

Study Abroad Basics

Undergraduate Programs & Advising Office

Isenberg School of Management



What we will cover....

1. Study abroad: Why do it and how to make it happen
2. Our roles in the process: IPO / Isenberg / Student
3. Courses you can take abroad
4. Grades and Credits
5. Program types
6. Isenberg Faculty-led options
7. Next Steps: Get the process started!
8. What Isenberg Students are Saying about Study Abroad!



Can Isenberg students study abroad?

Yes, Yes, YES!

- Isenberg students are encouraged to study abroad!
- Students from ALL majors can make this happen with proper planning.
- Choose from a variety of short-term, semester-long and academic year programs from around the world!
- Application Deadlines: April 15 for most Summer, Fall and Academic Year programs, and November 1st for Spring and Winter programs.
- **If you are considering study abroad for a future term-** that's great! It is never too early to get the process started!

FUN FACT: Isenberg is the #1 sending school of study abroad participants among ALL the different schools and colleges across campus!

In recent years, Isenberg students have traveled to 30+ countries around the world for study abroad experiences!

Argentina

Australia

Belgium

Brazil

China

Colombia

Costa Rica

Croatia

Cuba

Cyprus

Czech Republic

Denmark

Fiji

France

Germany

Greece

Hungary

Ireland

Italy

Israel

Japan

Portugal

Netherlands

Russia

Singapore

South Africa

South Korea

Spain

Switzerland

Thailand

United Kingdom

Uruguay

Can you guess which two countries, in recent semesters, have been the most popular host destinations for Isenberg students?

Argentina
Australia
Belgium
Brazil
China
Colombia
Costa Rica
Croatia
Cuba
Cyprus
Czech Republic

Denmark
Fiji
France
Germany
Greece
Hungary
Ireland
Italy
Israel
Japan
Portugal

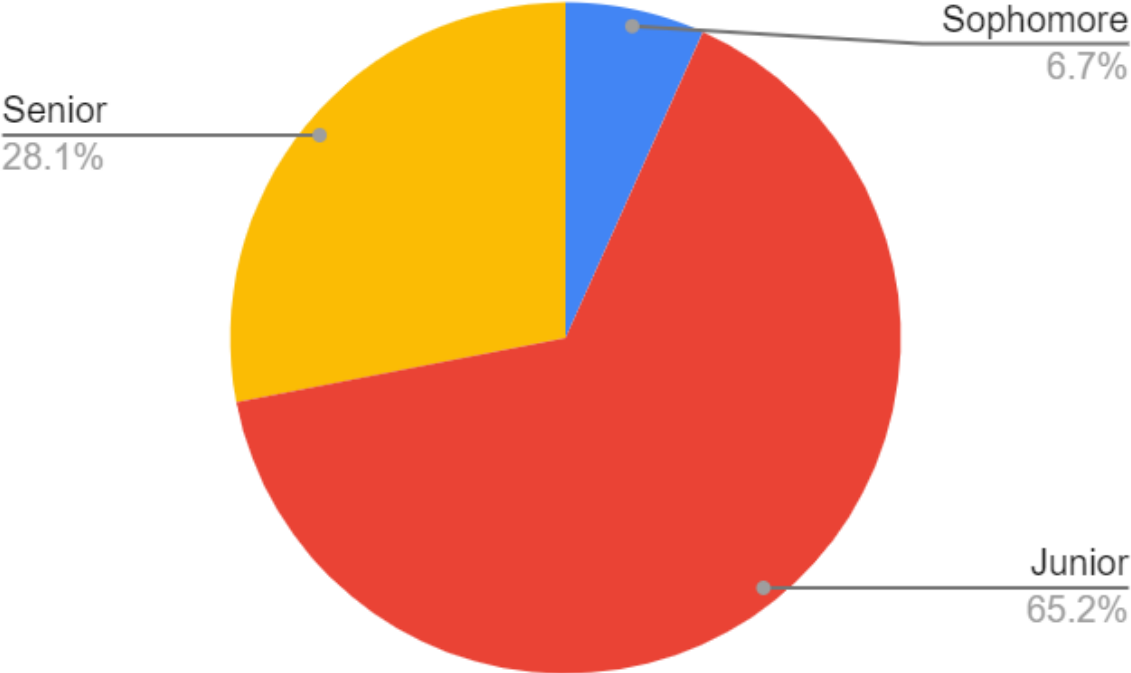
Netherlands
Russia
Singapore
South Africa
South Korea
Spain
Switzerland
Thailand
United Kingdom
Uruguay

Q: How many Isenberg students are abroad in a typical spring semester?

