at international companies located all over the world.

In order to earn credits for an internship, students must meet with their academic advisor prior to applying to any internship program. In addition, College of Business students must meet with Rick Cali, associate dean of the College of Business, if they plan to use their international internship to meet requirements for their major.
Study abroad and make your education at Benedictine University a one-of-a-kind, world-class experience.
Partnership Exchange Programs

Benedictine University has developed partnerships with 16 institutions in nine countries. These programs are unique to Benedictine because the cost of tuition for a semester, yearlong or summer program at the University is the same as a semester, yearlong or summer program abroad. This means students may apply all forms of financial aid to the exchange program of their choice.

We have current study abroad partnerships in:

Bolivia
Universidad San Francisco Xavier de Chuquisaca
Location: Sucre, Bolivia
Term: Semester/academic year
GPA requirement: 2.750 cumulative
Language requirement: Spanish
Undergraduate courses

Located in the heart of the Bolivian capital, Universidad San Francisco Xavier de Chuquisaca is the second oldest institution of higher learning in the Americas. Founded in 1624 by order of the Spanish King Philip IV and with the support of Pope Innocent XII, the university was intended to provide an education in law and theology to the families and descendants of the wealthy gentry of South America. Today, Benedictine students can take courses in a wide variety of subjects, including pharmacy, humanities, economics, technology and dentistry.

China
Dalian Medical University
Location: Dalian, China
Term: Semester/academic year/special programming
GPA requirement: 2.750
Language requirements: Chinese/English
Undergraduate and graduate courses

Dalian Medical University was founded in 1947 in the southern part of Dalian, China, by Mao Zedong. The university offers programs for pre-medical students from all over China and the world. Benedictine students can take courses in medical sciences, stomatology, cosmetology, health administration, diagnostic medicine, clinical pharmacy, photography, obstetrics and gynecology, and social humanities.
Dalian Nationalities University
Location: Dalian, China
Term: Semester/academic year
GPA requirement: 2.750 cumulative
Language requirement: Chinese
Undergraduate courses

Dalian Nationalities University was founded in 1997. As the only Nationalities University focusing on technology and applied science, it has experienced rapid growth and is now one of the leading universities in northeast China. Students are able to take classes in economics, management, life sciences, engineering, liberal arts, law, mathematics, science and Chinese.

Dalian University of Technology
Location: Dalian, China
Term: Semester/academic year/special programming
GPA requirement: 2.750
Language requirement: Chinese/English
Undergraduate and graduate courses

Dalian University of Technology (DUT) is a public research university located in Dalian and Panjin, China. DUT is among China’s top universities for engineering and technology. Students can take courses in the schools of Chemical Engineering, Petrochemical Engineering, Electronic and Information Engineering, Civil and Hydraulic Engineering, Management, Mechanical Engineering, Naval Architecture Engineering, Humanities and Social Sciences, Foreign Languages and Education.

Shaanxi Normal University
Location: Xi’an, China
Term: Semester/academic year
Language requirement: Chinese/English
Undergraduate and graduate courses

Shaanxi Normal University is administered by the Ministry of Education of China. It is a key university under the construction plan of the national “211 Project” under China’s Innovation Platform Construction Plan of the “985” Superior Discipline of Teacher Education. The university is a major base for training teachers and administrators of higher learning institutes and secondary schools as well as other high-level professionals in China. It is known as the “Cradle of Teachers” in Northwest China. Students are able to take courses in humanities, social sciences, science, engineering, political science, Chinese literature, education, psychology, tourism, communications, fine arts, international business and Chinese language.
Shenyang Jianzhu University
Location: Shenyang, China
GPA requirement: 2.750 cumulative
Language requirement: Chinese/English
Undergraduate and graduate courses

Shenyang Jianzhu University (SJZU) is located in the beautiful city of Shenyang, China and is under the provincial government. SJZU offers courses in architecture and urban planning, civil engineering, information and control engineering, management, design art, foreign languages, humanities and law, science and urban construction, as well as adult and professional studies. Benedictine University students have the unique opportunity to earn a scholarship that will cover all tuition and room and board fees. Interested individuals should inquire about this opportunity by contacting International Programs and Services at ips@ben.edu.

