
United Kingdom & Ireland

Middlebury College
Study Abroad

2019-20





MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE

STUDY ABROAD IN
THE UNITED KINGDOM
AND IRELAND

2019–2020

Mission Statement

International Programs supports Middlebury’s commitment to immersive learning. A student’s study abroad experience should be an integral and coherent part of the academic program at Middlebury, enhancing the on-campus curriculum and supporting a liberal arts education. To achieve these ends, Middlebury students study abroad on academically substantive programs that foster cultural engagement.

INTRODUCTION

Universities in the United Kingdom and Ireland are among the most highly regarded in the world, dating back to the early 13th century with the development of Oxford and Cambridge. In the past decade, opportunities for Americans to study in their junior year in the U.K. have expanded tremendously—and Americans have taken full advantage of this.

EDUCATIONAL DIFFERENCES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM AND IRELAND

In deciding to study abroad, students should be aware that educational philosophies overseas differ substantially from those dominant at U.S. colleges and universities. While the American higher educational system is based on contractual relations with students and continuous assessment, foreign educational cultures place primary responsibility for learning on the individual student. In most disciplines in the U.K. and Ireland, the principal vehicle of instruction tends to be the lecture, while class participation and discussion usually play a less prominent role. At the same time, students have greater freedom to pursue what interests them within the general framework of a given course than is often the case at home. Contact with professors is likely to be different as well, and interacting with professors may require more student initiative. In short, the experience of studying abroad is likely to be very different from that to which students are accustomed. Students should embrace this challenge as a unique educational and cultural opportunity.

GRADING SYSTEMS AND COURSE LOADS

U.K. and Irish Educational Systems

In England and Wales undergraduate degrees normally take three years to complete, and in Scotland degree programs are typically four years in length. Irish degrees can take three or four years. Teaching at U.K. and Irish institutions is most commonly done by lecture, supplemented by small group tutorials, and in some subject areas, laboratory work. At some institutions lectures are not tied to specific courses but are university wide (e.g., Oxford and Cambridge). There is a strong tradition of close personal contact between the student and his/her tutor, and as in most countries outside of the U.S., there is great value placed on independent study. Degree programs are fairly specialized, especially in comparison to the U.S., so U.K. and Irish students are often more advanced in their areas of specialization than U.S. students are.

Assessment varies by institution, but the most common method is end-of-year examinations on which the majority of a student's grade is based. In most cases these are now tied to specific courses, but in others they are "degree" examinations that test the students' entire year of work. Grading scales vary from institution to institution as well, but typically scales and marks are considerably lower than U.S. grading scales. Usually U.K. and Irish universities use 100-point scales; however, the "A" range is usually around 70 and above, "B" ranges are in the mid-50s, "Cs" in the mid-40s, and so on. Another difference is that fewer students earn the top grades at U.K. and Irish institutions than at most U.S. colleges and universities. Nonetheless, Middlebury students who take their academic work seriously generally perform at about the same level abroad as they do at Middlebury.

Course Loads and Credit Transfer

Middlebury expects students to take a "**normal**" full load of courses as defined by their university abroad (NOT a "minimum" full load). Taking extra courses will **not** result in extra credit. On the other hand, taking less than a normal full load (as determined by the program or university attended) will jeopardize the transfer of credit and the number of credits earned. Students studying on programs sponsored or transcribed by U.S. universities that calculate credit in terms of semester/credit hours should be aware that a normal full load in such systems ranges from 15 to 19 semester credit hours (NOT 12), regardless of the number of courses taken. Often, students will take more courses than they would at Middlebury; sometimes they will take fewer courses, depending on the normal full course load at the host university. However, under no circumstances should they take less than 15 semester credit hours. Students should also take care to distribute their course choices and not to exceed the maximum number of course credits for the major (16 in a single department). *Students should consult the International Office at their host university and International Programs at Middlebury with any questions regarding the normal full course load at the university they are attending.*

Exams

Students are required to take all course-related exams when and where they are offered, even if other visiting or international students are allowed to opt out of exams. This means that Middlebury students are required to sit for exams at the same time and place as students in the host country. Students may not avail themselves of any exceptions offered to visiting students in order to avoid the sometimes long reading period between the end of classes and final exams, and students are not normally permitted to re-sit exams due to failure.