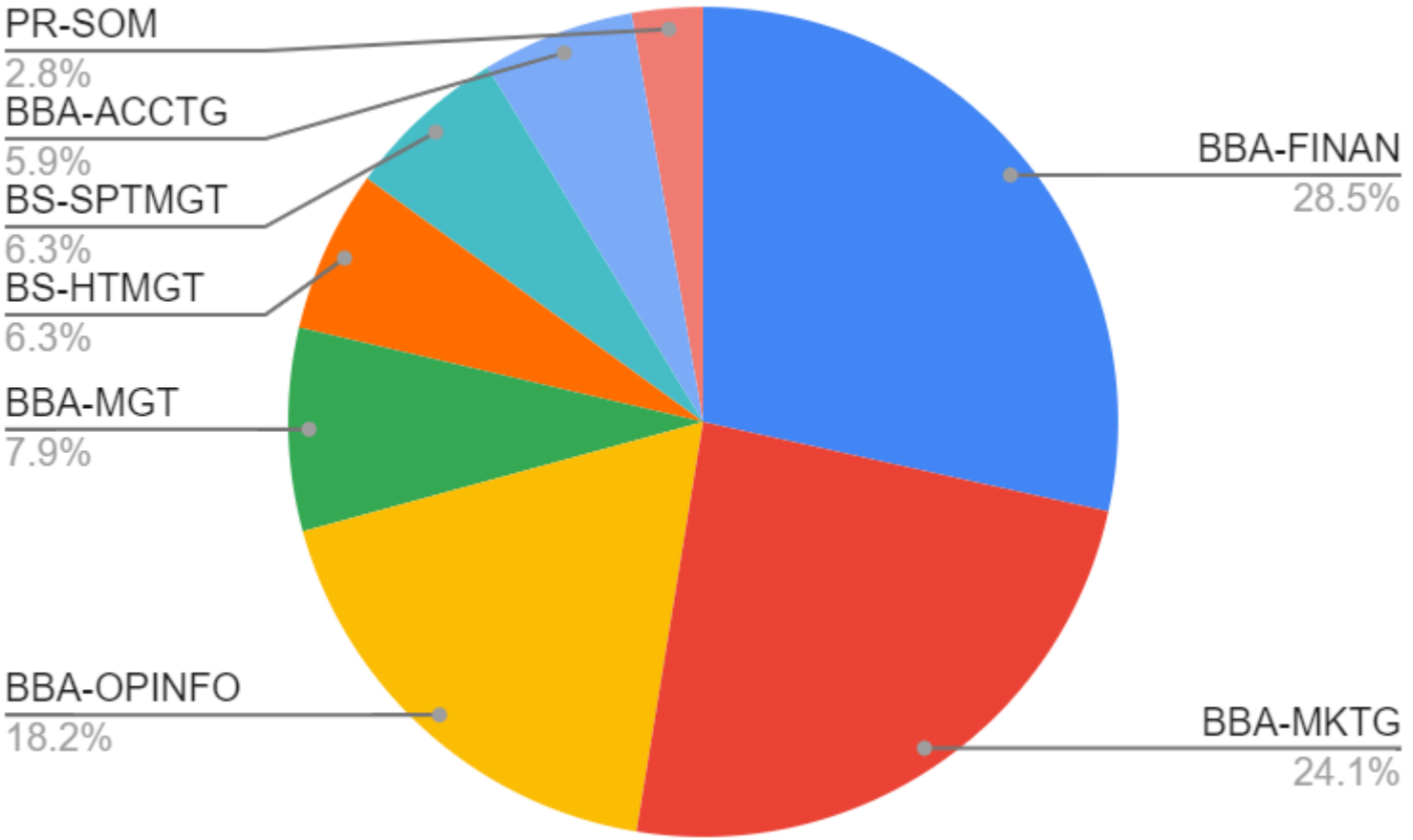
A: 200+

A record number (253!) were abroad in Spring '23.