Denmark
Copenhagen Business School
Location: Copenhagen, Denmark
Term: Semester/academic year/summer
GPA requirement: 3.000 cumulative
Language requirement: English
Undergraduate and graduate courses

Copenhagen Business School (CBS) was established in 1917 by the Danish Society for the Advancement of Business Education (now known as Foreningen for Unge Handelsmaends Uddannelse), which is a private educational institution. In 1965, the business school became integrated as an institution of higher education in Denmark. Today, it is regulated by the Danish Universities Act of 2003. CBS offers courses in business, economics, international business and politics, and modern languages.

France
Montpellier Business School
Location: Montpellier, France
Term: Semester/academic year
GPA requirement: 3.000 cumulative
Language requirement: French
Undergraduate and graduate courses

Founded in 1897, Montpellier Business School belongs to the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Montpellier. Students may take courses in business administration, economics, management, and French language and culture. In addition, Benedictine students can participate in a dual-degree program with Montpellier Business School. International Business and Economics majors can complete their program at Benedictine in three years and spend their fourth year abroad to earn two bachelor’s degrees; one in International Business and Economics from Benedictine, and one in Business Administration from Montpellier. Master of Business Administration (M.B.A.) students are also eligible for the dual-degree program.
Japan
Chuo University
Location: Tokyo, Japan
Term: Semester/academic year/summer
GPA requirement: 2.750 cumulative
Language requirement: English
Undergraduate and graduate courses

Chuo University, or Central University, is a private university in Tokyo renowned for its law school. Chuo is one of the most prestigious schools in Japan and offers courses within the faculties (colleges) of law, economics, commerce, science and engineering, letters (humanities and social sciences), policy studies and public policy.
Nagasaki University
Location: Nagasaki, Japan
Term: Semester/academic year
Language requirement: English
Undergraduate and graduate courses

Nagasaki University was established in 1949 by incorporating several national institutions, namely Nagasaki Medical College (including the College Hospital and College of Pharmaceutical Sciences), Nagasaki College of Economics, Nagasaki Normal School, Nagasaki Youth Normal School and Nagasaki High School. Benedictine students can take classes in humanities, social sciences, education, economics, medicine, dentistry, pharmaceutical sciences, engineering, environmental sciences and fisheries.

Mexico
Tecnológico de Monterrey
Location: Monterrey, Mexico
Term: Semester/academic year/summer
GPA requirement: 2.750 cumulative
Language requirement: Spanish
Undergraduate and graduate courses

Tecnológico de Monterrey, or the Monterrey Institute of Technology and Higher Education, is one of the largest private, nonsectarian and co-educational multi-campus universities in Latin America with more than 90,000 students at the high school, undergraduate and postgraduate levels. The institute has 31 campuses in 25 cities throughout the country and is known for becoming the first university ever to connect to the Internet in Latin America and the Spanish-speaking world. The school is also noted for having one of the top graduate business schools in the region and being one of the leaders among Mexican universities in patent applications. Undergraduate students can take courses in business administration, finance, economics, law, marketing, international business, health sciences, humanities, Spanish literature, journalism, international relations and more.
Universidad de Monterrey
Location: Monterrey, Mexico
Term: Semester/academic year/summer
GPA requirement: 2.750 cumulative
Language requirement: Spanish
Undergraduate and graduate courses

The Universidad de Monterrey was founded by the Daughters of the Immaculate Mary of Guadalupe, the nuns of the Sacred Heart, the Marist Brothers and the La Salle members, supported by an association of Catholic citizens. The idea for the school originated from a recommendation by the Second Vatican Council to use educational activities in favor of teaching the principles of the Catholic doctrine.
South Korea
Kyung Hee University
Location: Seoul, South Korea
Term: Semester/academic year/summer
GPA requirement: 2.750 cumulative
Language requirement: English
Undergraduate courses

