

# Feb Guide to Transfer Credit and Study Abroad

## Are you hoping to transfer credit from your Febmester?

**PLEASE NOTE: Middlebury College *cannot* guarantee transfer of credit *before* completion of coursework.** However, following the guidelines in this document should give you a good understanding of what types of courses and programs may receive transfer credit.

Please save any descriptive (e.g., syllabi, reading lists) and evaluative (e.g., homework, papers) information from your off-campus studies and arrange for an official transcript to be sent to Middlebury College (to the Registrar's Office for U.S. Study, to International Programs for study abroad). Final transcript evaluation and transfer of credit will occur upon matriculation at Middlebury.

## Transfer of Credit Guidelines from U.S. Institutions

Courses that translate into three or more semester hours will transfer most easily into our credit system. For academic calendars organized into quarter (or trimester) units, five quarter hours are normally considered equivalent to a Middlebury course.

***Please note: COURSES TAKEN AT INSTITUTIONS OPERATING ON THE QUARTER OR TRIMESTER SYSTEMS MAY NOT TRANSFER TO MIDDLEBURY.***

Traditional liberal arts courses transfer most easily. We recommend that you not plan to transfer credit from courses that do not correspond to Middlebury's curriculum and the academic disciplines represented within it. Courses in engineering, journalism, business, etc. are helpful in gaining better insight into a career path and its requisite training, but most pre-professional or specialized courses will not transfer. It is best to keep the liberal arts as your framework if transfer of credit is your ultimate goal.

Some students have taken "cooperative courses" in high school. These are classes taken during high school for which credit is granted by a college in that area. In order to earn transfer credit for these courses at Middlebury College, they must not have counted toward your high school diploma. They must also be taught by a college professor and be taken in a college classroom with college students. Advanced level courses offered at your high school, exclusively for high school students, even if taught by a college professor and garnering credit from another college, are not transferable to Middlebury.

With a few exceptions—most notably foreign languages—introductory level courses will transfer and, in fact, are the most appropriate level of course work for new college students.

Students should be careful not to overload on courses in the fall. New Middlebury students are not allowed to exceed the normal academic load of four courses their first semester.

Students should not take more than one course in any given department. New students at Middlebury are also advised against choosing such a schedule. Writing courses taken elsewhere such as “Expository Writing” or “The Essay” may be eligible for transfer credit and may be of considerable benefit to you as you adjust to the rigors of college-level writing. Keep in mind, however, that you will still be required to take a First Year Seminar and a second writing intensive course at Middlebury.

***Again, Middlebury College cannot guarantee transfer of credit before completion of coursework.*** Please save any descriptive (e.g., syllabi, reading lists) and evaluative (e.g., homework, papers) information from your off-campus studies and arrange for an official transcript to be sent to Middlebury College. Final transcript evaluation and transfer of credit will occur upon matriculation at Middlebury.

### **Credit-bearing Options for Study Abroad**

Study abroad presents attractive options for many Febs; however, programs abroad for first-year students, which are of sufficient academic quality to allow for transfer of credit, are not as plentiful as you might suppose. The challenge is determining which programs merit academic credit toward a Middlebury degree. Most programs are designed either for high school students or for college juniors. It is more difficult to find creditworthy options for study abroad during the period between high school graduation and a student’s first year in college. Language programs are especially difficult to assess because of the great variety in language preparation that students bring with them from high school.

Transferring credit from abroad follows similar guidelines to transfer of credit from domestic institutions (see previous section). Students should choose courses that fall into the framework of a liberal arts curriculum. The great variety in academic calendars and “normal” course loads among international institutions also presents a challenge when assessing transcripts and transfer of credit.

***Please remember: Courses taken at institutions operating on the quarter or trimester systems may not transfer to Middlebury.***

Because course loads vary from country to country and program to program, it is important to understand that, for study abroad, we transfer credits in blocks regardless of the number of courses taken. In other words, a “normal full course load” (of liberal arts courses) as defined by the host institution will typically receive a full semester of credit (4 units) at Middlebury College.

Please Note: Middlebury College *cannot* guarantee transfer of credit *before* completion of coursework. Please save any descriptive and evaluative information from your courses and arrange for an official transcript to be sent to International Programs at Middlebury College. Final transcript evaluation and transfer of credit will occur upon matriculation at Middlebury College.

