
International and Intercultural Studies

St. Lawrence University has a strong commitment to international and intercultural study as an essential dimension of a liberal education, preparing students for an increasingly interconnected world. Development of skills associated with learning and working in intercultural environments is central to St. Lawrence University's mission. Among these skills is experience in communicating in a second language. St. Lawrence fosters this kind of education through academic programs on campus and through opportunities to study off-campus in international and intercultural settings.

Students seeking international focus to their study may major or minor in global studies and modern languages and literatures. They can also pursue a minor or, in some cases, a combined major in the following area studies programs: African studies, Asian studies, Canadian studies, Caribbean and Latin American studies, European studies, Native American studies and African-American studies (see detailed information under these headings in Courses of Study). These programs, along with numerous courses offered in other departments, help prepare students to get the most from our off-campus study programs. Participation in approved off-campus programs fulfills one of the University distribution requirements in diversity. (The other diversity course must be taken on campus.)

The Center for International and Intercultural Studies supports area studies and off-campus study. St. Lawrence offers international programs in Australia, Austria, Canada, China, Costa Rica,

Denmark, England, France, India, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Spain, Thailand and Trinidad. In addition, the International Student Exchange Program (ISEP) allows students to direct-enroll in foreign universities in more than 35 countries. In the U.S., students can study in Washington, D.C. through American University; at Fisk University, a distinguished, historically black university in Nashville, Tenn.; or on the Adirondack Semester (see Outdoor Studies).

Some of these programs extend over a full year, others a semester. Summer courses abroad and semester courses with travel components offer additional opportunities for off-campus study. All programs foster cultural immersion, usually through homestays, language study and, where possible, internships or community-based learning.

Off-campus study is an opportunity open to sophomore, junior and senior students with appropriate academic preparation, motivation and interest in the relevant area. Students in all major fields can participate in off-campus programs; some programs have distinctive curricular strengths, but all are designed to enable students with a variety of interests to benefit from the experience of living and studying in a different cultural setting. Second-semester seniors must petition to participate. The spring semester in France offers a first-year seminar, allowing first-year students to participate in this one program.

Admission to programs is competitive, based on the quality of application and the availability of spaces. Candidates must present a coherent academic rationale for participation in a particular

program and a record of academic performance that demonstrates ability to meet the challenges of off-campus study. Normally, this means a GPA of at least 2.8, but the selection committees consider closely the candidate's rationale for participation and academic record as a whole. Certain programs require applicants to have a 3.0. Candidates for off-campus programs must also present evidence of maturity, responsibility and cultural sensitivity.

The Center for International and Intercultural Studies (CIIS) provides advising for off-campus programs. Information about the specific requirements and deadlines for each program may be found at the Center for International and Intercultural Studies and on the CIIS website.

St. Lawrence admits students from other colleges into the Austria, England, France, Kenya and Spain programs. Matters such as financial aid and course credit are arranged by these individuals with their home colleges.

The programs listed are designated as "St. Lawrence Programs." For these, St. Lawrence students pay regular comprehensive fees to participate and will receive their usual financial aid package. Transportation to the off-campus site is additional, except for the Costa Rica program and the Adirondack Semester. Grades earned count in the student's grade point average.

The calendar for the off-campus programs approximates that of the University academic calendar, except in the cases of Australia, Costa Rica and ISEP. However, each program is slightly different, and some start earlier or end later than the corresponding campus semester.

Students wishing to study on a non-St. Lawrence University program should discuss their interest with the director of off-campus programs. Students who apply to a non-St. Lawrence program must complete St. Lawrence forms as well as the sponsoring institution's forms. The committee on international and intercultural studies reviews all non-SLU program applications.

Successful applicants for non-St. Lawrence programs must have a strong academic record (GPA of 3.0 or above) and must indicate how the program selected serves particular academic

interests. Each applicant must show evidence of academic preparation for the program. In addition, the application should show evidence of the student's capacity for independence, self-reliance and maturity. If the non-St. Lawrence program is located in a country or a similar culture where St. Lawrence maintains a program, the student must make a strong case that his or her academic interests are significantly better served by a different program.