Grades

As per a faculty vote, Middlebury transfers all study abroad grades. All grades earned on approved study abroad programs will be recorded on the Middlebury transcript and calculated into the Middlebury grade point average. This includes failing grades.

Principles for incorporating grades from non-Middlebury programs abroad into GPA (Adopted by Educational Affairs Committee, April 2003):

When students' applications to study abroad are approved by the Programs Abroad Committee, the approval will indicate the number of units of credit that the student will receive upon successful completion of the program: nine units (full academic year), five units (one semester and Winter Term), or four units (one semester).

Assuming enrollment in a normal full load of coursework as outlined in the student's approval letter, the number of courses will be divided into the number of credits the student will receive to determine the weight to be assigned each course in the calculation of GPA. For example, if a student is enrolled in five courses in a four-unit program, each course would be assigned a weight of .80. If a student is enrolled in four courses in a five-unit program, each course would be assigned a weight of 1.25. These calculations will be carried out to the second decimal place. If truncating a weight after

the second decimal point does not produce a sum that is equal to 4.00, 5.00, or 9.00, weights will be rounded up as necessary. The higher weights will be assigned to the courses in which the student received higher grades.

Normally, as is the case with courses taught on the Middlebury campus, all courses in which a student is enrolled will be assigned an equal weight in the computation of the GPA, regardless of the number of contact hours. However, if the transcript issued by the program abroad clearly indicated that a course was a double course or a half-course, the calculation of course weights will be adjusted to reflect this.

Only grades that are reported on an A–F scale, or that can be converted to an A–F scale, will be used in the calculation of the GPA, including grades of D and F. Courses graded on a pass/fail or audit basis will not be transferred. Because the Middlebury faculty voted to eliminate the A+ grade, grades of A+ will be converted to an A on the Middlebury transcript. In addition, independent research projects and internships must be evaluated upon return by a Middlebury faculty member.

Since the weight to be assigned to each grade is a matter of calculation, not assessment, students may not appeal the determinations of International Programs and Off-Campus Study or the Registrar's Office regarding the weight to be assigned to a course. Students who wish to appeal their grade in a course may do so using the grade appeal procedures established by the program or by the International Office of the institution at which they were enrolled.

FULL YEAR/HALF YEAR

Of the hundred or so universities in the United Kingdom, the traditional calendar is a three term, or trimester, schedule, with one 8-10-week term before Christmas (Michaelmas) and two 8–10-week terms after the New Year

(Hilary and Trinity). Courses often run the full year, with reading periods and exams taking up much of the third term. While the system is gradually changing to semesters in order to facilitate exchanges with European and U.S. universities, it will be some time before semesters are in place everywhere, and even then, year-end exams are still likely to occur. To complicate matters further, most English B.A. degrees are organized as three-year programs and are, therefore, somewhat more specialized than U.S. degree programs. The Scottish B.A., on the other hand, is constructed around a slightly more compatible four-year, liberal arts model. It is not always easy, then, to fragment this system into American-style semesters or to make it fit our junior year abroad programs. Therefore, Middlebury's approach is to emphasize full-year study over partial-year study, except where such a "semester" system is in place and courses are offered in semester-long "modules."

Approval for Partial-Year (semester) Study in the U.K. and Ireland

Middlebury encourages students interested in study in the United Kingdom and Ireland to attend a university and study for a full year. This guideline is intended to ensure as full a British or Irish experience as possible. This preference is largely determined by the uniquely British academic year structure. However, the Programs Abroad Committee considers applications for semester study where the university has adopted an American-style semester calendar and "modular" courses. Oxford and Cambridge are normally approved only for full-year study, except the Middlebury-CMRS Oxford Humanities Program, which offers semester or full-year options. The Programs Abroad Committee does **not** approve single term (10-weeks or less) programs. Therefore, students applying for spring semester study abroad at universities where there is a trimester system must study for the two spring terms (usually January through June). Note that Middlebury does not grant credit for "add on pre-session" fall programs designed for American students.

