Study Abroad in Biology

Biology has more students involved in international experiences than any other science major at OSU for good reason. An international experience can provide you with necessary skills to work effectively with an increasingly diverse U.S. population and a global job market. Employers in health care, academia, non-profits, industry and state and federal agencies value the skills and experiences gained by students who go abroad. There is an international experience that will work for every biology student.

International experiences can help you...

There is much to be gained from understanding the history, ecosystems, cultural traditions and science of another geographic region and people. Some of the benefits include:

- Gain research experience in different ecosystems, bioregions, and specialties
- Gain new professional skills
- Improve your language skills
- Expand cross-cultural communication skills
- Globalize your world view and prepare for work in a diverse and international workplace

“While studying abroad in Bangor Wales, I felt like I grew more as an individual in those 9 short months than in the past 20 years! Not only did I make friends from around the world, I gained personal independence and caught that darn ‘travel bug.’ Knowing more about the differences that exist between countries and cultures makes life an adventure; now I can’t wait to see what’s next!”
- Sara Haines

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What types of international experiences are available?

- **IE3 Global Internships**: IE3 Global Internships provides students with opportunities to gain credit and professional experience in areas such as medical professions, ecology and evolutionary biology, conservation, marine biology, veterinary medicine, and many others.

- **Study abroad**: Biology majors can study abroad at a variety of settings where they can focus on their major requirements in English, as well as other languages. Students can also choose to focus on a foreign language or do an intensive, field-based program.

- **International Degree**: Students planning to study a foreign language while in Biology may want to consider the prestigious OSU International Degree (ID). The ID is a unique undergraduate major obtainable only as a second degree. In addition to the Biology major requirements, the ID candidate must: (1) take an additional 32 credits; (2) demonstrate proficiency in a foreign language equal to the completion of the fourth year; (3) spend a minimum of one ten-week term abroad on an approved program (IE3 Global Internships, study abroad, or independent research can count for this), and (4) complete a senior thesis. The ID affords a student the opportunity to develop a global perspective within the context of their Biology major by completing a research project, and International Degree students can also get special funding for research. More students in Biology complete International Degrees than any other major at OSU. For Information, contact Renee Stowell in International Programs at Renee.Stowell@oregonstate.edu.

Can I afford an international experience?

Yes! If going abroad is a priority, there is generally a way to make it affordable. Early planning for international experiences helps students make cost-effective program decisions, and it also helps them prepare their finances through savings, scholarships, and financial aid. There is a great deal of variation in costs, and students should carefully consider all of their options before making a decision. Students can apply financial aid and scholarships to approved international programs and, in some cases, financial aid eligibility will increase.

When comparing the cost of programs abroad, be sure to look at the costs of attending OSU for living and tuition. The estimates for attending OSU can be found at http://oregonstate.edu/admin/finaid/COA.html. The cost of going abroad can be comparable in many cases, and the difference can be made up with scholarships or financial aid.

Students who choose to go abroad may also be eligible for additional scholarships:

- All students who participate in international programs recognized by OSU can apply for scholarships through the Office of International Education and Outreach ($500–$1,000). Students who meet certain criteria such as studying specific languages or being from a small town in Oregon can apply for additional scholarships.

- All OSU Biology students can apply to the OSU Research Office for URISC (Undergraduate Research, Innovation, Scholarship, & Creativity) grants to support their undergraduate research abroad ($1,000 for 1 term; $1,800 for 2 terms; and $2,300 for the full academic year). See the URISC Website http://oregonstate.edu/research/incentive/urisc.htm for details.

- International Degree students in Biology can seek additional funding through the Office of International Education and Outreach ($1,000–$2,000) for their experience abroad. More information about these scholarships can be found at http://oregonstate.edu/international/international-degree/scholarships.html.

- All OSU Biology students can apply for numerous national awards that offer bigger scholarships ($3,000–$20,000). These scholarships are competitive and often have early deadlines so planning ahead is essential. Contact the Office of International Education and Outreach.

How will going abroad count toward my major? Will it take me longer to graduate if I go abroad?

With planning, students in Biology can finish an undergraduate degree in four years which involves a year or more abroad. Students must complete 180 credits and all of their degree requirements to graduate from OSU. The Biology major (as outlined on the Biology Advising Checklist) and Baccalaureate Core can generally be completed in approximately 150 credits. This means that each student has 30 or more credits they can take as electives, though this will vary.