#### **Universities in the United Kingdom and Ireland:**

In the past students have transferred credit directly from British and Irish universities; however, at present many UK/Irish universities will not students who have not yet completed any college semesters.

The British and Irish systems are quite compatible with Middlebury's classes; however, students should be aware that if they study at a university organized according to the traditional three-term British system, with a fall term that begins around October 1st and ends in December, they will not receive a full semester's credit when transferring those courses back to Middlebury. Students usually earn three credits for a "normal full 9- or 10-week load" (not a "minimum full load") during a British term. If a student opts to take a special credit-bearing "pre-session" for American students, they will likely be granted four Middlebury College credits (a normal full semester course load) for the combined work in the pre-session and the fall term.

Some universities, however, do operate on a two-semester calendar and are, therefore, better suited for fall term study than those that still adhere to the traditional three-term calendar. Students who take a "normal full load" (not a "minimum full load"), as defined by the host university, of liberal arts courses, should receive a full semester of credit (4 course credits) at Middlebury College.

Keep in mind that at a few UK institutions, some classes and final exams take place in mid- to late-January. In order to receive full credit, Middlebury requires students who attend such institutions to take their examinations at the same time as their British counterparts in January. Should you choose a program with an exam schedule in January, you will receive an additional credit for your work during that month, equivalent to Middlebury's Winter Term.

The following institutions are suggestions for options that may accept first-year students and provide the appropriate academic environment to allow for transfer of credit for a full semester (please contact these universities directly for further information):

**University of Aberdeen – Scotland:** <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/sras/international>

**University of Stirling – Scotland:** <http://www.stir.ac.uk/study-abroad>

**University College Dublin – Ireland:**  
<https://www.ucd.ie/global/learningabroad/exchanges/studyabroad>

**Arcadia University's College of Global Studies: Independent First Year London Program:**  
<https://studyabroad.arcadia.edu/find-a-program/programs-by-country/england/independent-first-year-london/>

Arcadia University offers a program designed for first-year college students who have been offered admission to a college but wish to study abroad prior to matriculating at their college.

### **Programs outside the UK/Ireland:**

Febs have also studied abroad in English at other locations that, because of language proficiency requirements, we do not approve for junior year study abroad. The U.S.-style structure of these programs seems well suited to students entering their first year of college. The list below includes information on some of these opportunities.

**CIEE Gap Year Programs** (many locations in Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin America):  
<http://www.ciee.org/gap-year-abroad>

**American University of Paris:** <http://www.aup.edu>

**Bond University, Australia:** <http://www.bond.edu.au>

**College Year in Athens:** <http://www.cyathens.org/welcome>

**Franklin College, Switzerland:** <https://www.fus.edu>

**The School for Field Studies** (environmental field study programs in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean): <http://www.fieldstudies.org>

**Vesalius College, Brussels:** <http://www.vesalius.edu>

**SEA Semester at Woods Hole** (environmental studies in Woods Hole and at sea):  
<http://www.sea.edu>

### Other Study Abroad Resources

The following websites have searchable databases to investigate study, travel, and work programs abroad. Please keep in mind that many of the programs listed on these web sites are not credit bearing.

[www.iepassport.org](http://www.iepassport.org)

[www.goabroad.com](http://www.goabroad.com)

[www.studyabroad.com](http://www.studyabroad.com)

[www.transitionsabroad.com](http://www.transitionsabroad.com)

### NON-Credit Bearing Opportunities in the U.S. and Abroad

The following programs are **NOT** eligible for academic credit at Middlebury College):

**Bel Camino** (Italy): <http://www.belcamino.org>

**Cross Cultural Solutions—International Volunteer Program:**  
<http://www.crossculturalsolutions.org>

**International Volunteer Programs Association (IVPA):** <http://www.volunteerinternational.org>

**National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS):** <http://www.nols.edu>

**Outward Bound:** <http://www.outwardbound.org>

**The Student Conservation Association:** <http://www.thesca.org>

**Where There Be Dragons:** <http://www.wheretherebedragons.com>

## Resources for Non-Credit Opportunities

The following are useful resources to investigate study, travel, and work programs abroad. Please keep in mind that the programs listed on these web sites are not credit bearing.

<http://www.idealists.org>

<http://www.transitionsabroad.com>

**If you have questions about credit-bearing study abroad, please contact:**

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