It is the student's responsibility to make the case for partial-year study in his/her essay to the committee. The Programs Abroad Committee will approve

partial-year study when students have a compelling academic rationale for such study and are supported by their major departments and advisors.

WHICH UNIVERSITY?

Choosing a University

In the entire United Kingdom (England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales), there are about 115 universities and another 140 "colleges" that specialize in fine arts, music and drama, technology or education. This is quite a contrast from the United States, where we have more than three thousand post-secondary institutions. A typical British university enrolls 6,000 to 12,000 students, and some larger universities enroll more than 20,000 students.

Middlebury, unlike many other schools, does not have an "approved list" of programs abroad. Among the many options in the United Kingdom and Ireland, we do have preferences. Generally, students should study on programs that are fully integrated into the university system, where visiting students are taking regular university courses alongside degree-seeking students from the host country.

Students are encouraged to thoroughly research universities by consulting the numerous resources listed in this booklet. There are many considerations in choosing a university. Academics should, of course, be a primary concern; e.g., the subject areas offered, the level of specialization of the subjects being considered, which subjects and courses are open to visiting students, as well as assessing the academic quality. Students should also think about the location and evaluate the differences between studying at a campus-based university and an urban university without a contained campus. Students are also strongly encouraged not to limit themselves to London, as there are many outstanding universities and lively student cities outside of London (helpful

descriptions of many U.K. universities and cities can be found at www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/.

Universities by Region:

England

Home to some of the world's top universities, England has many options for study abroad in virtually any subject. The following are universities regularly approved by Middlebury:

East of England

Cambridge University
University of East Anglia

London

Goldsmiths University of London
King's College London
London School of Economics and Political Science
Queen Mary University of London
School of Oriental and African Studies
Slade School of Art
University College London
University of the Arts, London

Midlands

University of Birmingham
University of Nottingham
University of Warwick

North

University of Durham
University of Lancaster
University of Manchester

Southeast England

Oxford University
Royal Holloway University of London
University of Kent
University of Reading
University of Sussex

Southwest England

University of Bath
University of Bristol
University of Exeter

Yorkshire and the Humber

University of Leeds
University of Sheffield
University of York

Scotland

Since the Middle Ages, Scotland has been a center of learning. Several Scottish universities have roots in the 16th century and have strong international reputations. Middlebury students have found the traditional aspect of these universities appealing, making them among the most popular study abroad locations. The U.S. four-year undergraduate liberal arts degree was in part modeled after the Scottish system of higher education, making these universities especially compatible.

Scottish Universities:

Stirling University
University of Aberdeen
University of Edinburgh
University of Glasgow
Glasgow School of Art
University of St. Andrews

Wales

Wales, an often overlooked option by prospective study abroad students, is an

attractive choice for American students for many reasons. Welsh universities are excellent academically and offer a wide variety of subjects and courses. With its own distinctive culture and language, this country offers a rich cultural experience. Wales is well known for its breathtaking landscape, castles, and rich history, music and literature. Students are required to study Welsh language (for credit or not-for-credit), which is one of only six Celtic languages surviving in the world today.

Welsh Universities:

Aberystwyth University

Bangor University

Cardiff University

Swansea University

Northern Ireland

Northern Ireland is also a great option to consider for study abroad. A country with a complex history, recent years have seen a reduction in conflict and tension. Northern Ireland is home to top notch universities, a rich culture and beautiful landscape, as well as an active arts scene.

Universities in Northern Ireland:

University of Ulster

Queen's University in Belfast

Ireland

Ireland also has a strong tradition of university study based on the liberal arts model. Irish higher education is internationally ranked and has been committed to academic excellence for centuries. Middlebury requires that students studying at an Irish university incorporate the study of Irish Language (Gaelic) in their program, whether or not for credit.