Students approved for study on a non-St. Lawrence program do not receive St. Lawrence University financial aid; while credit is granted, grades for such studies are not recorded on the transcript. After the application is approved, students are responsible for getting prior approval from the appropriate department chairs for the specific courses to be taken off campus. Students who attend a program off campus without the approval of the committee on international and intercultural studies will be assumed to have withdrawn from the University. On appeal they may be able to transfer a maximum of one unit. Students wishing to study at a foreign institution or on a non-SLU study abroad program during the summer should consult with both the Center for International and Intercultural Studies and the registrar to arrange for transfer credit for summer school.

For additional information, visit the Center for International and Intercultural Studies Web page at www.stlawu.edu/ciis.

Australia Semester Program

(established in 1997)

The semester program in Australia is particularly appropriate for students interested in marine biology, biodiversity, tropical ecology, indigenous peoples, Asian studies and anthropology. Students enroll directly in courses at James Cook University in Townsville or Cairns, Australia. In addition to a required Australia-focused course, students select courses that are relevant to their majors. A 3.0 GPA or better is required for this program. Students stay in on-campus residence halls.

Austria

Semester in Vienna

(established in 1967)

The Vienna semester provides a program during spring semester only; it supports European studies minors and provides a range of liberal arts courses. One semester of German is a prerequisite. All classes are taught in English except for the required German language course. Three additional units are selected from offerings in fine arts, government, economics, psychology, history and music. Students are required to take a .5-unit Austrian culture course. Instructors are local professors, fluent in English and highly qualified in their fields. Classes are held at the Austro-American Institute of Education in central Vienna.

Students gain understanding of Viennese life by living with Austrian families. Several group excursions are organized in Austria. A study tour of Poland, the Czech Republic and Germany is also included in the program.

Canada

Semester or Full-Year Program

(established in 1977)

St. Lawrence students can study at Trent University for a semester or the academic year through the Trent/SLU Exchange Program. Trent University is a small university in Peterborough, Ontario. This is a particularly good option for students interested in Canadian Studies and environmental studies, but students in any major can participate. In addition, there are three ISEP study options in Canada. Students live in student housing at these universities. See Canadian Studies for details.

China

Semester in Shanghai

(established in 2003)

St. Lawrence students can study in China for either fall or spring semester through the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE) program in Shanghai. The program is especially

appropriate for students interested in Asian studies, international relations, international economy, Chinese culture, and China and the global economy. The curriculum is organized around a core course, Chinese language study (at beginning through advanced levels) and two elective courses.

Students stay with Chinese host families, close to the office building that houses the CIEE program and to East China Normal University. CIEE organizes a 7-to-10-day field trip during the semester for participants. In addition, students have a mid-term break during which they may travel around China. CIEE assists students in organizing their travel.

Applicants for this program should take a Chinese language course or a course in Asian studies, global studies, economics, government or history that provides relevant background for this program.

Costa Rica

Semester Program

(established in 1992)

St. Lawrence University students can directly enroll in the University of Costa Rica in San José, through a program with the University of Kansas. This program will most appeal to students who are independent, have strong Spanish skills, and are interested in studying the humanities, environmental sciences, and politics. All courses are taught in Spanish.

The program begins in early July or in late January with a five-week intensive language and orientation course that includes Spanish writing projects, lectures on the history and culture of Costa Rica, and extended field trips. Classes begin in August/March.

The program enables students to live with Costa Rican families and to experience the cultural and geographic diversity of Central America. The program complements St. Lawrence's Caribbean and Latin American studies minor, and is open to students from all majors who have taken Spanish 201. Applicants should have a 3.0 GPA and a 3.0 in their Spanish classes.

