
Australia & New Zealand

Middlebury College
Study Abroad

2020-21



MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE

STUDY ABROAD IN

AUSTRALIA AND

NEW ZEALAND

2020–2021

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

Australia's and New Zealand's educational systems are highly regarded throughout the world and offer valuable opportunities for U.S. students looking for an academic and personal challenge in an English-speaking school system. In the past decade, opportunities for American students to study in their junior year in Australia or New Zealand have expanded tremendously—and American students have taken full advantage of the situation. Each year approximately 10–15 percent of Middlebury students studying on externally sponsored programs study in Australia or New Zealand.

UNIVERSITIES IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

University entry in both Australia and New Zealand is competitive and academic standards are high. All universities are considered “accredited” and are closely monitored by the government (they are required to satisfy certain conditions in order to be eligible for federal funding). Universities in Australia and New Zealand generally have a wide range of course offerings in many disciplines.

Australia

There are 43 universities in Australia (40 Australian universities, two international universities, and one private specialty university). Of the public universities in Australia, more than half were established before 1988. Six were established as the first universities in each state in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. One university was established at the conclusion of World War II, followed by a group of 12 state universities that were established in the late 1950s, 60s, and early 70s to accommodate the increasing number of students who were intent on a university education.

New Zealand

New Zealand has eight institutions of higher learning, also public universities. QS World University Rankings rank all eight New Zealand universities in the Top 3% in the world. (There are also 21 Polytechnics and Institutes of Technology, but Middlebury students typically do not attend these schools, as they are less relevant to a liberal arts degree.) Most of the universities in New Zealand were established in the late 1800s: the Universities of Auckland, Canterbury, Otago, and Victoria, as well as Lincoln University and the Auckland University of Technology. Massey University followed in the 1920s, then Waikato in the ‘60s.

EDUCATIONAL DIFFERENCES IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

Based on the English university system, bachelor's degrees in Australia and New Zealand are generally three years, with some students adding a fourth year for an Honours degree. A major difference between the Australian/New Zealand educational systems and that of the U.S. is the level of specialization. Students in Australia and New Zealand choose their area of specialization during secondary school. They do not choose an assortment of courses from a variety of departments; this concept of a liberal arts education is unique to the U.S. In an Australian or New Zealand university, the primary function of academics is to conduct research, so there is a strong emphasis placed on student independence.

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 Australia and New Zealand, 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 Middlebury. 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

Australia

Most Australian universities use a grading system with four clear grades of pass, although the terminology differs between institutions. The most commonly used terms are High Distinction, Distinction, Credit, and Pass. There is also a grade of Conceded or Terminated Pass, which is roughly equivalent to a U.S. grade of “D.” It is important to note that the distribution of grades in Australia contrasts markedly to that of the U.S. Many Middlebury students are used to earning grades of B or better; it can be more difficult to receive the equivalent grades at Australian universities. For example, according to several studies, the number of students who earned grades of A in the U.S. was three times the number of High Distinction grades awarded to students in Australia. It is also important to note that the award of the grade Credit, which is roughly comparable to a B/C grade in the U.S., is considered to be a good solid grade in Australia, and the award of a Pass grade in Australia is far more common than the comparable U.S. grade of C. Nonetheless, Middlebury students who take their academic work seriously generally perform at the same level abroad as they do at Middlebury.

New Zealand

In New Zealand students work to earn an overall mark for their “course” (degree) in a specific discipline. Results are normally written in letter grades of A through F, but this may vary at some universities. New Zealand degrees are granted in levels (First, Second, Third, Pass, and Fail), and employers often require students to present these results during job interviews. As in Australia, in New Zealand it can be more difficult to earn the high grades to which Middlebury students are accustomed.

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 18 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). *In most cases, students studying in Australia or New Zealand will take at least four courses per semester (with some exceptions); see International Programs with questions.*

Exams

Students are required to take all 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 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

It is possible to study abroad in Australia or New Zealand for a semester or a full year, or for the Australia/New Zealand academic year. The academic year in Australia and New Zealand runs from February until November or early December.

Semester: Students choosing to study abroad in Australia or New Zealand for our fall semester usually depart in July and finish the semester in November or December (this is Semester II in Australia and New Zealand). Students who study in Australia or New Zealand during our spring semester usually depart in February and finish in late June or early July (this is Semester I in Australia and New Zealand).

Year: Students may choose to spend the entire year studying in Australia or New Zealand, in which case they would normally be abroad from July until July, which includes the Southern Hemisphere summer vacation from December until February (note that it is not possible to return to Middlebury for J-term only). Another possibility is to study abroad in Australia or New Zealand for *their* academic year, February through November/December, which would mean studying abroad during the spring of one Middlebury academic year, followed by the fall semester of the next academic year. This is sometimes an attractive option for Febs, whose junior year coincides with this spring/fall combination.