Irish Universities:

National University of Ireland Galway

Trinity College Dublin

University College Dublin

University College Cork

University of Limerick

A note about Oxford and Cambridge: These universities are known throughout the world as places of great academic distinction. Founded in the 13th century, Oxford and Cambridge were the only universities in England for over 600 years. Only relatively recently has it become possible for American undergraduates to spend a junior year at Oxford or Cambridge (however, Cambridge only admits a very small number of visiting students). Admission to both Oxford and Cambridge as a fully integrated “visiting student” is open only to the most highly qualified students and is not extended by all colleges in all subject areas (see the university web pages for details: for Oxford, see www.ox.ac.uk/students/new/visiting?wssl=1/; for Cambridge see www.undergraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/international-students/visiting-students). Because of the educational structure (the tutorial system) on which Oxford and Cambridge operate, Middlebury’s Programs Abroad Committee normally only approves students for full-year study at Oxford (except the Middlebury-CMRS program; see below), with very occasional exceptions and only if there is a compelling academic rationale. Cambridge normally only accepts visiting students for full-year study.

Middlebury Programs

Middlebury-CMRS Oxford Humanities Program

The Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies (CMRS) at Oxford was founded in 1975 to achieve two purposes: first, to establish in Oxford a permanent institute for the interdisciplinary study of the Medieval, Renaissance and Early Modern periods; second, to provide an academic training for overseas students who wish to complete part of their education in Oxford but are not matriculated members of the University. Middlebury-CMRS is affiliated with Keble College at Oxford, where Middlebury-CMRS students have access to Keble’s academic and social facilities. Middlebury-CMRS offers a culturally immersive and academically rigorous experience that includes seminars, one-on-one tutorials, and field study in medieval, early

modern, or modern subjects that include literature, history, art history, classics, philosophy, religion, political and social theory, and more. Both semester and year-long study is available at Middlebury-CMRS, and students can take both Middlebury and federal financial aid to Middlebury-CMRS. For more information, see www.middlebury.edu/schools-abroad/schools/united-kingdom.

Exchanges

Middlebury has exchanges with the University of East Anglia in Norwich, England and the University of Nottingham in Nottingham, England, both of which particularly benefit students with significant Middlebury grant financial aid. Many academic subjects are available at both universities, and semester and year-long options are available. Please see International Programs and Off-Campus Study for more information and to apply.

Oxford University/Lincoln College

Also in England, Middlebury has an arrangement with Lincoln College at Oxford University, which provides the opportunity for several highly qualified students to study for the full academic year at Oxford. **This program does not qualify for Middlebury financial aid.** Please note: Applications for Lincoln are due to International Programs **December 1**; please see International Programs for more information.

WHEN TO STUDY ABROAD?

The following chart outlines which universities you can attend for specific semesters. An “X” in the column indicates that it is possible to attend the university for the indicated semester. *IMPORTANT: this information is subject to change and depends on term dates—contact the universities directly for exact dates and International Programs with any questions!*

University	Full Year	Fall	Fall+J-term	Spring*
Goldsmiths	X	X		X
King's College London	X	X		X
London School of Economics	X			
Queen Mary	X	X		X
School of Oriental & African Studies	X	X		X
Slade School of Art	X	X		X
Univ. College London	X	X		X
Univ. of the Arts, London	X	X		X
Cambridge	X			
East Anglia	X	X		X
Birmingham	X	X		X
Nottingham	X		X	X
Warwick	X			X
Durham	X			
Lancaster	X			X
Manchester	X		X	X
Oxford	X			
Kent	X	X		X
Reading	X	X		X
Sussex	X	X		X
Bath	X		X	X
Bristol	X		X	X
Exeter	X	X		X
Leeds	X		X	X
Sheffield	X		X	X
York	X			X
Stirling	X	X		X

Aberdeen	X	X		X
Edinburgh	X	X		X
Glasgow	X	X		X
Glasgow Schl. of Art	X	X		X
St. Andrews	X	X		X
Aberystwyth	X		X	X
Bangor	X		X	X
Cardiff	X		X	X
Swansea	X		X	X
Ulster	X		X	X
Queen's	X	X		X
Galway	X	X		X
Trinity Coll. Dublin	X	X		X
University College Dublin	X	X		X
Cork	X	X		X
Limerick	X	X		X

* Please note that if the university has a three-term system, students are required to fully enroll for both the spring and summer terms (usually January through June).