International experiences can count toward graduation in the following ways:

- Students who do an IE3 Global Internship can use the BI 410 internship credits to count as part of the electives to meet the 180 credits for graduation.

- Students who study abroad can take courses that will count for their Biology major and Baccalaureate Core, or they can take elective credits to meet the 180 credits needed for graduation.

- International Degree requirements can be used to meet the 180 credits needed for graduation.
How do I select an international program?

Consider your academic interests and goals. You will need to work with your academic advisors and the staff in the Office of International Education to help you identify the program that is right for you. The following steps should help:

- **Start planning and research now.** Begin to plan at least six to nine months in advance of going abroad. Give yourself time to research programs and talk to advisers and students who have gone abroad to the site(s) you are interested in.

- **Set and prioritize goals.** There is not one program best suited for Biology students -- there are many good study abroad programs and international internships -- the best one for you depends on what you want. Consider your long-term academic and professional goals, as well as your degree requirements. Some important considerations in picking a program are:
  - If you want to focus on just a language, then you should talk to the Office of International Education.
  - If you are looking for science programs in English or other languages, start with this brochure.
  - If you want a professional or hands-on experience, then an IE3 Global Internship or field-based program may be better for you.
  - Study abroad courses may count toward courses in your major, while internships or field-based programs give you elective credits that count toward the 180 required for graduation, as well as a valuable professional experience.
  - Prepare academically. You may need to take language or other prerequisite courses for your chosen program. Talk to your advisor about the timing of sequences or single-term courses related to your major. IE3 Global Internships are open to juniors and seniors, while students can study abroad as sophomores.

### When should I do an international experience?

**Year or Term Considerations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year or Term</th>
<th>Considerations</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fresh. Year</td>
<td>Students should be planning for a future study abroad or IE3 Global Internship.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soph. Year</td>
<td>Students can study abroad for the entire year, but not for a single term due to science series coursework such as organic chemistry and physics. It is best for students thinking of going abroad in their junior year to complete physics their sophomore year, particularly if they are planning on going for a single term.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soph./Jr. Summer</td>
<td>Students can study abroad or do an IE3 Global Internship.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jr. Year</td>
<td>Students could do an international experience for a single term or a year. Students planning to do an IE3 Global Internship or study abroad for one term should plan to move their statistics and biochemistry series to the terms they will remain at OSU and instead take single-term courses while they are gone. Students going abroad for the year can take statistics and biochemistry or wait on one of them until their senior year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jr./Sr. Summer</td>
<td>Students can study abroad or do an IE3 Global Internship.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sr. Year</td>
<td>Students can study abroad or do an IE3 Global Internship. In general, students no longer have any series courses so they can easily go abroad for a single term or the year. It is generally not a good idea to go abroad the last term of senior year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sr. Summer</td>
<td>Some students choose to go abroad during their senior summer. In particular, students have done an IE3 Global Internship to cap off their undergraduate career. Students can still walk in the Spring as long as they complete their coursework for graduation over the summer.</td>
</tr>
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*"The (CFHI) Rural Himalayan Rotation (IE3) medical internship in Dehradun, India was by far my most significant personal and professional accomplishment to date. For ten weeks I lived in a world far removed from my American norm. I was challenged daily to step out of my comfort zone, and 7,000 miles away from everyone I knew. The customs and values I encountered seemed unfathomable at times, gorgeously exotic at others. I got the opportunity to witness a live birth, cesarean section, help dress wounds, give injections and enemas, take vital signs and see various pathologies not prevalent in the US (or other developed nations). After having this opportunity, I am more self-assured and aware of the people I come in contact with on a daily basis. Perhaps the biggest benefit of my internship is gaining a new perspective on my home country and culture, and appreciating all the resources we have available here. I am now able to critically observe my own country and compare it in all regards (resources available, political differences, different healthcare systems, etc.) to a less-developed nation."

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Samantha Evans, Biology
International Opportunities for Biology Majors

The following list is divided into sections covering the following:

IE3 Global Internships: IE3 Global Internships facilitate international internships around the world in such areas as medical professions, ecology and evolutionary biology, conservation, marine biology and many others. Students can generally do an IE3 Internship starting in their junior year, and most financial aid and scholarships can be used. During IE3 Internships, students can earn up to 12 internship credits per term.