Students by Class Year (from Sp'23 data)



Students Abroad by Primary Major (from Sp'23 data)



Why Study Abroad?



- Timing– this is a great time to do it!
- To broaden your horizons / gain a new perspective on world affairs, international business, etc.
- Personal growth / learn more about yourself
- To gain a competitive edge after graduation
- To experience things first-hand– not from a textbook!
- Enrich your education through an off-campus experience (and earn UMass credit while doing it)!
- Have fun and make new friends!

Learn more reasons [here](#)

Is Study Abroad Affordable?



- It CAN be!
- UMass students studying abroad do not pay regular UMass tuition & fees but do pay the program fee associated with their selected program.
- Program costs vary widely-- but there are many affordable options!
- You can keep your financial aid on UMass approved programs.
- Contact UMass IPO for more info: <https://www.umass.edu/ipo/education-abroad/finances>

Eligibility and Preparation

Start the process with the UMass Amherst IPO's [Education Abroad](#) office

Plan at least a semester in advance: earlier planning = more flexibility in program, destination AND applying to scholarships!

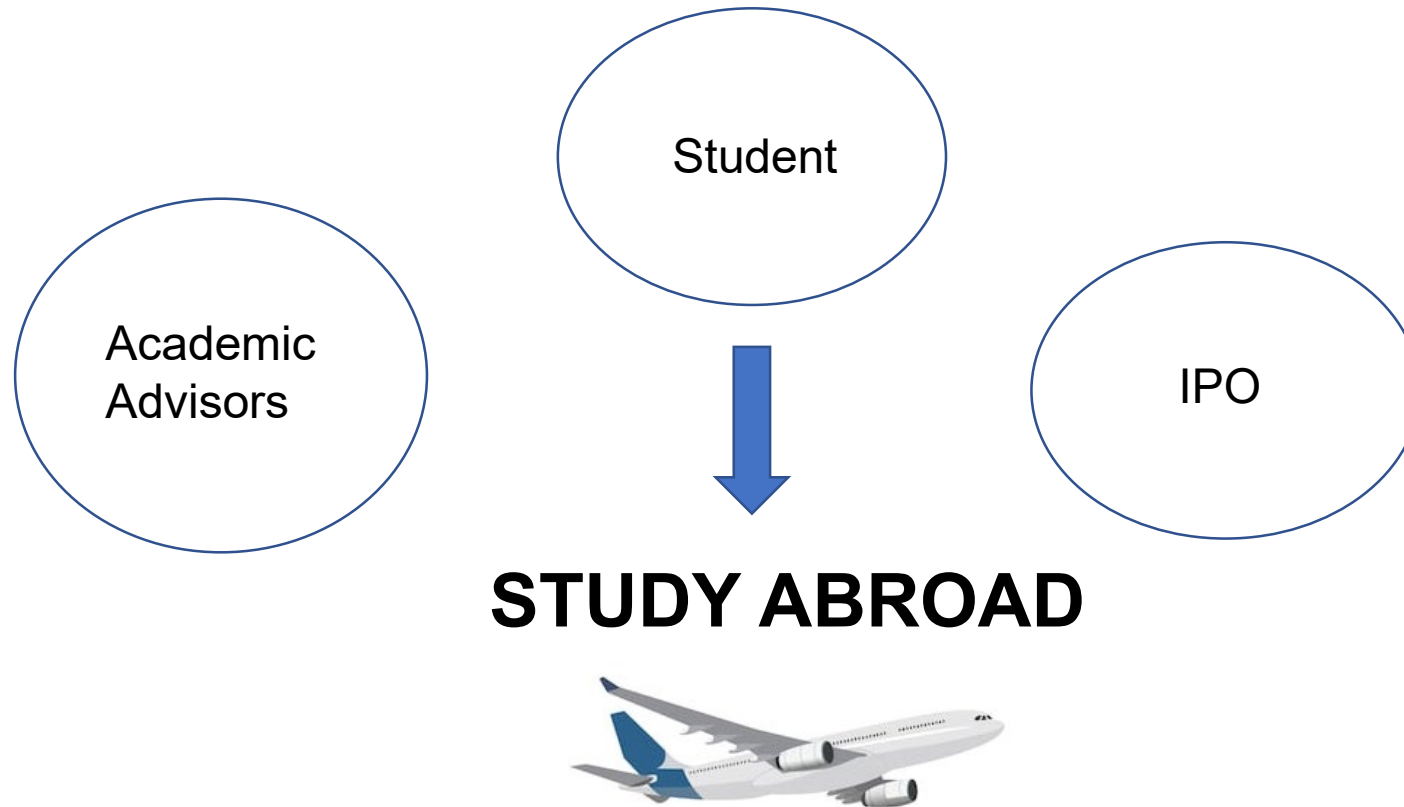
Most Isenberg students go abroad during their Junior year (but it can be at other points of your undergrad career)

