Study Abroad in Scientific & Technical Communication

Study abroad programs that fit for Scientific and Technical Communication majors are available in regions all over the world including Africa, Oceania, Asia, Europe, and the Americas. By using this resource, your study abroad experience will be integrated into your degree, so it won’t delay your graduation. Plan your study abroad program today and see the world!

Study abroad can help you...

- Find unique and challenging coursework in many different fields of scientific and technical communication around the world.
- Understand scientific and technical communication issues from an international perspective.
- Expand your cross-cultural communication and problem-solving skills.
- Prepare to work in an increasingly diverse and international workplace.
- Broaden your academic horizons.
- Globalize your world view.
- Improve your language skills.

The opportunity to experience another culture and gain an international perspective on your career is invaluable to your professional development. International experience will add to your career options and avenues for professional advancement.

Set goals and plan for results

The process of selecting a study abroad program is similar to selecting your major or minor.

- Begin planning as soon as possible. It is never too early to start.
- Set some goals. There are many good study abroad programs, and the best one for you depends on what you want.
- Prioritize your goals. Consider long-term academic and professional goals, as well as on-campus degree requirements.
- Prepare academically. You may need to take language or other prerequisite courses for your chosen program.
- Give yourself time to research and talk to advisers and students who have studied abroad.

We have screened hundreds of international programs and identified several with a proven track record for on-site service, academic excellence, and good fit with the needs of Scientific and Technical Communication students. Careful consideration of these program options will allow you to find a program that meets your individual needs.

Can I afford to study abroad?

YES! Early planning for study abroad helps you make cost-effective program decisions, and it also helps you prepare your finances through savings, scholarships, and financial aid. Financial aid applies to study abroad and, in some cases, your eligibility will increase to cover additional expenses.

The University of Minnesota offers more than $300,000 in scholarships for study abroad. The Learning Abroad Center provides resources on these and a variety of other scholarships available to undergraduate students. Stop by the Learning Abroad Center to research all your options.

The College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences also offers significant scholarships, which support students incorporating an overseas experience as part of their education while at the University. Go to 190 Coffey Hall or call 612.625.9254 for more information.

What are my next steps?

Attend a First-Step Meeting

Learn about study abroad resources and advising by attending a First Step Meeting at the Learning Abroad Center. See www.UMabroad.umn.edu or call 612.626.9000 for the latest schedule.

Investigate Programs

You can find a program that fits your goals by visiting International Programs in Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences, 135 Skok Hall (contact John Vreyens at 612-624-3221) and using the Learning Abroad Center’s catalog, website, advisers, and resource centers.

Talk to your CFANS adviser

Use an Academic Planning for Study Abroad (APSA) form to get approval for the courses you plan to take abroad. Meet with Professor Mikelonis, the departmental study abroad adviser, who will work with the undergraduate studies committee to pre-approve your study abroad course selections.
Academic Considerations for Scientific & Technical Communication Students

How do I select a study abroad program?
Over 300 programs are available to University of Minnesota students. The Department of Rhetoric has worked closely with the Learning Abroad Center to select some programs that fit particularly well for Scientific and Technical Communications students. Consider your academic interests, your geographic interests, and your academic goals. Use this sheet; talk with your academic adviser; work with a Learning Abroad Center program selection adviser. You’ll find a program that fits your goals.

How will the study abroad program fulfill my requirements?
Liberal Education:
You may take any liberal education requirements through study abroad. The Learning Abroad Center has worked with the Office of Admissions to pre-approve many courses. You can find the study abroad Liberal Education Database on-line under academic planning at www.UMabroad.umn.edu.

Major Pre-requisites, Major Emphasis, and Technical Electives:
You may take all of these courses abroad with the approval of the major coordinator.

Core Courses in the Major:
You may take four courses, up to 15 credits, abroad if approved by the major coordinator. Please note: All courses that will be used for major requirements should be taken for a grade, not pass/fail.