Middlebury Students in the U. K. and Ireland 2018–2019

Name	Program	Term
Sophie Taylor	Courtauld Institute of Art	Spring 2019
Cicely Bernhard	Goldsmiths, University of London	Academic Year 2018
Claudia Lu	King's College London	Academic Year 2018
Cameron Allan	London School of Economics	Academic Year 2018
Ryan Moise	London School of Economics	Academic Year 2018
Benjamin Slater	London School of Economics	Academic Year 2018
Victoria Yeh	London School of Economics	Academic Year 2018
Aidan Acosta	Middlebury-CMRS Oxford Program	Fall 2018
Kieran Bhawe	Middlebury-CMRS Oxford Program	Spring 2019

Seth Boswell	Middlebury-CMRS Oxford Program	Spring 2019
Julia Comacchio	Middlebury-CMRS Oxford Program	Academic Year 2018
Gareth Cordery	Middlebury-CMRS Oxford Program	Spring 2019
Alexis De La Rosa	Middlebury-CMRS Oxford Program	Fall 2018
Isaac Ducker	Middlebury-CMRS Oxford Program	Fall 2018
Simone Edgar Holmes	Middlebury-CMRS Oxford Program	Spring 2019
Tingxuan Gan	Middlebury-CMRS Oxford Program	Spring 2019
Rand Jibril	Middlebury-CMRS Oxford Program	Spring 2019
Fatma Kadiri	Middlebury-CMRS Oxford Program	Spring 2019
Sara Kljajic	Middlebury-CMRS Oxford Program	Spring 2019
Mahli Knutson	Middlebury-CMRS Oxford Program	Spring 2019
Sophia Konanc	Middlebury-CMRS Oxford Program	Spring 2019
Martha Langford	Middlebury-CMRS Oxford Program	Fall 2018
Thomas Leaycraft	Middlebury-CMRS Oxford Program	Fall 2018
Ryan Mccrorey	Middlebury-CMRS Oxford Program	Spring 2019
Hannah McKenzie	Middlebury-CMRS Oxford Program	Fall 2018
Thandwa Mdluli	Middlebury-CMRS Oxford Program	Spring 2019
Brodie Miller	Middlebury-CMRS Oxford Program	Spring 2019
Abdijabar Mohamed	Middlebury-CMRS Oxford Program	Fall 2018
Fiona Mustain	Middlebury-CMRS Oxford Program	Academic Year 2018
Bennett Pienkowski	Middlebury-CMRS Oxford Program	Academic Year 2018
Ronald Romano	Middlebury-CMRS Oxford Program	Spring 2019
Taylor Rossini	Middlebury-CMRS Oxford Program	Academic Year 2018
Julian Schlemmer	Middlebury-CMRS Oxford Program	Academic Year 2018
Angus Warren	Middlebury-CMRS Oxford Program	Fall 2018
Federico Wettstein Ceretti	Middlebury-CMRS Oxford Program	Spring 2019
Mingfang Zhang	Middlebury-CMRS Oxford Program	Spring 2019
Maria Andersen	Oxford University-Lincoln College	Academic Year 2018
Elsbeth Eberlee	Oxford University-Lincoln College	Academic Year 2018
Stephanie Jordan	Oxford University-St. Catherine's Coll.	Spring 2019
Ursula Alwang	Queen Mary University of London	Spring 2019
Andrew Greene	Queen Mary University of London	Fall 2018

