**College of Education & Social Services**

**Study Abroad Advising Plan**

**Social Work Majors**

**Benefits of Study Abroad**

* Many students can take courses abroad which fulfill major, minor, or distribution requirements. Additionally, studying in another country gives students a broader perspective to their academic career. Classes can be taken in a foreign language or in English, even in countries where English isn't the native language. There is no doubt that you can find a program that meets your academic goals!
* Employability: Studying abroad helps students develop and hone skills that help them stand out to employers. These skills include intercultural communication, self-reliance, problem-solving, and foreign language fluency.
* Affordability: UVM has hundreds of programs for you to choose from, including many that cost no more (and sometimes less) than a semester would at UVM. Students who go on UVM semester or exchange programs can take their UVM and federal financial aid with them. Out-of-state students get a tuition discount on exchange programs. There are also scholarships! Contact Student Financial Services for more information.
* Opportunity: Studying abroad truly is a once-in-a-lifetime event. By studying abroad, you will not only learn about other cultures, but you also will learn about yourself. Students often find that they come back with a clearer understanding of what they want to do in life, and how to accomplish it. What are you waiting for?

**Academics and Study Abroad**

* Earning academic credit while studying abroad is not only possible in CESS study abroad programs, but also expected. Equally important is ensuring you understand whether and how the courses you take abroad may fulfill your degree requirements.
* The semester study abroad preparation process can be complex to navigate, as you must synthesize information from different sources. Academic advisors, study abroad advisors and the Transfer Affairs Office have distinct roles. These individuals cannot advise you outside of their areas of expertise.
* Please read the information on all links on this page before choosing your program, and again before registering for your classes abroad, to ensure you make the most academically of your time abroad.

**The Roles of your Academic Advisor**

Your Academic Advisor can:

* Identify the best semester(s) to study abroad for your major. Ask about this your first semester at UVM!
* Help you plan for your semester abroad by identifying unfulfilled course requirements, flexibility within your degree audit, and mapping out an academic plan. For example, if as a first-year student you decide to study abroad in your third year, your academic advisor can suggest which general education, elective, major or minor courses you should not take at UVM, and instead “save” to take abroad so that you maximize your flexibility.
* Explain rules or requirements specific to an academic department (major or minor) or School or College that might affect your choice of program or courses abroad.
* Help you understand how courses from the [UVM Transfer Credit Guide](https://aisweb1.uvm.edu/pls/owa_prod/hwwkwags.P_Web_Artic_Guide) can apply towards your UVM degree requirements.

**The Roles of your Study Abroad Advisor**

Your Study Abroad Advisor can:

* Explain that the only study abroad programs UVM approves are those in Go Abroad
* Help you identify programs that offer courses in specific academic disciplines, for example, programs that offer biology courses.
* Show students how to locate the course listings within a specific program.
* Explain the application and orientation processes
* Answer questions regarding housing options, program fees, passports, and other questions related to study abroad programs, locations or travel.
* Sign study abroad program applications, either hard copy or online

 **The Roles of the Transfer Affairs Office**

* Transfer Affairs will update your UVM record with transfer credit after your study abroad as been completed.
* You are responsible for requesting an official transcript sent directly to the Transfer Affairs Office.
* Transfer Affairs facilitates the review of transfer credit as needed by collecting from you your course syllabi/materials and sending them to UVM faculty for review.

**Map out your Global Experiences**

* Before You Arrive on Campus
	+ CESS Summer Study Abroad Programs
	+ UVM Go!
* Year 1
	+ Meet with your Academic Advisor
	+ Complete the Study Abroad Getting Started Tasks
* Year 2
	+ Meet with your Faculty Advisor
	+ Meet with your Study Abroad Advisor
	+ Secondary Education majors study abroad during the spring semester
* Year 3
	+ Art Education majors study abroad either semester
	+ Early Childhood Education majors study abroad either semester
	+ Elementary Education majors study abroad either semester
	+ Middle Level Education majors study abroad either semester
	+ Music Education majors study abroad either semester
	+ Special Education majors study abroad either semester
* Year 4:
	+ Meet with your Faculty Advisor to review and update your degree audit

**3) Course Considerations / Transfer Credit Guide**

**Meet with your Education Major Program Coordinator**

* Art Education: Discuss with Erika White: erika.r.white@uvm.edu
* Early Childhood Education: Discuss with Kate Cowles: kate.cowles@uvm.edu
* Elementary Education: Discuss Matt Chandler: matthew.chandler@uvm.edu
* Middle Level Education: Discuss with Kathleen Brinegar: Kathleen.brinegar@uvm.edu
* Music Education: Discuss with Andrea Maas: andrea.maas@uvm.edu
* Secondary Education: Discuss with Jenny Prue: Jennifer.prue@uvm.edu
* Special Education: Discuss with Kelly Swindlehurst: Kelly.swindlehurst@uvm.edu

**UVM Transfer Credit Guide**

This [UVM Transfer Credit Guide](https://aisweb1.uvm.edu/pls/owa_prod/hwwkwags.P_Web_Artic_Guide) is a course equivalency look-up tool is to help you understand how credits and courses have transferred to the University of Vermont in the past. It's an equivalency tool, and it is not a substitute for an official evaluation of transfer credit by the Office of Transfer Affairs. Changes happen to this equivalency information regularly, so check back often, and know that no transfer credit evaluation is official until credits appear on your University of Vermont transcript. This is not a comprehensive list of all the courses that could transfer in. This is just a list of what has recently transferred in. Email transfer@uvm.edu to inquire about additional course information.

**Academic and Study Abroad Resources**

* [Academics Abroad: What to Do Before, During, and After](https://www.uvm.edu/oie/academics-abroad-what-do-during-and-after)
* [UVM Transfer Credit Policies](https://www.uvm.edu/oie/credit_abroad)
* [UVM Degree Applicability and Grading](https://www.uvm.edu/oie/uvm-degree-applicability-and-grading)
* [Academic Systems Abroad](https://www.uvm.edu/oie/academic-systems-abroad)
* [Academic Policies and Study Abroad](https://www.uvm.edu/oie/academic-policies-and-study-abroad)
* [Study Abroad Transcripts](https://www.uvm.edu/oie/study-abroad-transcripts)

 **4) Questions to Ask Advisors -- Prior Applying to a Study Abroad Program**

With your Academic Advisor in the Department of Education

* Bring your Study Abroad Academic Planning Form: “Meet with you Academic Advisor” to a meeting with your advisor: <https://www.uvm.edu/oie/forms>
* What progression of classes must I complete for my degree and in relation to timeline and studying abroad?
* Do I need to be on UVM’s campus for any courses in my major?
* What flexibility do I have to take general electives, courses within my major, and Catamount core courses while abroad?
* How do I understand how courses will transfer back to UVM?

With the Office of International Education

* Attend a Study Abroad 101session
* Explore programs in GoAbroad <https://goabroad.uvm.edu/>
* Learn more about academic offerings and course transfers through a deeper study of programs of interest

**5)** **Complete your GoAbroad Process**

Once you have identified your application plan for study abroad, complete all forms in GoAbroad, closely following instructions and deadlines. This process will include forms completed with your department, student financial services, and other key campus partners. As part of this application and pre-departure period, you will work with the Office of International Education and your host institution/organization overseas to prepare for a successful experience abroad.