Denmark

Semester or Full-Year Program

(established in 1980)

St. Lawrence students can choose from several programs of study in the Danish Institute for Study Abroad (DIS). These include European politics and society, international business and economics, medical practice and policy, psychology and child development, biology and biotechnology, and others. Each program integrates classroom teaching with field study tours, which take students to various sites in Denmark and Europe. Students take a required course in Danish, the “core” course for their program of study, and 3 other electives. Classes are taught in English by Danish professors. To enhance their cultural experience, students live with Danish host families. A GPA of 3.0 or better is required for the Denmark program.

England

Semester in London

(established in 1978)

The semester in London provides students with an opportunity to become familiar with the history of London, its rich intellectual and cultural life, and its role as a multicultural “global” city. The program is open to students in all majors and supports European studies. Courses include history, government, economics, theatre, fine arts and a required core course on British culture, taught by the director, that concludes with an internship. All other classes are taught by British faculty and are solely for the students on this program.

Students live with families in north London and attend classes in central London, within walking distance of many of the major museums, theatres and concert halls. British professors teach courses specially designed to take advantage, through field work, of the resources of London. All students participate in a full-time, one-month internship in a field relevant to their interests; many do internships in publishing, theatres, galleries, museums, public service agencies, political organizations, environmental groups and international banks.

Students on the program typically attend up to 10 theatrical productions. Two overnight field trips outside of London include such destinations as Brighton, Bath, Salisbury, Liverpool and Canterbury.

France

Fall Semester and Full-Year Program

(established in 1964)

The fall semester in France is designed for students with intermediate to advanced language proficiency. After a brief orientation, students spend two weeks with families in small villages north of Rouen, sharing the routines of these rural communities. Students then move to the ancient Norman city of Rouen, about 75 miles northwest of Paris where, once again, they are placed with French families with whom they spend the rest of the semester/year as they take courses. In the fall, all of the courses are taught in French by professors from the University of Rouen, solely for students on this program. They include a range of humanities and social science courses with French society and culture as the focus. The program director offers a required .5-unit course that provides the context for numerous field trips and tours to such places as Paris, Mont St. Michel, Chartres and the Normandy beaches. Another .5-unit course is offered on Francophone Africa, required for the excursion to Senegal. This excursion includes a homestay and a brief introduction to the Wolof language.

Students with advanced language proficiency may elect the year-long program in France and spend January in an internship related to their interests. During the spring term they enroll in classes at the University of Rouen.

Global Francophone Studies

Spring Semester Program

(established in 2003)

This program is designed for students with beginning or low-intermediate proficiency in French who wish to improve their language facility while

studying in three French-speaking cultures. The program includes two units of intensive French language instruction and two courses taught in English. The focus is comparative Francophone cultures; students begin language study in Québec for two weeks in January before proceeding to Rouen. A 10-day excursion to Senegal is included later in the term, along with other field trips within France. A first-year seminar is offered, allowing first-year students to apply.

India

Fall Semester Program

(established in 1990)

The semester in India program is designed to utilize field settings and important sites to introduce students to northern India in its varied manifestations – the richness of its history, philosophy and culture; the diversity of its peoples and languages; the complexity of its economic, social and political processes.

Students arrive in Delhi for a week's orientation before moving for five weeks to Mussoorie, a hill station in the Himalayan foothills, for intensive study of Hindi and field trips to nearby cultural sites. Next, the group has a five-week stay in Jaipur, capital of the northwest desert state of Rajasthan. In Jaipur, students live with local families and continue to work on their independent field work projects, take courses on Hindi, and learn about Indian history, cultures, and contemporary issues. Following this, the group spends two weeks in the holy city of Varanasi on the Ganges River and then concludes the program in Delhi. Throughout the semester, students pursue independent field work projects. The program may vary slightly depending on the director's area(s) of expertise.

Students earn credits in Hindi language, history, anthropology and the department in which they do their independent field work project; this project which must be worked out and approved by the relevant department or program in advance. Students are required to have completed one course related to India or to South Asia prior to participation in the program. This program supports Asian Studies.

