

Study Abroad as a Physics Major

A substantial fraction of students in the College of Arts and Sciences, but only few Physics majors, are studying abroad. Most of these students spend a summer at a foreign university or institution. Fewer spend one or more semesters abroad. While it may be challenging to fit time abroad into the rigorous physics curriculum, it is quite possible and very much worthwhile.

It is very important to start thinking and planning for studying abroad early and make sure that you will be able to take all the classes you need to complete your major. You can find information about study abroad programs at [here](#)¹. UVa has exchange requirement with the universities [listed on that site](#)². The purpose of exchange agreements with these universities is that some of the administrative procedures are agreed upon already:

- what is your status at UVa while abroad?
- what is your status at the host university / institution?
- is tuition to be paid nowhere / at one / at both places?
- what are insurance requirements (see [this](#))³?
- usually, a list of courses exists for which transfer credit has been pre-approved.

In addition, you should find out about housing, health and other insurances, visa requirements, and possibilities for stipends. However, you can go to any university and obtain transfer credit from there, provided their courses are equivalent to the ones at UVa, and that you seek and gain approval in advance. See <http://college.as.virginia.edu/transfer-credit> for details.

Recently, physics majors have spent a semester in their third year in St. Andrews, Bath, and Edinburgh (all UK) and Canterbury (NZ). Our [SPS](#) officers can give helpful advice.

Internships Abroad for Physics Major

There are also possibilities for research internships abroad. While we are not aware of a complete list, the following websites could be a starting point for a search:

- Our SPS website: <https://spsatuva.github.io/>. Our SPS lists internship opportunities at UVa, within the US (often [REU's](#)), and abroad.
- Website of the Center for Undergraduate Research: <https://undergraduateresearch.virginia.edu/>

¹ This link refers to <https://educationabroad.virginia.edu/getting-started>

² This link refers to <https://educationabroad.virginia.edu/institutional-partners>

³ This link refers to <https://educationabroad.virginia.edu/insurance>