You will work with IPO and the Isenberg academic advisors to plan your abroad experience

Short- and long-term program options available



Our Roles: It's a Collaborative Process!



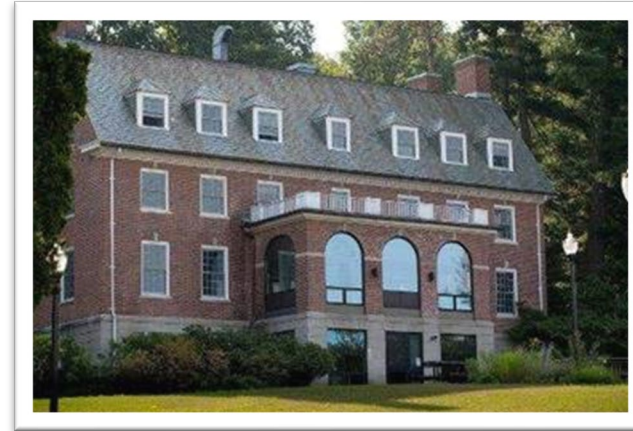
IPO's Role in the Process

IPO's Education Abroad and Peer Advisors:

Guide students through the process of going abroad:

- program selection
- university policies
- health and safety resources
- financial resources
- identity/access/inclusion resources, etc.
- provide support and make referrals to both university and outside resources
- any other questions students have and don't know who to ask

Location: 70 Butterfield Terrace



Isenberg's Role in the Process

Isenberg Academic Advisors

- Review ARR; identify requirements that must be taken at UMass
- Discuss timing of abroad experience (in terms of academics, course sequencing, etc.)
- Review courses you plan to take abroad to help you stay on track with graduation requirements
- Submit the online **International Course Approval Form (ICAF)** with course equivalencies*
(*after you have selected a program and created an online account with IPO)

Sample International Course Approval Form (ICAF)

INTERNATIONAL COURSE APPROVAL FORM (ICAF)

The ICAF is used by UMass IPO to process transcripts. It does not guarantee course eligibility or availability.

BEFORE COMPLETING THIS FORM, READ THE INSTRUCTIONS ABOVE.

You will not be accepted to study abroad until this form has been received by IPO.

Name: John Smith SPIRE ID #: 2222222 Term & Year Abroad: Spring 2023

Program Name & Location: Semester in Cyprus: University of Nicosia

I am requesting that these courses fulfill (check one): Primary Major Secondary Major Minor Certificate
 I am not taking any courses abroad that will major requirements.

Exact Abroad Course Title with Department and Course Number (if given)	To be completed by your Academic Advisor: What requirement/equivalent/category will this course fulfill? List UMass subject and number if it is an exact equivalent.
International Financial Management	Upper-level elective
Introduction to Management	MGMT 301
Marketing	MKTG 301
Operations Management	OIM 301
International Sports Management	Upper-level Sport elective (second major)
Introduction to Multimedia	Breadth/ Free elective
Video Production	Breadth/ Free elective

To be completed by your Academic Advisor:

Academic Advisor's Name: Susan Carey Advisor's Academic Department: Isenberg Ugrad

Check here if this student must meet with you upon return to evaluate final course approvals.

