

Planning Tips for Off-Campus Studies



WHITMAN COLLEGE
Study Abroad

If you plan to study off campus in a foreign country during your junior year, here are some tips to help you with your academic schedule your first two years at Whitman.

- **FOREIGN LANGUAGES:** Take as much foreign language as possible to help you prepare for your experience in a foreign country. *Students with a strong background in at least one foreign language have many more choices of which foreign study program they can attend.*

If you plan to study in France, Germany or a Spanish-speaking country and you want to attend a Whitman Partner Program (where you can use your Whitman financial aid and merit scholarships), you must complete **four to five semesters** of the local language at the college-level or the equivalent. In other words, if you have little or no background in Spanish language and want to study your junior year in a Spanish-speaking country, you need to take Spanish at Whitman your freshman and sophomore years, unless you do not have any Whitman financial aid that you care to use when you go abroad.

If you test into a foreign language at the intermediate or advanced level, be sure to **enroll in at least one course in the target language a semester or two before going abroad** so that your language skills are fresh. Students who only take second or third-year language courses their first year at Whitman may have admission difficulties when they apply for study abroad because the program may assume their skills are rusty.

If you plan to study in Japan, China or Taiwan and you want to attend a Whitman Partner Program, you should take at least two semesters of Japanese or Chinese.

- **BIOLOGY MAJORS:** It is usually easiest for biology majors to complete their elective courses for their major abroad rather than specific course requirements. However, sometimes it is possible to find equivalents for specific courses at Whitman, such as Bio 309.
- **ENGLISH MAJORS:** It is usually easiest for English majors to complete their elective courses for their major abroad rather than specific course requirements, such as the period literature courses.
- **MUSIC MAJORS:** In order to study abroad, music majors must take at least one music history course during their freshman year and it needs to be taken the same semester that the student plans to be abroad. (In other words, if you plan to go abroad fall of your junior year, you need to enroll in music history fall of your first year.) This is because the four music history courses required for the major are only offered once every other year. The music department also recommends that first-year students who plan to be music majors enroll in Music 125 and 126.
- **THEATER MAJORS:** Theater majors should pay special attention to completing their theater history or drama literature course requirements if they want to go abroad because those courses are not offered every semester at Whitman. In some cases, it would be advantageous for students who think they want to major in theatre to enroll in at least one drama literature or theatre history course during their first year at Whitman.
- **TWO THIRDS RULE:** At least two-thirds of all credits in all majors at Whitman must be completed on the Whitman campus. This means that students are not able to transfer more than 8 to 12 credits from off-campus studies into the major. (The amount varies depending on the major and if you have other transfer credits.) For this reason, it is a good idea to have completed a decent number of courses in your major by the end of your second year at Whitman before applying for abroad.
- **FIRST STEP MEETING:** All students interested in off-campus studies should attend a "First-Step Meeting" sponsored by the Off-Campus Studies Office in the fall semester of their second year.

Planning Tips for Off-Campus Studies



WHITMAN COLLEGE
Study Abroad

www.whitman.edu/study_abroad
Off-Campus Studies Office, Mem 204
Tel 509-527-4992