Minor in International Agriculture
CFANS recognizes the international nature of global food and agricultural systems as well as the interdependence of environmental systems. The minor provides students an opportunity to integrate course work in agricultural sciences; area, cultural and language studies; plus an overseas experience. Students select course work independently or through package programs available through the Learning Abroad Center. For more information contact John Vreyens. (vreyens@umn.edu)

When is the best time to go abroad?
• Sophomore year
• Any May session or summer session
• Second semester junior year

Planning for study abroad
Freshman
• Start planning your study abroad during your first semester
• May session or summer session are great times to fulfill your liberal education requirements abroad as well as provide the opportunity to work on a second language

Sophomore
• This year you can study abroad to fulfill liberal education requirements, take up to 15 credits in the major or learn a language

Junior
• Second semester junior year is a great time to study abroad
• Fulfill 13-15 credits of core requirements
• Fulfill the International Perspectives core requirement and technical elective courses
• Do independent research, an Honors project, or an internship abroad
• Do an intensive language program to enhance your skill set

Senior year
• Fulfill up to 13-15 hours in core requirements
• Do independent research, an Honors project, or an internship abroad
• Do an intensive language program to enhance your skill set

What do I do after I have selected a program?
Be sure to complete the academic planning process prior to study abroad. Please begin filing out this form as early as possible when you decide which program you would like to attend. Use an Academic Planning for Study Abroad form (APSA), which is available at the Learning Abroad Center. Advisers in the Learning Abroad Center can help you find course descriptions. Select more courses than the minimum so that you have a range of choices when you meet with the departmental study abroad adviser, Professor Vickie Mickelonis. You will want to meet with Professor Mickelonis at least three months prior to your departure. In consultation with Professor Mickelonis, you will determine whether the courses you plan to take will fulfill requirements or electives. To complete the APSA form, you will need the signature of your adviser.

These are just a few of your options. Come to the Learning Abroad Center to learn about even more opportunities.
Africa & Middle East

South Africa

University of Natal, Durban
Located in Durban, one of South Africa’s most interesting cities with its blend of the East, the West, and of Africa, the University of Natal provides students with the opportunity to study communications in a fast-changing political, social and economic environment. Through their Department of Media and Communications, students can study a wide variety of relevant topics. (Sponsor: interstudy)

Asia & Oceania

Australia

The Australian National University, Canberra
Located in Australia’s capital city, ANU is one of Australia’s most distinguished universities with particular strength in the area of communications. Through its Centre for the Public Awareness of Science, students can take course work in Science Communication such as Science and Public Awareness, Scientific Communication, and Science Journalism in addition to course work from throughout the university. (Sponsors: Arcadia, AustraLearn, Butler)

University of New South Wales, Sydney
The University of New South Wales is known for its innovation and leadership in science and technology. UNSW has a new program in Science Communications with an emphasis on a strong grounding in science together with conceptual insights and practical skills in communication. Possible courses include Science, Technology and Society, Professional Science Communication, and Communication Science: Theory and Practice. (Sponsors: Arcadia, Butler)

University of Wollongong
The University of Wollongong is a coastal campus conveniently located ninety minutes south of Sydney by train. As a medium-sized university, Wollongong offers students a highly personalized environment for study. Wollongong has extensive offerings in communications with opportunities in their Science, Technology and Society, Communications and Media Studies and Communication Studies programs. (Sponsor: UMTC Learning Abroad Center)

New Zealand

Massey University, North Palmerston
Massey University is New Zealand’s largest university and is located in New Zealand’s second largest inland city. It has a long tradition of academic and research excellence across a wide range of disciplines. Students can choose from courses across the university including a wide variety of courses in communications such as Professional and E-Business Writing, Organizational Communication and Business Communication. (Sponsors: AustraLearn, Butler)

University of Otago, Dunedin
The University of Otago is New Zealand’s oldest and one of its most beautiful. With 75% of its students coming from outside of Dunedin, Otago provides a unique campus lifestyle. The university has a strong interdisciplinary program in Communication Studies with a particular emphasis on communications theory. Possible courses include Theory of Communications Study and Communication Research Methods. (Sponsors: UMTC Learning Abroad Center)

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Europe

Spain
CIEE Spain - Seville
This program provides an exciting opportunity for advanced students of Spanish to continue to improve their language skills and study communications at the Universidad de Sevilla. The university offers courses such as Audiovisual Communication and Theory of Communication. (Sponsor: CIEE)

United Kingdom
University of Limerick
The University of Limerick, located in the west of Ireland’s largest and most vibrant city, is known for its leadership and innovation in science and technology. The university has one of the few programs in Technical Communication in Europe. Possible courses include Human Computer Interaction, Software Localization, and Technical Writing. (Sponsors: Arcadia, Butler)

City University, London
Located in the heart of London, City University is a young and dynamic institution known for its strength in science and technology and a tradition of professional education. As part of their program in computing, City offers several full-year opportunities of interest to science and technical communications students such as Professional Communications Skills and Principles of Human Computer Interaction. (Sponsors: Arcadia, Butler)