Andrew Martinson	Queen Mary University of London	Fall 2018
Daniel Gause	Trinity College Dublin	Fall 2018
Jacob Allnutt	University College Dublin	Academic Year 2018
Sara Kunin	University College London	Fall 2018
Alyssa Crogan	University of East Anglia	Spring 2019
Sarah Nelson	University of East Anglia	Fall 2018
Gabriella Valdivieso	University of East Anglia	Spring 2019
Katherine Hughes	University of Edinburgh	Fall 2018
Olivia Reed	University of Edinburgh	Spring 2019
Julia Sinton	University of Edinburgh	Spring 2019
Hope Allison	University of Edinburgh	Academic Year 2018
Alexander Farley	University of Edinburgh	Fall 2018
Sean Ledingham	University of Edinburgh	Spring 2019
Teadora Levy	University of Edinburgh	Fall 2018
Malcolm Ogden	University of Edinburgh	Fall 2018
Maya Reich	University of Manchester	Fall 2018
Imran Ganda	University of Nottingham	Fall 2018
Da Thi Hoang	University of Nottingham	Spring 2019
Jeanette Moreno	University of Nottingham	Fall 2018
Katelan Newman	University of Nottingham	Fall 2018
Searidang Pa	University of Nottingham	Spring 2019

THE PROCESS OF INVESTIGATION

International Programs and Off-Campus Study, located in Sunderland Language Center, has considerable information available about study in the United Kingdom and Ireland. The study abroad Web page (www.middlebury.edu/office/study-abroad/programs-locations/united-kingdom-ireland) has links to many universities in the U.K. and Ireland.

General Information Sources

The British Council: This organization provides information on studying in

the United Kingdom. Their website, which lists many resources and links, can be found at: www.britishcouncil.us/study-uk.

BUTEX Directory: The British Universities Transatlantic Exchanges Association (BUTEX) promotes study abroad in the U.K. and promotes mobility between U.K. and overseas institutions: www.butex.ac.uk.

The Guardian University Guide: This comprehensive interactive guide to U.K. universities, which includes rankings, student statistics, and university profiles, can be found at: www.theguardian.com/education/universityguide.

The Complete University Guide: This guide includes the “League Tables” for U.K. universities by university and subject, as well as by region and other categories, see: www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/league-tables/rankings.

The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA): The QAA is the independent body which monitors and advises on standards and quality in U.K. higher education: www.qaa.ac.uk.

U.K.StudentLife.com, is a website (www.ukstudentlife.com/) about British culture for students interested in studying in the U.K.

Individual University Brochures

Many universities present their opportunities in brochures specifically developed for overseas students, see: www.middlebury.edu/office/study-abroad/programs-locations/united-kingdom-ireland

Returned Students

One of the best resources for information about study in the U.K. and Ireland is fellow students who have spent all or part of a year there, as well as British exchange students studying at Middlebury. Meetings are organized during the fall to bring returned students together with interested sophomores.

Additional initiative should be taken to meet with individual returned students. They are interested in talking about their experiences abroad and have valuable information and insight (see the list in this booklet for names of students who studied in the U.K. or Ireland last year).

Evaluations from Past Study Abroad Students

It is mandatory for students returning from study abroad to complete program evaluations. These evaluations also provide useful information and are available to interested students on the Web

(www.studyabroad101.com/universities/middlebury-college).

Study Abroad Fair

Representatives from a variety of universities and programs in the U.K. and Ireland will be at the **Study Abroad Fair on Thursday, September 19, 2019 (Axinn Center, 2:00 until 5:00 P.M.)** to talk with interested students. Please see International Programs and Off-Campus Study for more information. In addition, there will be program/university specific information sessions following the Study Abroad Fair 6:15-6:45 and 6:45-7:15pm (see www.middlebury.edu/schools-abroad/middlebury-students/events for details).

ADMISSION AND APPROVAL

It makes good sense to spend the fall term investigating the university system in the United Kingdom and Ireland by reading, talking to returned students, attending the study abroad fair and study abroad information meetings, looking over university web pages, and talking with your academic advisor.

Please note: students are strongly encouraged to meet with Stacey Thebodo in International Programs *during fall semester* to discuss their study abroad plans (make an appointment here:

<https://studyabroad.middlebury.edu/index.cfm?FuseAction=StaffMain.Home>).