Advisor Instructions for how to upload the form can be found here. If you are having technical issues, please email abroad@umass.edu.

For Office Use Only

Pro Tip:

- Have extra courses to choose from. Most students take 4 classes abroad—find at least 6 that interest you.
- Many programs provide Isenberg core classes, upper-level business electives, as well as liberal arts courses that could be applied towards a second major, minor, breadth or elective credits needed to graduate. You can take any combination!

Student Role in the Process

- Inform yourself! Know your options (programs, locations, timing, courses, scholarships, etc.)
- Be aware of admissions deadlines, criteria, and materials
- Complete all steps to go abroad utilizing the support of IPO, Isenberg advisors, and other recommended resources
- In terms of **course approvals** (*this comes later in the process*):
 - Bring course descriptions with you to your meeting with an academic advisor
 - Always have a few extra courses to choose from

If you need help finding course descriptions, contact the Education Abroad Advising Center.

Academic Trends

In general:

- Most Isenberg students enroll in four (4) courses/ 12 US credits while abroad.
- Course selection depends on your major, your expected grad term, and where you are in your curriculum (in terms of academic requirements).
- The majority of Isenberg students enroll in 2-3 business courses while abroad.
- In some cases, you may choose to not take any business courses abroad.

Course Options

Isenberg students can choose from a variety of courses abroad:

BBA majors most often take breadth electives, some upper-level business electives and certain BBA core requirements with approval.

HTM and Sport Management majors may take certain Isenberg core requirements and/or major-specific courses with approval.

ALL students may take courses towards a second major or minor while abroad with approval from that department.

Students may also take free elective courses toward their 120 credit total graduation requirement.

BBA Major Core Requirements

More than half of your BBA **major** core requirements must be completed at UMass.

- Finance- may take up to 4 business electives* abroad
- OIM- may take all 3 business electives abroad
- Management- may take all 3 “Aspects of Change” electives abroad
- Marketing- may take 2 business electives abroad (or 1 Marketing + 1 business elective)

Additionally, certain Isenberg **college** requirements may be taken abroad

**In some cases, it is possible to take a Finance concentration course abroad.*

Special Considerations for Abroad Coursework

The following courses must be taken domestically:

- **Any** Accounting course
- Business Law (SCH-MGMT 260)
- Finance 301

The following courses must be taken through UMass Amherst:

- Junior Year Writing (i.e. SCH-MGMT 310, 315, 317)*
- Integrative Experience (i.e. MGMT 494BI, SPORT 494PI, HTM 444, etc.)

**If you are planning to study abroad during the spring of junior year, you should ideally try to complete Junior Year Writing in the fall prior.*

University Gen Ed Requirements

The International Registrar must approve any Gen Eds taken abroad. Isenberg Academic Advisors encourage students to exhaust their breadth electives, business electives, and free electives for total credits first. While Gen Eds may be taken abroad, you should speak with an academic advisor to see if taking Gen Eds abroad makes sense for you.

PRO TIP: Generally speaking, an abroad course (regardless of its gen ed status) will not satisfy the UMass gen ed requirement unless it's at least **4 US credits**.

Approved Courses Don't Need a UMass Equivalent!

Sample business electives offered abroad:

Olympic Games & Mega Sport Events

Cross-Cultural Management

Destination Marketing & Management

Sport Promotion & Social Media

Strategic Fashion Marketing

Sports Management: European Football

Consumer Behavior in Tourism

International Art Business

International Sports Management

Tourism Marketing

Wine Business & Marketing

Luxury Brand Management

Grades and Credits Matter!

The course must transfer back as the equivalent of at least 3 US credits to satisfy any Isenberg major or core requirement.

For semester-long programs, students must maintain full-time student status (i.e. the equivalent of 12 US credits or more).

Abroad coursework does not factor into your cumulative GPA*. The courses are **not** taken as Pass/Fail and will appear on your UMass transcript with **letter grades**.