Lancaster University
Lancaster University is one of the UK’s leading universities with a comprehensive curricula, esteemed faculty and a picturesque setting on the edge of England’s Lake District. Along with extensive course offerings in science and technology, students can take course work in their Culture, Media, and Communications program which takes an interdisciplinary approach to the study of society, language, visual representation, media, marketing and the individual. (Sponsor: UMTC Learning Abroad Center)

University of Leeds
The University of Leeds is one of Britain’s largest and has an international reputation for excellence. The Department of Communications is a top-ranked department with extensive course offerings in topics such as Science Journalism, Internet Communications and Interface Design. In addition, students can take courses from throughout the university including excellent options in science and technology. (Sponsor: Butler)

University College London
The University College London enjoys a reputation as one of the UK’s most prestigious institutions. Though it is London’s oldest universities, UCL is at the cutting edge of many academic fronts. An example of this is UCL’s program in Science and Technology Studies, which is unique in the UK. This program offers courses such as Science and the Mass Media, Communication of Scientific Ideas and Advanced Science Writing. (Sponsors: Arcadia, Butler)

University of Westminster, London
The University of Westminster is home to one of the UK’s top-ranked Department of Communication, for both teaching and research. Known for its innovation, students will have the opportunity to study a wide-range of topics related to communications. Possible courses include both theory and practice courses such as Interactive Multimedia, Scientific Photography and Imaging, and Media Institutions and Society. (Sponsors: Arcadia, Butler)

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Country Varies

Global Seminars
Every year the Learning Abroad Center offers up to ten short seminars abroad led by UMTC faculty during May Session or over winter break. Global Seminars can help you get an international experience in a short time, earn credit, and fulfill liberal education requirements. Topics and locations vary each year. Check the Learning Abroad Center website for a list of this year’s Global Seminars. (Sponsor: UMTC Learning Abroad Center)

International Field Study Seminars
Designed as introductory courses to explore agricultural production systems, food processing and market systems, these seminars provide intensive study in several countries. Students participate in pre-departure seminars on the country. The two-week country visit is organized by faculty at partner institutions in collaboration with UM faculty. Past seminars visited Russia, Morocco, China, Germany and Costa Rica. (Sponsor: CFANS)

MAST International
The MAST International program provides qualified individuals a travel abroad opportunity to gain hands-on experience in agriculture, horticulture, agri-business, forestry or related areas. This cross-cultural experience living and working in another country helps you develop a global perspective and a broader understanding of the world. Contact: Susan VonBank svonbank@umn.edu (Sponsor: CFANS)

Student Project for Amity among Nations (SPAN)
Africa, Asia, the Americas and Europe
This field study program offers a unique opportunity for students to create their own study abroad experience by conducting independent research under the guidance of qualified academic advisers during the summer. Sites vary each year. (Sponsor: SPAN)

Internships or Research Abroad
Internships
Many study abroad programs include internships among the course options; they are noted in the Learning Abroad catalog and website. Also check out the St. Paul Career Center website (http://www.stpaulcareers.umn.edu) and follow the link to international internships for even more internship possibilities.

Directed Study
Study abroad opportunities are not limited to formal instruction. Directed Study allows students to create a contract between themselves and a faculty member that outlines a project and credits to be earned. Students work independently on a project of their own design while abroad, under the direction of a University of Minnesota faculty member.

Language Study
Study abroad is a great way to acquire second language skills. Fluency in another language can be a real asset for a career in scientific and technical communication. The following are a couple of examples of intensive language programs that can really speed up language learning. Many more language options are available, see the Learning Abroad Center for details.

France
Study Abroad in Montpellier
Spend a summer studying in one of France’s fastest-growing cities. Montpellier is an ideal place for an introduction to French language and culture. This UMTC program offers intensive French language study for students at beginning through advanced levels. You can choose a four or eight week term. (UMTC Learning Abroad Center)

Mexico
Language and Culture in Mexico, Cuernavaca
This UMTC sponsored Spanish-language program offers a variety of enrollment options: fall or spring semester and/or any of five three-week terms, one during the winter break and four in May and summer. You can take a full language course in a term or up to three in a semester; a semester plus an adjacent term, or the four back-to-back summer terms, can yield two full years of language learning and credit. (UMTC Learning Abroad Center)
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