Calendars of Australian Universities:

The University of New South Wales's new calendar:

In 2019, the University of New South Wales (UNSW) transitioned to a new academic calendar, called UNSW3+ (for more information see: www.international.unsw.edu.au/study-abroad-at-unsw). The new calendar includes three teaching terms plus January and August intensive terms (similar to our Winter Term). **IMPORTANT:** Middlebury students studying at UNSW will be **required** to participate in the full "Study Abroad Tailored Terms" which includes the intensive term plus the regular term:

- Fall semester (Semester II/Term 3 at UNSW): starts in August and ends mid-December
- Spring semester (Semester I/Term 1 at UNSW): starts early January and ends mid/late May

The required normal full course load will include one course during the intensive term and three courses during the regular term, totaling four courses for the semester. Students who successfully complete the Semester I/Study Abroad Tailored Term 1 (our spring semester), will earn five units of credit from Middlebury, to include J-term and spring semester. Students who successfully complete Semester II/Study Abroad Tailored Term 3 (our fall semester) will earn four units of credit (fall semester).

Middlebury students must enroll in the Study Abroad Tailored Terms. Middlebury will not approve or grant credit for participation in only the regular UNSW terms.

Other Australian Universities:

Some universities are beginning to offer early-start semesters in order for students to leave early, before the regular semester ends. Middlebury generally does not approve these options.

WHICH UNIVERSITY?

Middlebury, unlike many other schools, does not have an “approved list” of programs abroad. Among the many options in Australia and New Zealand, we do have preferences. Generally, we prefer study that is integrated into the public university system. We have found that study abroad at private universities in Australia or New Zealand

is not as suitable academically or culturally as study at the renowned public universities.

Although most Middlebury students directly enroll in a university in Australia or New Zealand, Middlebury students have also participated in SIT Study Abroad and SEA Semester ecology/sustainability programs in Australia and New Zealand. As these programs are focused on biology and environmental issues and are of a field-based nature, they are often most appropriate for students majoring in or who have background in environmental studies or biology. Students seeking to study abroad on SIT Study Abroad programs in Australia must present a proposal for the SIT Independent Study Project as part of their application to the Programs Abroad Committee.

UNIVERSITY OPTIONS

Australia

Australian National University – Located in the heart of Canberra, Australian Capital Territory, the university is located only minutes from the nation’s parliament and national institutions. ANU is one of Australia’s most prestigious universities and is recognized internationally for cutting-edge research and excellence in teaching.

The University of Adelaide – Established in 1874, the university is located in Adelaide (South Australia) and has an enrollment of approximately 22,000 students. Adelaide is a member of the Group of Eight—Australia’s leading universities.

Flinders University of South Australia – Also located in Adelaide (South Australia), Flinders was founded in 1966 and has an enrollment of about 16,600 students. Flinders has established itself as a leading research institution with a devotion to innovation.

Griffith University – Established in 1975, Griffith offers more than 300 degrees and is home to more than 40,000 students from 124 countries. Their five campuses span three cities between Brisbane and the Gold Coast, each with distinct areas of teaching and research.

James Cook University – Since its establishment in 1970, JCU has become one of the world’s leading institutions focusing on the tropics. With an enrollment of approximately 13,000 students, JCU is surrounded by the spectacular ecosystems of the rainforests of the wet tropics, the dry savannahs, and the Great Barrier Reef.

La Trobe University – Founded in 1964, La Trobe is a multi-campus university based in Victoria. La Trobe has about 26,000 students and is considered to be particularly strong in the arts and humanities.

Macquarie University – Established in 1964, Macquarie is located in Sydney, with its main campus in Macquarie Park. Macquarie enrolls 23,000 undergraduate students and 12,000 graduate students. In addition to regular course work, students studying at Macquarie can participate in an internship in a variety of fields.

Melbourne University – Established in 1853, the University of Melbourne is the second oldest in Australia and is a member of the Group of Eight, the eight leading Australian universities. Located in the city of Melbourne (Victoria), the university has an enrollment of

34,000 students and claims a leading position in business, education, engineering, arts, law, and medicine.

Monash University – Located in and around the city of Melbourne (Victoria), Monash was established in 1958 and enrolls about 43,000 undergraduates and 13,000 graduate students. Monash is also a member of the Group of Eight and is home to a range of major research facilities that are spread across eight campuses.

Murdoch University – A university of 18,000 students, Murdoch is located just outside the city of Perth (Western Australia) and was founded in 1973. Murdoch offers over 200 undergraduate degrees and postgraduate courses across a range of disciplines and claims a national reputation for excellence in teaching, research and student satisfaction.

The University of New South Wales – Founded in 1949 and located in the eastern suburbs of Sydney, UNSW has an enrollment of more than 45,000 students. UNSW is recognized as one of Australia’s leading teaching and research institutions and is a member of the Group of Eight.