Study abroad: Biology majors can study abroad at a variety of institutions and settings focusing on their major requirements and interests. There are three broad study abroad categories:

- Study biology in a field program in ecology, conservation or other area. These programs generally include a student research project at a research station.
- Study biology and other coursework at an overseas university. Students can take science courses in English at universities around the world. Students who achieve a high enough proficiency in another language can choose to study biology in several other countries and languages.
- Study a language abroad. Students can elect to study abroad in intensive programs, which cover a year or more of a foreign language in a term. Students interested in this option should contact the Office of International Education.

IE3 Global Internships (by internship topic and region)

Contact: International Programs

MEDICAL IE3

INDIA, SOUTH AFRICA, ECUADOR, and BOLIVIA

Child Family Health International (CFHI): Students rotate through a variety of clinical experiences to learn about various aspects of health care in Mumbai (Bombay), Delhi, or the Himalayas of India; Durban, South Africa; or Quito and Chone, Ecuador. The internship in Mumbai focuses on infectious disease. The internship in Bolivia focuses on pediatrics. Language requirement: English. (Some Spanish required for Ecuador). Available: Any term and summer; some summer programs available, 10 weeks.(OUS)

MEXICO

Pre-Medical Internship in Morelia

Interns will work with a variety of organizations under the Catholic umbrella organization “Caritas”. Interns will assist with patients at medical dispensaries, hospitals, nursing homes, orphanages, clinics and/or on home visits. Language requirement: Spanish equivalent to fourth-year university, but interns with borderline Spanish may be asked to take a refresher course in Morelia. Available: All terms, 3-6 months.(OUS)

MedSpanish and PaceMD

The Mission of the PACEMD is to develop emergency medicine within the Americas. Interns will assist in the development of Community Oriented Emergency Medicine in and around San Miguel de Allende and assist in projects related to injury epidemiology, health administration, health promotion, and medical education. Language requirement: Spanish equivalent to third-year university. Available: All terms, 3-6 months.(OUS)

El Hospital Maria Isabel:

Students rotate through a variety of clinical experiences in this small private hospital. The hospital offers general medicine, surgery, and a variety of specialties. Language requirement: Spanish equivalent to third-year university. Available: All terms and summer, 10 weeks.(OUS)

VETERINARY MEDICINE IE3

COOK ISLANDS

The Esther Honey Foundation (EHF): The purpose of EHF is to improve the health conditions of domestic animals in the Cook Islands (South Pacific) by providing a veterinarian and technicians for the islands. Language requirement: English. Available: Starting spring or fall term, 6 months.(OUS)

NAMIBIA

Cheetah Conservation Fund Research and Conservation Site: Work to preserve the habitat and future of the cheetah in the Kalahari bush by participating in a variety of projects and cheetah care. Language requirement: English. Available: All terms and summer, 3 months.(OUS)

BIOMEDICAL, GENETICS AND MOLECULAR BIOLOGY IE3

GERMANY

The DAAD-RISE program places undergraduates with doctoral students at German institutions to work on research in areas such as genetics, molecular biology, physiology, cancer research, and others. Language requirement: English. Available: summer terms, 10+ weeks.(OUS)

INDIA

Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE): work to conserve biodiversity and promote sustainable development by participating in projects working on conservation genetics. Language requirement: English. Available: All terms and summer, 3 months.(OUS)

EVOLUTIONARY AND ORGANISMSAL BIOLOGY, ECOLOGY, CONSERVATION, AND OTHER FIELD BIOLOGY IE3

AUSTRALIA


Customized Conservation and Parks Internships, Tasmania: Interns work with programs throughout the state of Tasmania Australia in the field of conservation and parks management. Internships will be based on student experience and may include park surveys, management policy, conservation management and threatened species conservation. Language requirement: English. Available: all terms and summer, 3 month minimum.