International Student Exchange Program

Semester or Full-Year Program

(established in 1984)

The International Student Exchange Program (ISEP) is designed to accommodate highly-motivated and independent students wishing to experience complete immersion in a foreign university system. Students enroll directly in one of the ISEP partner universities located throughout 35 different countries around the world. The language of instruction is location-specific; many campuses offer instruction in English. A 3.0 GPA or better is required. Some universities require junior standing. Application deadlines are earlier than for most programs, generally 10-12 months before the start of the program. Please see the Center for International and Intercultural Studies for more detail.

Italy

Fall Semester in Florence

(established in 2000)

This program serves Fine Arts majors and minors and supports European studies. Approximately 10 St. Lawrence University students participate in the fall semester of Syracuse University's program in Florence. This program draws upon the exceptional materials available in Florence for the study of art history and studio art. Students live with Florentine host families and take a required Italian language course to further their cultural immersion. All of the fine arts courses include field study at Florentine museums such as the Uffizi, the Galleria Palatina and the Pitti Palace, as well as field trips outside of Florence. Applicants should have appropriate preparatory courses in the fine arts or in Italian. This program supports European studies.

Japan

Semester and Full-Year Program

(established in 1983)

Nanzan University

Students with one year or more of college-level Japanese may enroll for one or two semesters

at Nanzan University in the city of Nagoya. They study at the Center for Japanese Studies, which offers humanities, business, social science and Japanese arts courses in English, as well as required Japanese language courses. Students stay with Japanese families and participate in planned cultural excursions and travel on their own.

International Christian University (ICU) Students with one year or more of Japanese may apply to International Christian University, which operates on a trimester system. Students enroll for the full academic year. Located in Tokyo, ICU is a non-denominational school of about 2,100 students, 200 of whom are non-Japanese. The entire campus has a strong international orientation. It offers a somewhat wider range of courses in English than does Nanzan, including courses in the natural sciences, humanities and social sciences. All participants take intensive Japanese language at the appropriate level. St. Lawrence students live with Japanese families.

Kenya

Semester in Nairobi

(established in 1974)

The Kenya semester provides students with both formal instruction and experiential learning in African studies. Students examine a number of contemporary issues across several broad areas: African cultures, social and political change, economic development and environmental diversity. Students must have completed one African studies course to apply.

Four major components have been developed to provide breadth of experience. (1) Academic courses: two are mandatory – the first in Kiswahili, the national language, and the second on the culture, environment and development of East Africa. Students choose two other electives from courses in modern Kenyan history, critical issues in socio-economic development in Kenya, health and healing in the African context, and biodiversity conservation and management in East Africa. (2) Field components: several field trips are integrated with classroom work so students learn through observation about biodiversity,

sustainable development and democratization.

(3) Individual homestays with diverse ethnic groups in rural-agricultural, rural-pastoral and urban settings provide direct interaction with Kenyan individuals, families and communities. (4) An independent field study component during the final month enables students to put their semester's learning experiences into an individually selected, more focused context.

When not engaged in homestays or field components, students reside at the St. Lawrence University Study Center in Karen, approximately 12 kilometers from the capital city of Nairobi.

Spain

Semester or Full-Year Program

(established in 1967)

The program in Spain is designed to provide students with an understanding of both urban and rural life. A semester option is offered as well as the traditional full-year program. Students must have completed a third-level Spanish course (201, 202). The program is centered in Madrid. The full-year option encompasses three phases: a homestay in a village in the province of Segovia; two semesters of classroom instruction; and an internship in January. The fall semester option includes the Segovia homestay and one semester of classroom instruction. The internship is not offered for the fall semester. The spring semester option includes a three-week intensive Spanish language and culture course and one semester of classroom instruction.

Classes are held at the Colegio Mayor Isabel de España, a student residence near the Complutense University of Madrid. Courses are available in such fields as art history, government, environmental studies, economics, Spanish language and literature. Some courses are required. All classes are taught in Spanish by faculty members of universities in Madrid.