The University of Queensland – Founded in Brisbane (Queensland) in 1909, this university enrolls 40,000 students. UQ is a member of the Australia’s Group of Eight and has taken the lead in numerous areas of research.

The University of Sydney – Founded in 1850, the University of Sydney is Australia’s oldest university and is a member of the Group of Eight. The university enrolls 48,000 students and is located in downtown Sydney. It is consistently ranked by the National Union

of Students as offering the best student experience in Australia.

The University of Tasmania – Located on the island of Tasmania, south of Australia, the two campuses located in Hobart and Launceston enroll 16,000 undergraduate and 4,200 graduate students. UTAS, which was established in 1890, has also been consistently ranked in the top 10 universities in Australia for research. UTAS also includes the Tasmanian School of Art, which is located in Hobart near natural wilderness and world heritage areas.

The University of Western Australia – Established in Perth (Western Australia) in 1911, UWA enrolls 15,000 undergraduate and 4,500 graduate students. UWA is a member of Australia’s Group of Eight and is recognized as one of Australia’s leading teaching and research universities.

The University of Wollongong – Located just over an hour south of Sydney (New South Wales), this university was founded in 1951 and has an enrollment of 22,000 students. Originally established as a provider of technical education for engineers and metallurgists required for the region’s steel industry, the University now offers a wide range of courses across nine faculties—Arts, Education, Health & Behavioral Sciences, Engineering, Law, Science, Informatics, Commerce and Creative Arts.

New Zealand

The University of Auckland – The largest university in New Zealand at an enrollment of 38,000 undergraduate and 9,000 graduate students, the University of Auckland was established in 1883 in the city of Auckland (North Island). The University is

made up of eight faculties over six campuses. Auckland boasts the highest international ranking among the New Zealand universities.

The University of Canterbury – Located in Christchurch, the South Island’s largest city, the University of Canterbury was founded in 1873 as the second university in New Zealand. Canterbury has an enrollment of 22,000 and offers undergraduate and postgraduate courses in 50 disciplines. It also has a number of specialist research centers and operates five major field stations.

The University of Otago – Founded in 1869, the University of Otago was New Zealand’s first university. Otago is located in Dunedin (South Island) and has an enrollment of 20,000. Otago topped the New Zealand Performance Based Research Fund evaluation in 2006 and claims the highest average research quality in New Zealand.

Victoria University of Wellington – Located in the capital city of Wellington (North Island), Victoria was founded in 1897 and has an enrollment of 22,000. Victoria has leading research centers in a number of areas including law, psychology, music, philosophy, literature, geophysics, human geography, logic and computation, biosciences, architecture, politics, international relations, and more.

The University of Waikato – One of New Zealand’s newer universities, Waikato was established in 1964. Waikato enrolls 13,000 students and is located in Hamilton (North Island). Waikato has achieved major successes in New Zealand’s Tertiary Teaching Excellence Awards, particularly in biology, chemistry, computer science, media studies, and mathematics. Waikato also has a strong School of Maori and Pacific Development.

Middlebury Students in Australia and New Zealand 2019–2020

Australia

Name	Program	Term
Jillian Lessing	SIT: Rainforest, Reef, & Cultural Ecology	Fall 2019
Alexandra White	SIT: Sustainability & Environmental Action	Fall 2019
Liam Lundal	University of Melbourne	Spring 2020
George Cole	University of New South Wales	Fall 2019
Caroline Funderburg	University of New South Wales	Fall 2019
Eva Shaw	University of New South Wales	Spring 2020
Williams Ahl	University of New South Wales	Fall 2019
Emily Allardi	University of New South Wales	Fall 2019
Riley Allen	University of New South Wales	Spring 2020
Tyler Bass	University of New South Wales	Fall 2019
Emily Bian	University of New South Wales	Fall 2019
William Brossman	University of New South Wales	Fall 2019
Emily Chu	University of New South Wales	Spring 2020
Nathaniel Eazor	University of New South Wales	Fall 2019
Charles Ferguson	University of New South Wales	Spring 2020
Isabelle Hartnett	University of New South Wales	Spring 2020
Jack Hoelzer	University of New South Wales	Fall 2019
Isha Kothari	University of New South Wales	Spring 2020
Grace Maley	University of New South Wales	Fall 2019
Samuel Rinzler	University of New South Wales	Fall 2019
Anya Sahni	University of New South Wales	Fall 2019
Henry Tantum	University of New South Wales	Fall 2019
Alexander Giles	University of Sydney	Fall 2019
Wiatt Hinton	University of Sydney	Fall 2019