COSTA RICA

Las Cruces Biological Station: Interns participate in station research and educational activities on the reserve. Language requirement: Spanish equivalent to two years of university study. Available: All terms and summer, 3 months.(OUS)

ECUADOR (including the Galapagos Islands)

Fundacion Jatun Sacha: Interns work at one of six reserves throughout the country from the Galapagos to the Amazon. Activities include research, education and resource management. Language requirement: Two years college level Spanish. Available: All terms and summer, 3 months.(OUS)
Study Abroad Field Courses

BONAIRE
Study Tropical Marine Biology in the southern Caribbean. This semester program includes field experience and hands-on observation. Available: Fall, winter, spring. Language Requirement: English. Contact: International Programs. (CIEE)

BOTSWANA
Ecology and Conservation: Study the ecology of the Kalahari Desert and Okavango Delta and the cultures of Botswana. Combine your study with an independent research project. Available: Fall, winter-spring. Language Requirement: English. Recommended to have some Portuguese or Spanish but not required. Contact: International Programs. (SIT)

COSTA RICA (Monteverde)

ECUADOR (Galapagos Islands)
Study the terrestrial and marine ecosystems of one of the most interesting island systems in the world. Available: Fall, winter-spring. Language Requirement: 1 year of Spanish. Contact: International Programs. (OUS)

KENYA

MADAGASCAR

MEXICO Coast

PACIFIC OR ATLANTIC, S.E.A. Program
Study marine science and oceanography at Woods Hole and then learn to sail while conducting research in the Atlantic or Pacific. Available: Fall, winter, winter-spring or summer, 12 week semesters. Language Requirement: English. Contact: Brock McLeod, mcleodb@science.oregonstate.edu. (COS)

TANZANIA (Coastal)
Study Abroad Opportunities (by region)

**AUSTRALIA**

James Cook University, Townsville & Cairns
James Cook is a leader in several fields, especially marine and tropical biology. Located in Townsville near the Great Barrier Reef and rainforests. **Available:** Fall (July-November), winter-spring (February-June), or year-long. **Language requirement:** English. **Contact:** International Programs. (OUS)

Macquarie University, Sydney
Study biology coursework, as well as health and behavioral sciences. Macquarie is a comprehensive university with 30,000 students located twelve miles north of Sydney. **Available:** Fall (July-November), winter-spring (February-June), or year-long. **Language requirement:** English. **Contact:** International Programs. (OUS)

University of Queensland, Brisbane
Study biology, health sciences and marine science at one of Australia's leading universities. Queensland is a comprehensive university of 38,000, located in Brisbane near the Gold Coast. **Available:** Fall (July-November), winter-spring (February-June), or year-long. **Language requirement:** English. **Contact:** International Programs. (Butler)

**CHILE**

Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Valparaiso
Study biology and marine biology in a medium-size university of 13,000 students. Valparaiso is a port city located near tourist areas. **Available:** Fall (July-December), winter-spring (February-July), or year-long. **Language requirement:** Spanish. **Contact:** International Programs. (CIEE)

**COSTA RICA**

Universidad de Costa Rica
Study biology in Costa Rica's premier university located in San Jose, the capital. **Available:** Fall (July-December), winter-spring (February-July), or year-long. **Language requirement:** Spanish. **Contact:** International Programs. (Butler)

**ECUADOR**

Universidad San Francisco de Quito, Cumbaya
Nestled high in the Andes Mountains, Quito is the center of Ecuador's political and cultural activity. Study biology and health sciences and ecology with Ecuadorians. **Available:** Fall, winter-spring, or year-long. **Language requirement:** 2 years of Spanish. **Contact:** International Programs. (OUS)

**FRANCE**

3 Universities in Lyon
Lyon, the second largest city in France, has an ideal location along the Rhône and Saône rivers. The year-long program provides the opportunity to study French, as well as a variety of biology courses. **Available:** Year-long. **Language requirement:** 3 years of French to take Biology courses. **Contact:** International Programs. (OUS)

University of Poitiers, Poitiers
The city of Poitiers is a center for education, agriculture, and industry. The University of Poitiers is the second oldest in France and has 24,000 students. Students can take courses in biology and health sciences. **Available:** Year-long. **Language requirement:** 3 years of French needed to take Biology Courses. **Contact:** International Programs. (OUS)

**GERMANY**

Baden-Württemberg - 13 Universities
Students can study at one of thirteen universities located in this picturesque region of southwest Germany. Some universities offer a few science courses in English and students can take biology courses in German. **Available:** Fall-winter, or year-long. **Language requirement:** 3 years of German to take Biology courses. **Contact:** International Programs. (OUS)

