

OFF-CAMPUS STUDY AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Below are a list of programs that offer civic learning, civic skills, community service, community-based research, and service learning opportunities.

Skidmore in Spain

Location: Madrid and Alcalá

This program offers many opportunities to engage with the local community on a substantive level. There are internships and volunteer placements in local NGOs, schools, and community organizations, supporting education, refugee groups, marginalize/at-risk populations (including women, children, the elderly, people of color, and immigrants), and government organizations. The program also offers a “Perspectives Series” that brings in guest lecturers to discuss diverse challenges to human rights in Spain and the Spanish activist movement that addresses those challenges. Perspectives lectures support the program’s foundational mission of educating about identity, justice, and intercultural mindfulness practices.

Skidmore in New Zealand

Locations: Auckland and Canterbury

This program offers 5-week field camp experience in which students track and analyze current environmental issues arising from the interface between nature and society or they study the geologic evolution of New Zealand through on-site, laboratory and field based studies. Courses and activities are developed around the intersection of indigenous and western beliefs regarding the topics being examined. Students spend a part of the field camp at a traditional Maori village and engage with the culture firsthand. In addition, students can participate in internships in a wide variety of fields once they complete the field camp and are taking courses at the host university.

API Buenos Aires

Location: Universidad de Belgrano, Buenos Aires

This program offers several organized projects, including API Gives Back Project, which is organized by API and consists of an ongoing volunteer or a one-day commitment. The goal is to help students express their gratitude for the welcome they receive from the local community. Students can also participate in the Share Your Language Project, a government initiative to advance opportunities for youth in public schools through promoting bilingualism. This is a month-long program during the academic semester in Buenos Aires with goal of making a positive impact on the community. In addition, students can participate in internships sponsored by Buenos Aires city government. The placement in a city office for is for 24 hours/week for a total of two months. A tutor assigned to interns to help them build professional skills and provide weekly support and guidance. Internship placements include the Housing Institute, Innovation and Open Government, Environmental Protection Agency, Secretary of Housing and Social Integration, Sub-Secretary of Human Rights and Cultural Pluralism, General Direction of Family Development, and others.

Advanced Studies in England

Location: Bath, England

ASE encourages students to integrate as fully as possible into the Bath community. It seeks to balance the students’ academic experiences with equally engaging and challenging opportunities for intercultural learning. They offer a Certificate of Cultural Enrichment (CCE); students who enroll in the

CCE are expected to participate in both ASE-organized and community-run activities in the Bath area. Students reflect analytically on their cultural experiences and join discussions in the forums provided.

CET Brazil: Social Justice & Inequality

Location: São Paulo, Brazil

Students build a foundation for understanding the dynamics of global poverty and inequality—both in and out of the classroom. They study social movements within Brazil, take Portuguese classes to better engage with the community, live with Brazilian roommates that give an access point into local life, and travel to Salvador da Bahia to take on learning by experiencing. The required core course is “Social Justice and Inequality in 21st Century Brazil” and students can take an elective titled “Re-thinking Racial Democracy in Brazil”. Both courses supplement in-class work with field-based course components.

CET Shanghai

Location: Shanghai, China

This program offers an internship elective, taking advantage of a robust local network, an in-class component that helps contextualize students’ roles and responsibilities, and the support of on-site faculty and staff. Students learn to navigate an international workplace with professionalism and take ownership of their own experiences.

Colgate University

Location: Santa Fe, New Mexico

Community-based learning is the heart of this program. Students engage squarely in Indian Country, making the program an intercultural experience despite being located in the United States. Depending on their interests and concentrations, students are placed at Tesuque or Cochiti Pueblo, where they assist in programs such as early childhood education, elementary education, health, environmental management, sustainable farming, eldercare, or law. Alternatively, some students may be placed at the Santa Fe Indian School if their interest is in secondary education.

DIS Copenhagen

Location: Copenhagen, Denmark

In Denmark, there is a long tradition of volunteering and civic engagement, with 35 % of the population engaged in a volunteer activity. However, Denmark’s comprehensive welfare state is responsible for covering aspects usually taken care of by philanthropists in the U.S. Therefore, students may experience that volunteering in Denmark, and the projects they could be involved in, are different than those in the U.S. The program offers opportunities with CPH Volunteers, a volunteer squad under the Municipality of Copenhagen’s Department of Culture and Leisure and the sub-department of City Development and Events. They also have a Social Justice Living & Learning Community, a highly selective opportunity to engage in life in Copenhagen through the lens of justice and activism. Students must be self-directed with an interest in civic engagement and want to move beyond critical thinking and learn how to act on their viewpoints in the local Copenhagen and global context. Students don’t need to be a proven activist to join this community – just a desire to make a difference. Goals include understanding different approaches to activism through discussions with Danish and international activists and by participating in activist events, learning about activism/social change by engaging in students’ own activist activities, and reflecting on differences in both concepts and practice of social justice between Denmark and the U.S.