Abroad credits taken through IPO-approved programs satisfy UMass residency credits.

Seniors who go abroad in the spring of their senior year may not have their grades back in time to graduate in May. However, they can still participate in Commencement and senior activities.

** Exceptions: UMass faculty-taught and CAPA 1st Year London students **will** have grades factor into their GPAs.*

Tips from the Chase Career Center

- Meet with a Chase Career Coach to discuss timing of networking, recruitment, internship and/or job placements activities for your major.
- Spring semester of junior year is a heavy recruiting time for internships. If you plan to study abroad at this time, you may want to find an internship and/or co-op at some point during sophomore year.
- Consider an internship program to get abroad AND get hands-on professional experience! (Internship credits satisfy breadth / non-business electives).

Let's Review! Are these statements True or False?

I can take Marketing 301 abroad

TRUE (unless you are a Marketing major, then take it at UMass).

I can take ACCT 221 abroad

FALSE

I can take Junior Year Writing abroad

FALSE

Let's Review! Are these statements True or False?

Business electives can be taken abroad

TRUE

I do not have to take business any courses abroad

TRUE

The courses I take abroad come back as Pass/Fail

FALSE

I should save my Gen Eds for abroad

FALSE

Internships, Service, and Volunteering Abroad

Students can participate in:

- Traditional academic programs (short- or long-term)
- Internships
- Service-Learning & field experiences
- Language acquisition programs
- Volunteer activities

Credit-bearing internships can satisfy breadth (BBA students) or free electives towards the 120-credit requirement. (The abroad internships **cannot** satisfy major core requirements. This includes CAPA internships).

Sample Internships and Volunteer Experiences

Below is a list of recent internship/service work carried out by Isenberg majors:

- Data Analyst / MS Office Content Creator (Spain)
- Financial Analyst (Spain)
- Social Media Intern (Cyprus)
- Research Intern for Medical Software Start-up (France)
- Fundraising for earthquake victims in Turkey and Syria (Scotland)
- Beach cleanup (Greece)



Isenberg Programs (including Short-term, Faculty-Taught Programs)

- Business in Italy (January)
- Europe: Culture and Tourism Management (possibly January for 2024)
- South Africa: International Internship and Service Leadership (May)
- HTM Cesar Ritz Swiss Study/ Work Abroad Program
- Find more info online → Isenberg Undergraduate On-Campus Experience → [International Study](#)



Next Steps: Get the Process Started



- [Steps to Study Abroad](#) (IPO's Guide is the first step for all majors and countries).
- Check out upcoming study abroad [events](#), offered by the Ed Abroad Office.
- Review IPO's [Important Dates and Deadlines](#).
- Search IPO's program [database](#).
- Visit the Ed Abroad Drop-In Advising Center: Monday- Friday, 10:00 AM-4:30 PM

Next Steps (continued)

- Visit [Isenberg's Resources and Events](#) page.
- Review [Isenberg-specific policies](#) for study abroad.
- Learn more about Isenberg (short-term) [faculty-led programs](#).
- When meeting with an academic advisor, always mention that you are considering a study abroad experience. That way, we can make course recommendations with future planning in mind.

For additional services, please visit the [Isenberg Undergraduate Advising](#) website.

Final Thoughts

- You CAN make it happen!
- Study abroad really IS feasible for any of our Isenberg majors.
- Take it one step at a time!

Questions about this presentation?

Susan Carey: scarey@isenberg.umass.edu

What Isenberg Students are Saying About Study Abroad:

- *UMass has an exceptional study abroad program and they made it really easy for me to pick a program and get all my questions my answered.*
- *I learned so much in and outside of the classroom and discovered new passions!*
- *The entire experience was awesome and I would do it all again if I could.*
- *Experiencing new cultures was very fun and interesting to me.*
- *Everyone should go abroad- it matured me as a person and my world feels so much bigger now.*
- *Daily life was amazing.*
- *I met so many incredible people and have made lifelong friends abroad.*
- *Studying abroad is so fun-- don't miss out on the opportunity!*
- *Most amazing four months of my life!*