Study Abroad at Middlebury

• “...Through the pursuit of knowledge unconstrained by national or disciplinary boundaries, students who come to Middlebury learn to engage the world.”

• Each year, more than 50 percent of Middlebury juniors study abroad in more than 40 countries through nearly 100 programs and universities.

This information attempts to answer your initial questions about studying abroad and gives you direction on planning your experience, if you anticipate studying abroad...
FAQs

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1. Language Study and Study Abroad: What should I do during my first week at Middlebury?

It's never too early to start planning for your study abroad experience. In fact, early planning is key to a successful experience. During your first week, you should already be considering whether you wish to study abroad in one of the languages taught at Middlebury. If so, and if you have never studied the relevant language before, you will need to register immediately to begin one of those languages. If you have studied the relevant language before, you will need to take a placement exam during your first week here to determine what level you have achieved according to Middlebury standards, so that you can register for the appropriate course. Ideally, you should make the decision now, because you will need to have completed a minimum of between two and three years, or the equivalent at the college level (depending on the language), in order to qualify to study abroad in your junior year. However, even if you only make up your mind after the "add" period during your first fall at Middlebury, you can, of course, attend one of Middlebury's summer Language Schools, which usually enables students to make up for the late decision and then qualify to study abroad (note: apply early to Language Schools, as they fill quickly). Please note: students on financial aid are able to take their financial aid with them to all of Middlebury’s Schools Abroad, but need to meet language requirements for these programs, so it is important to begin a language early (see further details on financial aid below).

2. What should I do during my first year at Middlebury?

Begin discussing your academic plans and options with your first-year seminar adviser. Look over information about particular study abroad programs in which you may be interested. For information on any study abroad opportunities, visit the International Programs web page. Familiarize yourself with the study abroad options and with Middlebury's Study Abroad Guidelines. You may also wish to attend the Study Abroad Fair (Thursday, October 2, 2014, 12:00 – 4:00 p.m., BiHall Great Hall), where you will have the opportunity to collect information and talk with program representatives from around the world. You should also begin in your first year to plan for study abroad so you can be sure that you can fit in all of your major and distribution requirements. It is important to take course work that will prepare you for study abroad (e.g., an African Studies course if you are thinking about studying in Africa). Further, talk to returned study abroad students about their experiences.

3. Where does Middlebury have programs abroad?

Middlebury has Schools Abroad in Argentina (Buenos Aires and Córdoba), Brazil (Belo Horizonte, Florianópolis, and Niterói), Cameroon (Yaoundé), Chile (Concepción, La Serena, Santiago, Temuco, Valdivia, and Valparaíso), China (Beijing, Hangzhou, and Kunming), France (Bordeaux, Paris, and Poitiers), Germany (Berlin and Mainz), India (Delhi), Israel (Beer Sheva), Italy (Ferrara, Florence, and Rome), Japan (Tokyo), Jordan (Amman), Russia (Irkutsk, Moscow, and Yaroslavl), Spain (Córdoba, Getafe, Logroño, and Madrid), the United Kingdom (Oxford) and Uruguay (Montevideo). Middlebury employs full-time local staff at all our Schools Abroad. The Middlebury Schools Abroad offer various models of teaching, from one-on-one language courses at some sites to direct enrollment at local universities at other sites. See International Programs for information on any of the Middlebury Schools Abroad and visit our web page.
Middlebury is a member of the Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies program in Italy, and in England, Middlebury has exchange agreements with the University of East Anglia and the University of Nottingham. These programs are particularly beneficial to students with significant Middlebury financial aid. Also in England, Middlebury has an arrangement with Lincoln College at Oxford University, which provides opportunities for several highly qualified students to study for the full academic year at Oxford (this program does not qualify for Middlebury financial aid). See International Programs for information on these programs and visit our web page.

4. What if I am interested in studying in a country where Middlebury does not have a program?

Each year a significant number of Middlebury students study abroad on externally-sponsored programs in countries such as Australia, Botswana, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Ghana, Greece, Madagascar, Mongolia, Nepal, New Zealand, South Africa, Sweden, Thailand, and the United Kingdom, among others. Information on all types of study abroad programs is available on our web page. The International Programs staff can answer questions about specific programs and the study abroad process in general.

5. How and when do I apply for study abroad?

Your junior year is the best time to study abroad. The deadline for completing the online study abroad application process will be February 1 of your sophomore year for full-year, fall, and spring term study for both Middlebury Schools Abroad and externally-sponsored programs. For Middlebury Schools Abroad, acceptance decisions will be made in accordance with criteria established by the appropriate language departments; applications for externally-sponsored programs will be reviewed by the Programs Abroad Committee. For externally-sponsored programs, please note that you must be approved in advance by the Programs Abroad Committee in order to receive credit for study abroad, and you also must apply separately to the programs or universities abroad that you are interested in attending.

6. What are the study abroad application requirements?

Middlebury requires a minimum overall GPA of B- and an average of B or better in the major and language. See our web page for language requirements for Middlebury Schools Abroad. Students are also expected to study the target language through the semester prior to studying abroad. Approval is contingent upon students maintaining the above performance in courses taken between the time of application and the date of intended departure. For more information see the Study Abroad Guidelines.

7. How much does study abroad cost?

Study abroad costs are generally similar to or somewhat less than U.S. college costs; see International Programs for specifics. Students studying abroad (except those on official exchange programs) are charged an administrative fee of $1,500 per semester abroad in order to help offset the cost of the services provided by International Programs.
Federal financial aid (aid other than Middlebury grants or loans) can usually be applied to study abroad expenses for any approved program.

Middlebury grant and loan financial aid is available for:

- Students who study at C.V. Starr-Middlebury Schools Abroad
- Students who are pre-approved International and Global Studies majors with a focus in South Asian Studies who study abroad in the region of focus (IGS/South Asia majors with a focus on India are normally expected to study at the Middlebury School in India)
- Students who are pre-approved International and Global Studies majors with a focus in African Studies (with a language focus other than French) who study abroad in the region of focus (IGS/AS majors with a French language focus are normally expected to study at the Middlebury School in Cameroon)
- IP&E majors with a focus on Africa studying abroad in Africa (with a language focus other than French) who study abroad in the region of focus (IPE majors with a French language focus are normally expected to study at the Middlebury School in Cameroon)
- Students on official exchange programs
- Classics and Classical Studies majors on approved programs in Greece or Italy

Middlebury grant and loan financial aid is not available for:

- Study in countries/programs where English is the official language or lingua franca (this includes Middlebury's affiliation with Lincoln College/Oxford University), except as part of the official exchange programs at Nottingham or East Anglia
- SIT Study Abroad programs, unless a student is studying in Africa or South Asia as a pre-approved IGS or IP&E major, according to the above language policies (scholarships are available directly from SIT)
- International students who seek to study on an externally-sponsored program in their home country

Competitive outside scholarships are available; see our web page for information. For more information on study abroad costs and financial aid, see Student Financial Services and International Programs.

8. What do I do next?

During the fall of your sophomore year you can continue to research your options, and you should attend the informational and pre-departure meetings offered by International Programs. You should also meet with your academic adviser, begin the appropriate applications, and take care of any other logistical details. If you are interested in an externally-sponsored program, you must meet also with the appropriate adviser in International Programs. You must complete the online study abroad application process by February 1 of your sophomore year. You are always welcome to meet with any advisers in International Programs to ask questions, learn about your options, and talk about study abroad.

9. How do I get more information?

Visit our web page and/or our office:
Sunderland Language Center, Room 129
Tel: 802.443.5745
Email: internationalprograms@middlebury.edu