Kyung Hee University (KHU) is a private university located in Seoul, South Korea, with a global campus in the suburban city of Suwon. KHU offers many degree programs, some of which are delivered in English. According to the Korea Joongang Daily’s 2010 rankings, KHU was fifth among all Korean comprehensive universities. In 2011, KHU was listed as the sixth best university in Korea and the 245th best in the world by QS World University Rankings. Students can take courses in humanities, language, literature, law, politics, economics, sociology, journalism, international business, business administration, hotel and tourism administration, mathematics, science, ecology, medicine, fine arts, nursing, pharmacy and dentistry.

Spain
Universidad Francisco de Vitoria
Location: Madrid, Spain
Term: Semester/academic year/summer
GPA requirement: 2.750 cumulative
Language requirement: Spanish (courses in English are offered occasionally)
Undergraduate courses

Universidad Francisco de Vitoria (UFV) is a private, Roman Catholic institution run by the Legion of Christ and located in Pozuelo de Alarcón, a suburb of Madrid. The university is named after Francisco de Vitoria, who is considered the father of international law. UFV offers courses in public relations, architecture, business, computer engineering, education, fine arts, journalism, law and Spanish.
Universitat Internacional de Catalunya
Location: Barcelona, Spain
Term: Semester/academic year/summer
GPA requirement: 2.750 cumulative
Language requirement: Spanish (courses in English are offered occasionally)
Undergraduate and graduate courses

Universitat Internacional de Catalunya is a private nonprofit organization based in Barcelona, Catalonia (Spain). It has two campuses, one in Barcelona and one in San Cugat del Valles, and has more than 4,500 students and 19 degree programs. The university offers courses in architecture, economics, political science, communications, education, humanities and cultural studies.

Taiwan
Fu Jen Catholic University
Location: New Taipei City, Taiwan
Term: Semester/academic year
Language requirement: English
Undergraduate and graduate courses

Fu Jen Catholic University is an academic community of students and teachers closely associated with fostering the growth of the whole person on the basis of truth, goodness, beauty and holiness. Students can take courses in the College of Liberal Arts, College of Arts, College of Communication, College of Education, College of Medicine, College of Science and Engineering, College of Foreign Languages, College of Human Ecology, School of Law, College of Social Sciences and College of Management.
Volunteer Abroad Programs

Benedictine University runs two annual mission trips abroad to Bacolod, Philippines and Sucre, Bolivia, where students can have an international experience while helping people who live in extreme poverty.

Bolivia

Location: Sucre, Bolivia
Dates: Annually in June
Goal: To aid the people of Sucre by volunteering at various sites, including day care centers, a soup kitchen, a local hospital, orphanages and a special education center. This study abroad trip provides Benedictine students with an opportunity to interact on an intimate level with the citizens of Sucre.

Philippines

Location: Bacolod, Philippines
Dates: Annually in January
Goal: To serve the poor of Bacolod by building a house that can withstand severe weather. Missionaries will also communicate with local students and spend time with families in the village.
Faculty Abroad Programs

Faculty-led programs link courses offered on campus with a study abroad experience. Since the programs are designed to complement Benedictine courses, students are able to extend what they learn in the classroom to a global audience. Students have until course registration deadlines to participate in these programs. Remember, you might need a PIN from the faculty leader who is organizing the trip to enroll in the course.

Take advantage of this unique experience and travel during the spring or summer break.

Previous destinations have included: China, Cuba, France, Spain, Venezuela and Costa Rica.

Third-Party Provider Programs

Benedictine University works with a number of organizations that offer additional study abroad opportunities for interested students, including the Institute for Study Abroad, International Studies Abroad (ISA), Cultural Experiences Abroad (CEA), Center for International Studies (CIS Abroad), International Education for Students (IES Abroad) and the American Institute for Foreign Study (AIFS). Please browse through a selection of companies with which we have worked in the past. Also, don’t forget to click on “Academic Planning” before deciding on the program in which you want to participate.

