

## Smeal Education Abroad Planning Document

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Major: \_\_\_\_\_ Minor: \_\_\_\_\_

Program Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Semester Abroad: \_\_\_\_\_

**Possible degree requirements to complete abroad:**

| GA, GH, GS, GN, IB, IL, US, elective, other minor, prgm requirement – i.e. language | Credits | Comments |
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**Possible semester plan to complete degree requirements:**

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|---------|-----------|
| Fall JR | Spring JR |
| Fall SR | Spring SR |

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**Smeal Pre-departure Agreement:**

<https://ugstudents.smeal.psu.edu/academics-advising/get-advised/pre-departure-agreement>

**Penn State Course Equivalency Process:**

<https://global.psu.edu/article/course-equivalency-process>

## **General Education Requirement Descriptions**

<https://bulletins.psu.edu/undergraduate/general-education/domains/>

**Natural Sciences (GN)** The Natural Sciences reveal the order, diversity, and beauty of nature and in so doing enable students to develop a greater appreciation of the world around them. These courses help students to understand the nature of science through exposure to the broad divisions of science--physical science, biological science, earth science, and applied natural science. In these courses the students will be taught how to acquire scientific factual information, to use scientific methodology and to develop an appreciation of the natural world. Students should gain an understanding of how scientists' reason and how they draw conclusions and think critically.

**Arts (GA)** Courses taught in the area of the Arts are expected to help students understand and appreciate some of the more important creative works, traditions, literature, and history of the arts and architecture. General Education Arts courses aim to teach students to recognize the comprehensive role of arts and architecture as an expression of the cultural values of a society and the need to preserve these expressions for the benefit of future generations. Through the courses in the Arts area, students should recognize aesthetic values as an integral part of society's essential need and gain lifelong benefits through the acquisition and appreciation of arts-related skills. Students should become conversant with the terminology, techniques, attitudes, ideas, and skills that the arts comprise so as to understand how humankind relates to the arts.

**Humanities (GH)** Humanistic studies are divided into four categories: (1) literature, (2) history and culture, (3) advanced language, and (4) philosophy. The study of the Humanities should develop competency in interpretive understanding of the human condition and of the values inherent in it. This interpretive understanding should evolve into the development of insights and a critical evaluation of the meaning of life, in its everyday details as well as in its historical and universal dimensions. Through this development students should acquire knowledge of and concern for the humanistic values that motivate and inform all humanistic studies.

**Social and Behavioral Sciences (GS)** Social and Behavioral Sciences courses develop students' understanding of the diverse personal, interpersonal, and societal forces that shape people's lives and teach them how to approach these subjects through the concepts, principles, and methods of scientific inquiry. The general goal is a theoretical understanding of the interrelationships of the determinants of the organization of human behavior. These courses are expected to introduce students to the scientific analysis of: (1) the forms, practices, and theories of politics; (2) the nature and operation of economic analysis; (3) the interrelationships of social institutions; (4) the dynamics of individual and group behavior and change; and (5) the processes and functions of human communication.

**Health and Physical Activity (GHA) {physical activity classes CANNOT be earned during study abroad}** Courses in the Health and Physical Activity area focus on the theory and practice of life span wellness and fitness activities, and on the knowledge, attitudes, habits, and skills needed to live well. The courses include such diverse topics as diet, exercise, stress management, the wise use of leisure time, alcohol consumption and drug use, sexual health awareness, and safety education. Courses may be knowledge-focused (about aspects of the biological, social, and behavioral aspects of healthful living) or practice-focused (emphasize attitudes, habits, and skills needed to engage in healthful living and can include traditional dance, exercise, and sport activity classes) or integrated in any manner.

**IL - International Cultures (IL)** Approved Penn State Education Abroad Programs may be used to satisfy the International Cultures (IL) requirement.

**Electives** Students cannot duplicate courses they have already taken (i.e. language courses), or ones are required to take at University Park (i.e. Smeal courses).

**Internships** Internship credits taken abroad will not count toward Smeal baccalaureate degree requirements (including electives). The grade will be used in calculating the GPA.