IES Abroad Other

At several of its locations, IES offers service learning programs that combine coursework with volunteer work. The service-learning seminar is credit-bearing and placements vary by site and student interest. Class assignments are designed to help students articulate their own personal growth, understand their role as a member of a local and global community, and encourage them to be champions of social responsibility. The majority of IES Abroad programs also offer internship opportunities.

IES Japan

Location: Nagoyo, Japan

This program offers limited opportunities for advanced students to enroll in a course that offers a volunteer opportunity in local schools. In addition, there are various volunteer projects organized by the program, some are long-term and others are one-time events. However, this is not an academic component of the program.

IFSA Chile

Location: Santiago and Valparaiso, Chile

In Valparaiso, students take a core course titled "Chilean Society and Community Action" which is paired with an internship that involves working with youth in community organizations, individuals with disabilities, homeless populations, or other marginalized and at-risk groups. The course places the internship experience in the socio-historical context of which it forms part and proposes a reading of the reality considering the social, economic and political dimensions. It relates the contents of the course to the students' internship in a community organization, through reflexive instances and discussion in classes. It is expected that the course will enable the students to develop a contextualized reading of the Chilean reality, and their own intervention process in a field of action from a specific organization or institution.

In Santiago, students can conduct in-depth research on a contemporary issue of their choosing; they work closely with IFSA staff to hone their proposals and identify suitable faculty sponsors to guide their work. Before students begin to conduct interviews and collect data, they attend two mandatory sessions on research methodology taught by a local faculty member.

In both locations, there are volunteer opportunities as well.

IFSA Australia

Location: University of Sydney, University of New South Wales and University of Melbourne

All three programs offer student teaching, community-based learning, and volunteering opportunities for students.

IFSA Other

Additional IFSA programs that offer service learning and social justice options: Argentine Universities programs, all programs in Peru, Merida, Mexico program, University of Ireland – Galway program, India programs, and Victoria University Wellington program.

OTS South Africa

Location: South Africa

This program provides faculty-guided field projects (FFPs), in which visiting faculty members select the topic focusing on novel issues in the ecology and/or conservation of savannas, fynbos or marine systems. They guide students through the process of identifying narrower questions about the topic,

developing relevant hypotheses, designing tests of these hypotheses and interpreting data. Fieldwork for projects are each two to three days in length, and there are typically 5 – 7 faculty to teach on the course.

SIT

Locations: Amsterdam, Bali, Bolivia, Byron Bay, Cairns, Cape Town, Cuzco, Durban, Ho Chi Minh City, Jaipur, Madagascar, Nepal, Panama, Prague, Quito, Rabat, Samoa, Serbia, Switzerland, Uganda, and Zanzibar

Several SIT programs focus on multiculturalism, social change and human rights. On all SIT programs, students complete an in-depth, field-based project known as the Independent Study Project (ISP). The project takes one of three forms, all of which require students to engage with local community:

- An ISP that addresses a formulated research question;
- A creative ISP that incorporates artwork or a performance; or
- A practicum-based ISP.

In each case, the project involves conducting original fieldwork, giving a final presentation, and writing a formal research paper. Students are required to examine the ethics of their research and consider its impact on local communities. On some SIT programs, student can participate in an internship instead.

School for Field Studies

Locations: Australia, Costa Rica, Tanzania, and Turks and Caicos

On all SFS programs, students complete a directed-research project, which includes a research ethics course, guided by a local faculty member who works with the community to identify issues that are worth analyzing and answer an overarching research question identified by the program leadership. Research is always based on a local issue or concern and conducted in conjunction with local organizations to ensure the outcomes are beneficial to the local community.

MSID at University of Minnesota

Locations: Ecuador and Thailand

Minnesota Studies in International Development (MSID) is devoted to the preparation of culturally sensitive individuals who are committed to the concepts of justice and sustainable development for all societies in our interdependent world. MSID seeks to engage students, faculty, staff, and the general community in dialogue and reciprocal learning with people from Africa, Asia, and Latin America concerning local and global problems, with a particular emphasis on development issues. Through grassroots internships and research experiences in development projects working within economically poor communities, MSID participants gain firsthand experience with the conditions, needs, and strengths of the countries involved with the program.

UW in India

Location: Varanasi, India

This program offers a Community-Based Learning course, but there is not a syllabus or details on the website.