EAP Program Offerings of Interest

**Summer Physics**

Students can complete the entire Physics series (PHYS 6 A-B-C & 6 AL-BL-CL) in 8 weeks abroad in one of five programs. These programs are located in Australia, Cyprus, Ireland, England and Scotland and may be beneficial for students who would like to go abroad while also efficiently completing their coursework and gaining cultural experiences. Through these programs, students are able to demonstrate AAMC competencies such as resilience and adaptability as they encounter new ways of learning.

Student impressions:

*Science Summer School, University of Glasgow:*

“The program is taught through a ‘three classroom system’. The three classroom system is structured in such a way that there’s a session with the professor, then a session with your tutor in smaller group settings, and finally drop in hours with the tutors. Glasgow is truly invested in teaching me physics.”

“In comparison to UCSB they were fairly different due to the fact that at the University of Glasgow, classes are discussion based (you are assigned a mentor and spend most of your time with them). Also you are solely with UC students with the exception of the mentors and professors. My favorite part about class in Glasgow was lab due to the fact that if you prepared properly for it, you really enhanced your learning of the material due to the fact that you are setting up an actual experiment by yourself (w/ a partner) and getting data from it.”

*University College Dublin:*

“I would say that this program is much more intensive and fast paced than taking the Physics 6 Series at UCSB just because the program fits the entire year of UCSB physics into 8 weeks. There was a rotation of UCD professors that were extremely eloquent in lecturing and were available for office hours.”

More information:


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**Courses for Biology Majors**

Students can complete several courses towards their upper division major requirements whilst abroad. Although there are several programs available through EAP that offer science courses, the Biology department has two academic plans for Biology majors through the University of Edinburgh and Utrecht University. In these academically rigorous programs, students demonstrate AAMC competencies through academic integrity, critical thinking, quantitative reasoning and scientific inquiry.
Student impressions:

**Utrecht University, Netherlands:**

“I was able to take my upper division biology classes abroad, which count towards my upper division units. The class sizes were smaller (25-60 students) and the professors encouraged class discussions and made connections with all of their students. Advanced biology labs are integrated into the classes which reinforces the material along with direct supervision by the professors. It is very hands on and personal. Classes are set up seminar style with each topic being presented by a professor who specializes and researches in the various topic areas. There are class coordinators that manage the professors that are subject matter experts coming in to lead lecture and discussion.”

More information:

[University of Edinburg Academic Plan](#)
[Utrecht University Academic Plan](#)

**Psychological Sciences**

Students interested in learning more about psychology have several programs available to them; these courses include topics ranging from the underpinnings of neuroscience to counseling techniques through humanistic-centered approaches. Through these programs, pre-professional students can demonstrate their commitment to awareness of others’ feelings and needs through increased knowledge of human behavior.

Student impressions:

**University of Melbourne:**

“We got to conduct a small scale social experiment on campus and discuss the results together. It definitely felt more interactive than UCSB, especially since most psychology classes here don’t have sections. Also, I was lucky enough to partake in research at the Florey Institute of Neuroscience. I shadowed a PhD student in her research on optogenetics and got to do a lot of practical work such as PCR gel amplification. My favorite part was that I got to hold a rat brain!”

**University of Edinburgh:**

“My favorite classes abroad were the Psychology of Counseling and Intimate Relationships, both offered through the Psychology Department. The Psychological and Brain Sciences Department at UCSB offers more biologically/physiologically-based courses. However, at Edinburgh, I found it so refreshing to enroll in more electives that emphasized more of a humanistic take on Psychology that doesn’t reduce behavior to bodily processes but rather contextualizes it. Never would I have thought that I could bolster my empathy from a course that offered a glimpse into counseling or that I would understand romantic partnerships with greater clarity through a psychological perspective.”

Highlighted Programs:
Public Health & Social Justice

Students can learn more about public health and social justice by gaining hands-on experiences in communities abroad. Through these immersive experiences, students may cultivate their service orientations, cultural competence, and teamwork and leadership skills while gaining knowledge of crises facing specific populations.

Student impressions:

Thammasat University, Thailand:

“I wanted to use my time in Thailand to learn more about the mainstream usage of modern medicine in conjunction with Thai traditional medicine, which is also regarded as highly effective in Thai society. Prior to our departure, I was instructed to create a research plan and desired outcome of my research in order to pair me with a professor with whom I could partner overseas. This ultimately landed me the opportunity to write an ethnographic report on a cancer facility in Northeastern Thailand that uses Thai medicine exclusively for residents that live on the property. I interviewed patients and the program director, a Thai monk, who practices detoxification, music therapy, laughter therapy and prayer to strengthen the patients’ quality of life when hospital treatments have failed them.

My research was an emotional, eye-opening experience that sparked my interest in the field of public health and social work. I had the opportunity to travel to the university’s sister campus for bi-weekly meetings with my supervising professor, as well as travel to a region of Thailand that no other student visited due to its rural nature.”

Human Rights & Cultural Memory, Argentina & Chile:

“Since our program was human rights based, our classes focused on the political histories of the countries, issues of poverty, spaces of memory, and more rights-based material. It was fascinating to learn so much about the political and cultural histories in both countries, especially from the perspective of professors who had lived through events such as dictatorships in both places.”

University of Ghana:

“My favorite classes abroad were Victimology, a Social Work course, and Globalization and the Developing World, a Sociology course. Victimology not only was incredibly interesting but the professor was warm, kind and helpful. Globalization and the Developing World really helped put into
context what I observed and saw in Ghana as a result of Capitalism and Globalization imposed by first-world countries on Africa. The classes were definitely more challenging, in coursework, than some of my classes at UCSB and required me to do my own outside research. I also felt that the professors were very accessible.”

**Highlighted Programs:**

- **Public Health and Pre-Med (Netherlands)**
- **Community-Based Health, Food Security, and Development (Ghana)**
- **Community Public Health (Dominican Republic)**
- **Global Health in Mexico**
- **Pacific Island Environmental and Community Health (Australia)**
- **Public Health (Thailand)**
- **Study Abroad, Plus Leadership and Service (UK-England)**
- **Human Rights and Cultural Memory (Argentina, Chile)**
- **Social Justice and Activism (France)**
- **Leadership in Social Justice and Public Policy (Mexico)**
- **Contemporary Argentina**

**Research**

Many research opportunities are available through EAP programs. Through fieldwork and lab research, students are able to demonstrate their knowledge of living systems while utilizing written communication skills to document their findings.

**Student impressions:**

**STEM Research Singapore, A-STAR:**

“I enjoyed my research experience and learned much about developmental biology and cancer research. Both my research mentors, Dr. Jan-Michael Kugler and Dr. Hector Herranz, were helpful in explaining experimental procedures. They also answered my questions well. My research supervisor, Dr. Cohen, helped me understand the big-picture of their research and how it can be applied to the clinical environment to treat patients. I'm more 'globally' minded (not cliche right?). But really, I hope to volunteer in foreign countries for medical trips. I'll be able to do more since I'm attending medical school in the U.S. and then I'll be a medical student volunteering abroad.”

**University of Queensland; Marine Biology & Terrestrial Ecology:**

“All of the students on the program conduct two group research projects as part of the Marine Biology course. The professors and TAs guide you through the process of writing a research paper and designing the first project so you can feel confident doing this more independently on the second
project. It was an incredible experience, and I feel 100% more confident writing research papers and designing research projects after this experience.”

Highlighted Programs:

Lund University
University of Queensland
STEM Research Tokyo
STEM Research Singapore
Chinese University of Hong Kong

More information:
http://eap.ucop.edu/OurPrograms/Pages/STEMMajors.aspx