January is a good time to complete university applications, most of which are available online. Generally, they are not difficult and there usually is no application fee. Middlebury students with at least a “B+” (3.3) average will likely be admitted to many of the universities to which they apply [with the exceptions of Oxford, Cambridge, The London School of Economics and Political Science, University College London, King’s College London, and the University of Durham, which require around a 3.5 average or above]. Spaces for English majors are almost always more scarce than for majors in other disciplines. *As admission at all U.K. and Irish universities can be competitive, it is recommended that students apply to several universities.*

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

It is the student’s responsibility to present to Middlebury College a **compelling academic rationale** for study abroad. Students should meet with their major advisors during the fall semester, and finalize plans during the registration process for winter and spring terms. This should not be left to the last minute; faculty are often more difficult to contact during winter term. Also, students should meet with Stacey Thebodo in International Programs during fall semester to discuss their study abroad plans.

When meeting with their academic advisor during the application process, students should discuss with their advisor where they are applying to study abroad, their academic rationale, and the courses they hope to take abroad.

All application materials must be submitted through the Middlebury Study Abroad online application system by February 1.

See www.middlebury.edu/office/study-abroad/apply for all forms and instructions. Students must complete the following through the Middlebury

online study abroad application process:

- **Study Abroad Application Form**
- **Major Advisor's Form**
- **Essay***

*** Essay Instructions:** Students should submit an essay (approximately 500 words) giving their *academic* reasons for seeking to study abroad. Students should explain how their proposal relates to their major/minor and general academic goals, as well as why the particular program of study was chosen and why they have chosen a semester or year abroad.

In order to present a compelling rationale for the time away from Middlebury, students should keep in mind that the College does not grant academic credit solely for life experience or cultural immersion. The essay then must present a **compelling academic rationale** for off-campus study and should:

- i. spell out how the student's course of off-campus study will be integrated with his or her course of study at Middlebury, serving a major, a minor, or some other established curricular interest;
- ii. demonstrate that the student has adequate preparation for studying abroad, in the form of preparatory course work or research;
- iii. demonstrate that the student is aware that he or she must take courses abroad that are rigorous and meet at least one of the following criteria: 1) they are not offered at Middlebury, but are appropriate to a liberal arts education; 2) they are not offered at Middlebury, but are appropriate to the student's major; 3) they are similar to courses offered at Middlebury, but are unique in perspective; 4) they are similar to courses offered at Middlebury, but involve study of the natural environment, economics, history, politics, or culture of the region where the school is situated;

iv. describe how the off-campus study will enable—or at least not interfere with—his or her ability to complete the major in a timely and reasonable fashion, through course work while abroad and/or upon returning to Middlebury. Depending on a student’s major, students should understand that studying abroad may complicate his or her ability to complete a major program, particularly if the student is pursuing a joint or double major. Students should work closely with their academic advisors to plan their course of study. However, departments and programs cannot predict with accuracy eighteen months in advance whether or not, and when, particular courses will be offered that the student may need in order to complete the requirements for his or her major program.

v. if applying for one semester abroad, explain the rationale for the semester for which the student is applying.

If students write a convincing and coherent essay, have their major advisor’s endorsements, and have achieved at least a “B” average in the major and a “B-” overall, they will likely be approved for study abroad and transfer of credit.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

February 1, 2020: Deadline for submitting all completed online Middlebury study abroad application materials, including the application, essay, and completed Advisor’s Form.

Please note: It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that all components of their online applications, including the Advisor’s Form and Language Assessment Form, are submitted by February 1. Students submitting applications after the above dates run the risk of having their applications rejected. Students must allow ample time for major advisors to

complete the appropriate online forms prior to February 1. Students should keep in mind that faculty support is an important factor in committee decisions.

DIRECT APPLICATION VS. PROGRAM PROVIDER

Most Middlebury students apply directly, as visiting/study abroad students, to universities in the United Kingdom and Ireland and make arrangements independently with the university. British universities have made the recruitment of visiting/study abroad students a high priority and have procedures for orienting and integrating these students into their academic and residential programs.