**IRELAND**

University College Cork
Study biology and health sciences at a medium-size university of 15,000 students. Cork, a city of 200,000, is located in green, beautiful countryside, about 160 miles from Dublin. **Available:** Fall (September-December), winter-spring (January-May), or year-long. **Language requirement:** English. **Contact:** International Programs. (Butler)

University of Otago, Dunedin
Study biology at New Zealand's oldest university in the midst of the many outdoor adventures possible on the South Island. Dunedin, the second-largest city, stretches gracefully across steep hills near the head of a long inlet. **Available:** Fall (July-November), winter-spring (February-June), or year-long. **Language requirement:** Spanish. **Contact:** Shawna Harvey, 2046 Cordley Hall, 541-737-2404, shawna.harvey@oregonstate.edu. (COS)

**MEXICO**

Universidad de las Americas, Puebla
Study biology in Spanish at a private university of 8300 students. UDLA is located in Cholula an important pre-colonial city. **Available:** Fall (August-December), winter-spring (January - May), or year-long. **Language requirement:** Spanish. **Contact:** International Programs. (OUS)

**NEW ZEALAND**

University of Auckland, Auckland
Auckland is a large and cosmopolitan city nestled between two harbors with easy access to the outdoors. Study biology and health-related courses at the University of Auckland, a city campus of 33,000 students. **Available:** Fall (July-November), winter-spring (February-June), or year-long. **Language requirement:** English. **Contact:** Shawna Harvey, 2046 Cordley Hall, 541-737-2404, shawna.harvey@oregonstate.edu. (COS)

University of Pretoria
Study biology at one of the premier universities in the U.K. Edinburgh is the architecturally renowned capital of Scotland. **Available:** Fall (September-December), Spring (January - May) or year-long. **Language requirement:** English. **Contact:** International Programs. (Butler)

**SPAIN**

Universidad de Cantabria, Santander
Study biology at the University of Cantabria, a university of 15,000 students. Santander is a resort and port town on the northern coast of Spain near the Cantabrian Mountain Range. **Available:** Fall, winter-spring, or year-long. **Language requirement:** 3 years of Spanish to take Biology courses. **Contact:** International Programs. (OUS)

**SOUTH AFRICA**

University of Pretoria
Study biology and the health sciences at UP, a large university of 38,000 students. Pretoria is the administrative capital of S. Africa and home to a million inhabitants. **Available:** Fall (July-December), winter-spring (January - June), or year-long. **Language requirement:** English. **Contact:** International Programs. (OUS)

**UNITED KINGDOM**

University of Edinburgh
Study biology at one of the premier universities in the U.K. Edinburgh is the architecturally renowned capital of Scotland. **Available:** Fall (September-December), Spring (January - May) or year-long. **Language requirement:** English. **Contact:** International Programs. (Butler)
University of Lancaster, Lancaster
Study biology and medicine at the University of Lancaster located a few miles from Lancaster in the Lake District. The 16,000 student university is a leader in teaching and research. **Available:** Year-long. **Language requirement:** None. **Contact:** Mary Ann Matzke, Science, 128 Kidder; 541-737-3880 Maryann.Matzke@oregonstate.edu. (COS)

University of Nottingham, Nottingham
Study biology at the multi campus University of Nottingham. With a quarter million people, Nottingham has a lot to offer from traditional markets, to fashionable bars boutiques. **Available:** Year-long. **Language requirement:** none. **Contact:** Chris A. Bell, College of Engineering, 101 Covell; 541-737-1598, Maryann.Matzke@oregonstate.edu. (COE)

University of Sheffield, Sheffield
Study biology in England’s fourth largest city. Sheffield is one of England’s leading universities with courses across a span of biology subjects, and a campus is close to the spectacular Peak District National Park. **Available:** Year-long. **Language requirement:** English. **Contact:** International Programs. (OUS)

University of Wales, Bangor
Study biology and marine biology at the University of Wales which has 8000 students and the finest undergraduate marine laboratory in Europe. Bangor has 12,000 residents and a stunning location between mountains and the Irish Sea. **Available:** Year-long. **Language requirement:** None. **Contact:** Mary Ann Matzke, Science, 128 Kidder; 541-737-3880 Maryann.Matzke@oregonstate.edu. (COS)

If you prefer to do an intensive language program or work on electives, there are many other OSU sponsored programs. Visit the OSU Study Abroad Website for a complete list of international opportunities [http://oregonstate.edu/international/](http://oregonstate.edu/international/)