



LAEP Study Abroad Requirement

Educational Objective:

One of the major LAEP departmental goals is to help students develop new perspectives and insight in the way they evaluate, plan, and design physical environments. Study Abroad is an effective means of exposing students to a greater diversity of perspectives and application of planning and design principles, particularly given diverse cultural influences.

Students should review the Study Abroad Requirements presented in the USU General Catalog.

The Bachelor of Landscape Architecture degree requires students to complete one study abroad experience sanctioned by the department for course credit following matriculation. Three options are available to students.

Faculty-led Study Abroad

The faculty-led study abroad experience is the primary means by which students meet the study abroad requirement. **The faculty-led study abroad course is required during the Spring semester following matriculation**, and occurs over spring break. Costs associated with the study abroad course vary, and students will be informed of their financial responsibility associated with the trip in a timely manner. Students are individually responsible for finding and purchasing their own airfare to and from the destination.

These study abroad experiences are planned well in advance, and also require advance planning on the part of students. A significant course fee is associated with faculty-led study abroad which covers shared expenses such as lodging, local transportation, and venue entry. In addition, students are responsible for and will need to plan for the cost of travel to and from the destination, meals during the trips, as well as souvenirs and any cost associated with personal care and toiletries, all of which are not included in the course fee.

International travel requires legal documentation (i.e., a U.S. Passport), which is also the responsibility of the student. Passport applications should be processed during the Fall semester before planned travel to study abroad. Processing can take 2-3 months, <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/passports/how-apply/processing-times.html>.

Semester-long Study Abroad

Students participating in a LAEP-sanctioned semester-long study abroad automatically meet the study abroad course requirements, but must enroll in the appropriate course for credit. Students planning to study abroad should meet and plan their course schedules with Deandra Harps beforehand.

The department currently has two sanctioned opportunities through cooperative agreements with international universities: Hochschule Anhalt University in Germany and the University of Ljubljana in Slovenia. These two programs are the LAEP-sanctioned semester-long study abroad opportunities.

Individual Study Abroad Experience

Students are expected to participate in faculty-led or semester-long study abroad experiences. However, in unusual circumstances individuals may apply to receive credit for an independently arranged study abroad. Individually arranged study abroad must be the equivalent of faculty-led

study abroad experiences in their disciplinary focus, engagement with noteworthy landscapes and practitioners, learning potential, and duration. Students will first be required to submit a justification for the unusual circumstance that would prevent them from participating in the faculty-led or semester-long study abroad courses (financial need is not grounds for justification). They will be required to provide a narrative justifying the focus of the trip, learning objectives, the relevance of the trip, proposed travel dates, estimated costs, etc.

Students must apply and be approved to receive credit before the trip is commenced (see submission schedule). Independent study abroad may not conflict with the student's other courses.

Completing Individual Study Abroad domestically outside of the Intermountain West is allowable in exceptional circumstances which preclude international travel and will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

Study Abroad Course Credit Requirement

The Bachelor of Landscape Architecture curricula include a requirement for a minimum of 2 credits of Study Abroad. The requirement can be satisfied by one of the following courses:

LAEP 4350 / 6550 Faculty-led Study Abroad Course (Sp)	2 cr
LAEP 4350 / 6550 Independent Study Abroad (F,Sp,Su)	2 cr

Guidelines for Independent Study Abroad

The following guidelines have been developed to ensure consistency in meeting the departmental study abroad requirement. Independent plans must be proposed and approved prior to study abroad, although credit for prior study abroad may be granted in rare situations where all criteria are fully met.

1. Talk to the LAEP Study Abroad Coordinator to discuss your ideas well in advance of the proposed travel dates.
2. Prior to enrollment submit a proposal to the *LAEP Study Abroad Coordinator* (Dr. Benjamin George) for individual study abroad.
3. The LAEP Study Abroad Coordinator will evaluate the proposal based on the following criteria:
 - Is there a reasonable relationship to the profession or practice of landscape architecture and environmental planning as evidenced by the proposal?
 - Does the study abroad experience include urban environments (or other human impacted environments) that generally are not found in the Intermountain West?
 - Is the justification for the study abroad based predominantly upon the outstanding valuable of the proposed educational experience?
 - Does the content of the proposed substitute equate in intensity (i.e., duration, rigor, diversity and relevance) to the departmental faculty-led study abroad course?
4. If approved, the LAEP study abroad coordinator will specify what type of documentation should be submitted and what the expectations are in terms of quality in order to fulfill the requirements of LAEP 4350 / 6550. Unless otherwise noted, the student will be responsible for the following:
 - Report on the study abroad experience to the students and faculty of LAEP in the form of a publicly announced presentation of 30min + discussion (the student will post flyers and email peers via LAEP's Student List Service 1wk prior)

- Share the travel experience by posting a description of your study abroad on the LAEP web site (see office staff for assistance), including a download of an electronic presentation (e.g., Powerpoint slide show used in public presentation)
5. Enroll in LAEP 4350 / 6550 Independent Study Abroad for two credit hours.
 6. Present and submit the required documentation by the last day of classes for the semester.