It is also possible to attend a university in the U.K. or Ireland through a U.S.-sponsored program provider. In this format, the program provider takes care of most of the practical arrangements and provides more services and support. Many universities in the United Kingdom and Ireland are affiliated with a number of program providers and welcome applicants whether they apply directly or through a program provider. Program providers offer services for which they charge fees. The program providers with which Middlebury has the most experience are the Arcadia University College of Global Studies and IFSA-Butler.

FEES AND FINANCIAL AID

Students studying abroad (except those on official exchange programs) are charged an administrative fee of \$1,800 per semester abroad. Be sure to tell your parents/guardians about this fee, which covers some of the costs associated with the administration of the study abroad process, from the initial search for a program through the application and approval processes, to

the final transfer of credit. In addition, International Programs and Off-Campus Study maintains links with students abroad in order to help facilitate room draw and registration for classes on their return, as well as to keep students informed of important campus news or in the case of emergencies.

Federal grants and loans can usually be applied to any approved study abroad in the United Kingdom or Ireland; however, **Middlebury financial aid** is not available, except in the case of the Middlebury-CMRS Oxford Humanities Program and the Nottingham and East Anglia exchange programs. Check with the Financial Aid Office for more detailed information and see www.middlebury.edu/offices/support/sfs/aid_apply/study_abroad.

Scholarships are generally not provided by universities abroad, though there are exceptions. The British Universities Transatlantic Exchange Association (BUTEX) offers scholarships of £500 to U.S. undergraduates studying at select U.K. universities. More information: www.butex.ac.uk/scholarships. Also see International Programs and www.middlebury.edu/office/study-abroad/scholarships for information on outside sources of financial aid.

Look closely at program fees. Universities often advertise only tuition costs, and there are significant living and transportation expenses that must be calculated separately. Students returning from study abroad are the best source of information about the real expenses of such study abroad. Note that studying in London is more expensive than other locations in the U.K. or Ireland.

EXPENSES AND DEBTS INCURRED WHILE ABROAD

Students are reminded that they are responsible for their own expenses and the settlement of any outstanding debts in the country in which they have studied. Failure to pay such debts reflects poorly on both the student and Middlebury

College and jeopardizes our relationships with study abroad programs and institutions overseas, as well as opportunities for future students. In such cases, credit for study abroad may be withheld until the matter is settled.

FURTHER QUESTIONS?

Students are encouraged to attend events conducted by International Programs throughout fall semester to investigate their study abroad options.

A Study Abroad Fair will be held Thursday, September 19, from 2:00 to 5:00 P.M. in the Axinn Center. Students can collect information and speak with representatives from programs and universities around the world. In addition, there will be program/university specific information sessions following the Study Abroad Fair 6:15-6:45 and 6:45-7:15pm (see www.middlebury.edu/schools-abroad/middlebury-students/events for details).

Also, meetings will be held during fall semester to connect students interested in studying abroad with returned students (see our Events page for dates and times: www.middlebury.edu/schools-abroad/middlebury-students/events). Students are reminded that they should meet with an advisor in International Programs during the fall semester. The staff in International is happy to meet with students interested in and applying to study abroad; see the contact list below.

International Programs and Off-Campus Study

Sunderland Language Center 129

tel: 802.443.5745 • e-mail: internationalprograms@middlebury.edu

<https://www.middlebury.edu/office/study-abroad>

Carlos Velez, Dean of International Programs

Liz Ross, Associate Dean

Stacey Woody Thebodo, Associate Director (Externally sponsored programs and Middlebury-CMRS)

Nicole Chance, Assistant Director (Middlebury Schools Abroad: Brazil, Cameroon, Germany, and Spain)

Bill Mayers, Assistant Director (Middlebury Schools Abroad: China, India, Morocco, and Jordan)

Susan Parsons, Assistant Director (Middlebury Schools Abroad: France, Japan, Russia, and MIIS)

Alessandra Capossela, Assistant Director (Middlebury Schools Abroad: Argentina, Chile, Italy, and Uruguay)

Catherine Pierattini, Assistant Director, University Relations

Mikaela Taylor, University Relations Associate

Heather Sitkie, Program Assistant