New Zealand

Samuel Chester	Frontiers Abroad: Earth Science	Spring 2020
Camryn Kluetmeier	Frontiers Abroad: Earth Science	Spring 2020
Mollie Ockene	SEA Semester: Climate & Society	Fall 2019
Nicole Pollack	SEA Semester: Climate & Society	Fall 2019
Jackson Hawkins	SEA Semester: Oceans & Climate	Spring 2020
Bruce Atwood	University of Auckland	Fall 2019
Erin Hogan	University of Canterbury	Spring 2020
Henry Cronic	University of Otago	Fall 2019
Jaime Donnelly	University of Otago	Spring 2020
Reid Smith	University of Otago	Fall 2019
Lucia Bailey	University of Otago	Fall 2019
Adam Bernstein	University of Otago	Fall 2019
Hannah Brady	University of Otago	Fall 2019
Olivia Cappello	University of Otago	Fall 2019
John Epley	University of Otago	Fall 2019
Audrey Kelly	University of Otago	Fall 2019
Nicholas Nonnenmacher	University of Otago	Fall 2019
Samuel Olmsted	University of Otago	Fall 2019
Audrey Olson	University of Otago	Spring 2020
Joelle Rosen	University of Otago	Fall 2019
Lydia Smith	University of Otago	Spring 2020
Kathleen Sterup	University of Otago	Calendar Year 2020
William Stutt	University of Otago	Spring 2020

THE PROCESS OF INVESTIGATION

International Programs has considerable information available about study in Australia and New Zealand. The study abroad Web page (<https://www.middlebury.edu/office/study-abroad/programs->

[locations/australia-new-zealand](#)) has links to many universities in Australia and New Zealand.

General Information Sources

Study in Australia is a comprehensive resource on studying in Australia and includes information on semester or year study, guides and links to universities, pre-departure information, student visa requirements and forms, and more. Their Web site can be found at: www.studyinaustralia.gov.au

AustralianUniversities.com.au has profiles of all the Australian universities, as well as information on rankings. www.australianuniversities.com.au/

Education New Zealand is the official government site for advice on studying in New Zealand and has a wealth of information on education and life in New Zealand: www.studyinnewzealand.govt.nz/.

Embassy Web pages: The embassy Web pages for Australia and New Zealand include helpful information on culture and education. These Web sites can be found at: www.usa.embassy.gov.au and www.mfat.govt.nz/en/countries-and-regions/north-america/united-states-of-america/new-zealand-embassy-washington/.

Individual University Brochures

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

[locations/australia-new-zealand](#)

Returned Students from Study in Australia or New Zealand

One of the best resources for information about study in Australia and New Zealand is fellow students who have spent all or part of a year there. 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 helping and have valuable information and insight (see the list in this booklet for names of students who studied in Australia or New Zealand 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 our Web page: www.studyabroad101.com/universities/middlebury-college

Study Abroad Fair

Representatives from several universities and programs in Australia and New Zealand will be at the **Virtual Study Abroad Fair on Thursday, September 24, 2020** (See our Events page for further details: www.middlebury.edu/schools-abroad/middlebury-students/events).

ADMISSION AND APPROVAL

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

Please note: students should meet with Stacey Thebodo in International Programs during fall semester to discuss their study abroad plans (make an appointment online: <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 is usually no application fee. Note that many universities in Australia and New Zealand require a 3.0 grade point average to apply. Middlebury students with a 3.0 or above will likely be admitted to many of the universities to which they apply.

It is important to be aware that several universities in Australia and New Zealand tend to attract Middlebury students in large numbers. Since attending a university abroad with a significant number of Middlebury students can negatively affect the experience abroad, students are encouraged to seek out universities that not only have few Middlebury students, but also have relatively low numbers of U.S. students. Returned students verify that this enhances successful integration and helps to avoid the pitfall of hanging out exclusively with American students.

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. 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:

- Study Abroad Application Form
- Tentative Course Selection
- Major Advisor Approval 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, 2021: Deadline for submitting all completed online application materials, including the application, essay, and completed Major 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 Australia and New Zealand and make arrangements independently with the university. These 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 Australia or New Zealand 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 Australia and New Zealand 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 \$1,850 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 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 Australia and New Zealand; however, **Middlebury financial aid** is not available. Check with Student Financial Services (www.middlebury.edu/offices/support/sfs/aid_apply/study_abroad) for more detailed information. Scholarships are available from some study abroad programs on a competitive basis. Also, see www.middlebury.edu/office/study-abroad/scholarships for information on non-Middlebury 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. In general, most study abroad experiences can be achieved well within the total cost of a semester or year at Middlebury. Students returning from study abroad are the best source of information about the real expenses of such study abroad.

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?

A Virtual Study Abroad Fair will be held Thursday, September 24, 2020 (see our Events page for details:

www.middlebury.edu/schools-abroad/middlebury-students/events).

Students can collect information and speak with representatives from programs and universities around the world.

Also, meetings will be held during the fall semester to connect students interested in studying abroad with returned students (for dates and times see: 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 Programs 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

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