Every student lives with a Spanish family in Madrid; homes are located throughout the city and vary in background and makeup. The program also includes field trips to many parts of Spain.

Thailand

Semester Program

(established in 2009)

In the semester program in Thailand, students participate in the Thai and Southeast Asian Studies program at Payap University, a private university located in the north of Thailand in Chiang Mai, the country's second largest city. Required courses are Thai language study and an introduction to Thai culture and society, which incorporate three major field trips, including two homestays in rural areas. Electives vary; the program is especially appropriate for students wishing to learn more about Asian languages, cultures, arts, religions (particularly Buddhism), and democratization and human rights issues in Asia. The program is separate from the university; courses are offered in English and serve international students. Students live either in homestays or in the international student house. Applicants should have taken at least one course in preparation for the program (e.g. in Asian studies, or Asia-focused courses in religious studies, history, government, economics, philosophy and related departments).

Trinidad

Spring Semester Program

(established in 1999)

The Trinidad program is offered in affiliation with Pacific Lutheran University and is available only in the spring term. The curriculum introduces students to the cosmopolitan cultures and complex history of the island nation of Trinidad and Tobago and complements the Caribbean and Latin American studies program. The program begins with a brief homestay and then a one-week stay in Tobago focused on the ecosystem there. During the first few weeks students take one intensive course focused on a particular topic such as Caribbean fiction, Trinidadian music, or the family in Caribbean societies. By late January, students enroll in two courses of their choice at the University of the West Indies (UWI), St. Augustine, Trinidad. UWI serves 14 Caribbean nations. The program's core course

on Caribbean cultures and society is taught by local faculty, politicians, and cultural practitioners. As part of this core course, students participate in a wide range of festival arts centering around Carnival, but also around Muslim, Hindu, and African religious festivals. They also do 40 hours of community service. Students are housed in a guest house near the UWI campus. There are only five spaces reserved for St. Lawrence students on this program. Applicants must have taken at least one course in Caribbean and Latin American studies or another relevant subject such as performance studies or global studies.

U.S.A.

Washington Semester Program

(established in 1974)

St. Lawrence students study in Washington, D.C., in affiliation with American University. Because of independent study components, the program is best suited to juniors and first-semester seniors. Students choose from seminars in American politics, international business and trade, international environment and development, international law and organization, public law, economic policy, foreign policy, justice, journalism and transforming communities. The program includes a thematic seminar with a related research project and internship. Classes are taught and internships supervised by professors at the Washington Semester Program, through American University. Dormitory housing for program participants is also provided on Tenley campus of American University.

Semester at Fisk University

(established in 1989)

St. Lawrence has an exchange program with the historically black Fisk University, whereby Fisk students attend St. Lawrence in the fall semester and St. Lawrence students attend Fisk in the spring semester. The program provides students the opportunity to immerse themselves in African-American culture and history. Students should have taken at least one course dealing with African American subject matter before applying to the program.

Adirondack Semester Program (established in 2000)

An academic fall-semester program designed after the model of St. Lawrence's international programs in another culture, the Adirondack Semester offers students the opportunity to immerse themselves in the natural world. Students experience and reflect critically upon alternative perceptions of how to live responsibly, not just as global citizens of the human community, but also as interconnected parts of the global ecosystem.

Students are based in a remote Adirondack camp without cars, television or alcohol. An extended expedition and frequent field trips are part of the five courses (four and one-half units) bearing University credit: (1) Natural History of the Adirondacks, (2) Creative Expressions of Nature, (3) Land Use Change in the Adirondacks and (4) Philosophy of the Environment, plus (5) an additional, environmentally-themed .5-unit course. The first four courses may be applied toward the outdoor studies minor. Students also participate in a variety of non-academic extracurricular activities such as woodworking and trail maintenance as well as the traditional outdoor program activities like rock climbing, kayaking, backpacking, and canoeing.