

Study Abroad Guide for Biology Students

Frequently Asked Questions

Can I study abroad as a Biology major?

Yes. We encourage our students to study abroad if it appeals to them. During the junior year, Biology majors will take one year of Biology 300/301 (“Superlab”) and four classes at the 300 level (“31X” and “32X” classes). While abroad, you may take courses that will count toward your Superlab and 31X/32X credits, or take non-Biology classes and complete this requirement when you return.

Can I go abroad and also complete X concentration / Y minor / Z certificate?

Yes. Some minors and concentrations are easier than others (Biochemistry, Environmental Studies, Health Studies, and language minors are easier, for example) but we’ve seen nearly every combination.

How?

First, you have to decide whether you are going to take biology courses while abroad or not.

If you take biology, you’ll have to petition for major credit for your courses which means that the courses you take while abroad will have to be of an appropriate level (more advanced than Bio 200/201) and content (e.g., biology). Upon your return, you will provide the Biology department with a detailed account of your activities and student-directed research by completing an online form. We sometimes require students to provide a lab notebook/presentation slides/lab report for courses with significant research component. The Study Abroad Advisors will review this information and make recommendations to the Department in awarding major credit.

If you don’t take biology, you don’t have to petition for major credit, but you’ll take more biology courses upon your return. Students with minors and concentrations typically use courses taken while studying abroad to add diversity to their coursework. Talk with your academic advisor to plan how to fit your remaining Biology courses into the other semesters. This usually involves taking the missed semester of Superlab in the fall semester of your senior year and the two missed 0.5 credit 30X classes either both in senior year or split between your junior semester and senior year.

Which programs can I receive study abroad major credit for attending?

Major credit is determined by the courses, not by the program—anywhere you take Biology courses that meet two criteria for major credit can count. The two criteria are:

- 1) Is the course of a sufficiently advanced level? (Is it more advanced than Bio 200/201?)
- 2) Does the course’s content complement or overlap the content of the Biology major?

Any course from any program that meets these criteria can, in theory, be used to petition for major credit.

What kind of credit am I likely to receive?

We don’t promise major credit in advance, but typically, courses break down like this:

Lecture courses 31X/32X equivalent (limit of two)

Rigorous lab courses* up to one quarter of Superlab

Independent research projects* up to one semester of Superlab

*These courses are rare and must meet exceptionally high standards to receive this amount of credit!

Sometimes, two or more lecture courses with labs can be combined to give one quarter of Superlab credit. Department policy is to limit study abroad biology major credit to a maximum of two 31X/32X courses and one Superlab quarter (with rare exceptions of a full semester Superlab credit).

I really want to meet with you. Can I meet with you right now?

If you have a plan, a meeting is a good idea. If you don’t have a plan, do some homework and develop a

plan. Our highest priority is the students who are about to leave or have just returned.

I am getting ready to study abroad soon. What should I do?

Save all of your course paperwork: syllabi, assignments, exams, papers, or written projects.

Email the department chair and the Study Abroad advisor a list of courses that you are planning to take. (This may change once you arrive! Feel free to send an updated list.)

Meet with the Study Abroad Office to complete your pre-departure checklists.

Who should I speak with on campus if I have questions about particular programs?

Meet with the Office of International Academic Programs: Stokes Hall 118D

Key staff are:

Rebecca Avery: ravery@haverford.edu

What should I do right now?

You are a:	You should:
First-year student	Talk to other students Attend campus visits by study abroad programs Talk to your first-year advisor Visit the study abroad office Start to think about how study abroad could fit with a possible major
Second-year student	Ask yourself: Do I want to go abroad for a year? For a semester? Which semester? Do I want to take biology classes? Where do I want to go? Once you have answers to these questions, <u>meet with the study abroad office</u> and then contact the Biology Department's study abroad coordinators when you have a plan.
Third-year student (pre-departure)	Send your intended list of courses and any information you have to the study abroad coordinator, just to double check that everything is fine.
Third-year student (returning)	Fill out the Bio Majors Study Abroad form (on the Bio Majors Moodle Group): https://forms.haverford.edu/kinsc/view.php?id=223745 Meet with the study abroad coordinator, department faculty, and other returning students for lunch.
Fourth-year student	Double check that your credits have been accepted by the registrar. Graduate!