

## Experiential Learning and Study Abroad

Studying abroad is “experiential learning” opportunity in and of itself! You will be taking courses and learning outside of your comfort zone, meeting new people and (hopefully!) full immersing yourself in your host culture. However, some of the SJU approved/affiliated programs offer or facilitate field components such as internships, service learning opportunities and volunteer work while abroad, adding a level of immersion beyond just the classroom environment. You can find detailed information about all of the programs listed below on the CIP website: <https://internationalprograms.sju.edu>.

### ***Programs with Experiential Learning Opportunities:***

<b>Program Name</b>	<b>City, Country</b>	<b>Types of Experience Offered</b>
Alliance for Global Education: Contemporary India	Pune, India	Internships, Documentary Film, Directed Research
Belgium Internship Program	Belgium, Brussels	Internship with European Parliament or NGO
Center for Global Education and Experience: Nation Building, Globalization and Decolonizing the Mind	Windhoek, Namibia; Cape Town and Johannesburg, South Africa	Internship
DIS - Copenhagen	Copenhagen, Denmark	Volunteering
Fairfield University in Florence	Florence, Italy	Internships, Service Learning and Volunteering
IES Abroad Paris: Business & International Affairs	Paris, France	Internships (for students with some French language ability)
IES Abroad Paris: French Studies	Paris, France	Internships (in French)
IES Abroad Vienna: European Society & Culture	Vienna, Austria	Internships (German may be required, depending on the placement)
IFSA-Butler: Argentine Universities Program	Buenos Aires, Argentina	Directed Research, Volunteering
IFSA-Butler: Macquarie University	Sydney, Australia	Internships
John Cabot University	Rome, Italy	Internships, Volunteering
Loyola Vietnam Center	Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam	Internships, Service Learning
National University of Ireland, Galway	Galway, Ireland	Service Learning (Literacy course)
UPCES Prague/IEF	Prague, Czech Republic	Internships (not for credit!)
Saint Louis University in Madrid	Madrid, Spain	Volunteering
Marquette University: South Africa Service Learning	Cape Town, South Africa	Service Learning (required)
St. Mary's University	London, England	Internships
Temple University Rome	Rome, Italy	Internships, Volunteering

The American University of Rome	Rome, Italy	Volunteering, Internships available for academic year
The Beijing Center for Chinese Studies	Beijing, China	Internships
Universidad Alberto Hurtado	Santiago, Chile	Service Learning
Universita Cattolica del Sacro Cuore	Milan, Italy	Internships

***Why participate in an Internship Abroad? Top 6 Benefits:***

- 1. Cross-Cultural Skills and Sensitivity:** Almost every international job, regardless of industry, highlights these skills as a key requirement. Working with local employees (and possibly those who don't speak English) will force you to develop these skills, and fast.
- 2. Escaping the American Bubble:** Not only will you be living in a foreign country, but working in a foreign office, which will demonstrate flexibility and adventurousness on your part, as well as a willingness to learn, beyond that of the typical American.
- 3. Transferable Skills:** Even if your internship has little to do with what you believe will be your future career path, odds are that you will learn and refine transferable skills such as written and oral communication skills, critical thinking and analysis.
- 4. Lessons in Independence:** Preparing for your internship abroad, whether acquiring academic credit or a work visa, as well as crafting your work routine in a foreign country (navigating the public transportation, networking with local organizations, etc.), will help you become incredibly independent.
- 5. Networking:** Through your internship you will be able to build an international network of contacts. The people you develop relationships with each and every day could help you land a job in your field or host country.
- 6. Increased Language Proficiency:** Even if you have been studying a language for years, interning enables you to learn a new vocabulary specific to the field in which you're working.

## ***Pros and Cons of an International Internship***

<b>Pros</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Apply your education outside the classroom</li><li>• “Reality test” a career you are considering</li><li>• Build your resume</li><li>• Expand upon your network</li><li>• Meet locals, expand your cultural immersion</li><li>• Direct connections to international career</li><li>• Secure a international recommendation</li></ul>
<b>Cons</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Some programs have higher GPA requirement</li><li>• May require a Visa for residence</li><li>• Never guaranteed</li><li>• Time commitment vs. time to travel</li><li>• May be asked to work nights and weekends</li><li>• Cultural differences and language barriers</li></ul>

**What is Volunteering?:** Volunteering is any activity that involves spending unpaid time, doing something that aims to benefit the environment or someone (individuals or groups). This can include formal activity undertaken through public, private and voluntary organizations as well as informal community participation.

**What is Service Learning?:** Service-Learning is a form of experience-based education where students engage in service as part of their academic course work. Service learning helps students acquire useful skills, and it can even lead to professional opportunities. The purpose is to integrate meaningful community service with instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities. The time commitment for service learning is usually 15-30 hours per semester.

### ***SJU Student Testimonials:***

*“Choosing to participate in the Service Learning class in Galway, Ireland, truly made my time abroad a rich and fulfilling experience. I was able to become part of the community through teaching at a local elementary school. Although I was helping Patrick and his classmates, in the end, they exposed me to the beauty of the culture of Ireland and helping another. I am forever thankful to Dr. Dermot Burns and all of NUI Galway for providing this incredible experience for those studying abroad.”*

- Kristen Pilkington, National University of Ireland in Galway, Fall 2012

*“For me, the internship was the quickest and easiest way to integrate into British culture. I met great people outside of the study abroad classes. I would encourage anyone who is career minded to consider the benefits of an internship.”*

- Michele Manning, IFSA-Butler: Birkbeck College, London, Spring 2013