List of third-party provider companies:

AIFS – aifsabroad.com
ISA – studiesabroad.com
CIS Abroad – cisabroad.com
The Education Abroad Network – educationabroadnetwork.org
IES Abroad – IESabroad.org
CEA – ceastudyabroad.com
FAQs

Q. How do I take care of my housing for the next semester? I plan to live in University housing, but I will not be at Benedictine during the room selection process.

A. All housing arrangements must be made through the Office of Residence Life. If you are abroad during fall or spring terms, Residence Life will reserve a room for you (although you may not have the same room or roommates) as long as you leave your security deposit with them. If you cancel your housing contract and request that your security deposit be returned, you will not have a space saved for your next term.

Q. I receive financial aid. How will it be applied to my account? Will I receive any additional money because of the added expenses associated with studying abroad?

A. The Office of International Programs and Services will submit your name, program and associated fees to the Office of Financial Aid after you have been admitted to a study abroad program. The Office of Financial Aid reviews student allocations and may be able to apportion additional funding to your program if you are eligible. Additional funds are allocated on a case-by-case basis.
Q. How do I register for courses for the semester after I return?

A. Before departure, you must discuss with your academic advisor which courses you should take during the semester you plan to return to Benedictine. In most cases, the academic course schedules will not be published by then. However, your advisor should be able to give you an idea of which courses you will need to take.

When course schedules are published, a notice will be sent from the Office of International Programs and Services. You will be able to register for courses by completing the following steps:
1. Go to ben.edu/login.
2. Click on BenUConnect.
3. Sign in and click on MyBenU.
4. Register for courses as if you were using an on-campus computer.

Q. How do I register for Commencement if I will be graduating in the same academic year?

A. Whether you are going abroad in the fall or spring semester or for the entire academic year, there are items you will need to arrange prior to departure. Visit the following link to view the most up-to-date steps for graduation: ben.edu/graduationsteps.

Q. Who can participate in study abroad?
A. Most programs are designed for students who have already studied at least one year at a university. Many programs require a minimum GPA of at least 2.750, but some of the more competitive programs require a GPA of 3.000. Any major is able to study abroad.

Q. When should I start planning to study abroad?

A. Early planning is the key to a successful study abroad experience. Hundreds of study abroad opportunities exist; they differ in location, duration, curriculum, language, degree of cultural immersion, cost and many other factors. In order to find the program that is the right fit for your personal and academic objectives, you should begin planning your study abroad experience at least one semester before you actually depart.

Q. How long should I study abroad?

A. It is possible to plan a study abroad experience for a summer, semester or full academic year. There are even some short-term travel study programs that last just a few weeks.

Q. When should I study abroad?

A. It is advantageous to study abroad during your sophomore year after completing your general education requirements. However, it is also possible to study abroad during your junior or senior year. Major requirements for graduation can make it more difficult to study abroad for a full semester during senior year. For this reason, it is usually most beneficial to undertake a study abroad experience during the sophomore or junior year. We advise undergraduate study abroad opportunities only.

Q. How will I choose the program that is right for me?

A. The possibilities for study abroad are numerous. Before researching programs, you will want to make some preliminary decisions as to the type of experience you want to have. Start by realistically assessing your academic preparation and personal objectives.
For additional information about study abroad, please contact:

International Programs and Services
(630) 829-6342
ips@ben.edu
Benedictine University is located in Lisle, Illinois, just 25 miles west of Chicago, and has branch campuses in Springfield, Illinois, and Mesa, Arizona. Founded as a Catholic university in 1887, Benedictine enrolls nearly 10,000 students in 56 undergraduate and 19 graduate programs. Forbes magazine named Benedictine among "America's Top Colleges" for the sixth consecutive year in 2016. A 2016 PayScale Inc. report ranked BenU one of the top 10 colleges in Illinois for return on investment and in the top 20 percent nationally. Accredited by the Higher Learning Commission (hlcommission.org).

For more information, email ips@ben.edu or visit ips.ben.edu.


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