FIRST YEAR ABROAD

FALL 2017 - SUMMER 2018
FLORENCE • LONDON • PANAMA • VALENCIA

NON-FLORIDA RESIDENTS
Congratulations on your acceptance to FSU, and welcome to the Seminole family! At Florida State, you will be presented with many globally focused opportunities, including studying abroad with International Programs.

In fact, you may even want to consider spending your entire freshman year abroad by taking part in our unique First Year Abroad (FYA) Program. In addition to this once in a lifetime experience, participating in this program may qualify you for out-of-state tuition waivers, allowing you to pay in-state tuition rates as you complete the remainder of your undergraduate degree at our Tallahassee campus!

As an FYA student, you spend the first twelve months of your Florida State career at one or more of our four international study centers located in Florence, London, Panama City, and Valencia. A few of the many benefits include small classes, engaged faculty, exciting cultural/educational excursions, and an exceptional student support system. Also, students who choose FYA return home more self-assured, open-minded, and globally aware—a huge asset for both their college and professional careers.

This brochure contains additional information about this extraordinary freshman year option. We are committed to enhancing your journey at Florida State through studying abroad with us!

Sincerely,

Dr. James E. Pitts, Director
The First Year Abroad (FYA) program allows students to complete the first twelve months of their Florida State careers studying abroad with International Programs.

Each student has the choice of going abroad to any of our four study centers located in London, England; Florence, Italy; Panama City, Republic of Panama; and Valencia, Spain. FYA students can opt to change their location for the summer term, spending it at another study center. (Visa restrictions may apply.) Following this first year, students qualify for out-of-state tuition waivers allowing them to pay in-state tuition rates for the remainder of their first undergraduate degree at Florida State in Tallahassee.

**BENEFITS & REWARDS**

- FYA is designed for seamless continuation toward graduation
- Students take up to 49 credit hours over 12 months
- Classes are taught in English except for foreign language courses
- Living among native speakers immeasurably aids Italian or Spanish skills for students choosing to study in Italy, Panama, and Spain
- Classes satisfy requirements of the Liberal Studies program, many minors, and first year prerequisites for most majors
- A Florida State academic advisor helps ensure students follow the mapping for their majors
- Participating in FYA fulfills the summer residency required of most students

We can answer all of your questions regarding this exciting freshman year opportunity! Contact our dedicated team of First Year Abroad coordinators at IP-freshmen@fsu.edu or by phone at 1 (800) 374-8581.

Out-of-state residents who successfully complete this program receive out-of-state tuition waivers, allowing them to pay in-state tuition for the remainder of their undergraduate degree at Florida State! Details on the back inside cover.
LOCATIONS
Each area’s resources—historical sites, art galleries, libraries, museums, local artisans, government officials, and business professionals—are fully integrated into our courses.

STUDY CENTERS
Our four study centers offer residential and academic resources that include classrooms, libraries, computer labs, and comfortable living accommodations. Each is exquisite and unique—reflecting the culture of the location—and headed by directors who live in the country, know their students, and are supported by staff whose top priority is to provide a nurturing, learning atmosphere.

FACULTY
Our faculty have a passion for their subjects as well as for international cities, their cultures, and undergraduate teaching. International Programs faculty are globally conscious, energetic, and inspiring intellectuals.

CLASSES
Small classes and personal attention create an intimate liberal arts college atmosphere. More one-on-one instruction provides the opportunity to grow and mature. Students find the rewards of our programs include greater confidence, independence, and self-awareness.

WELL-BEING AND SECURITY
We strive to ensure a safe, secure environment with immediate response support available at all times. Additionally, program directors maintain continuous contact with our Tallahassee office, local authorities, and United States officials (at home and abroad).

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS
• Students must be accepted to Florida State University as degree seeking, first time college students
• Upon admittance, students must apply to FYA

PROGRAM FEE COVERAGE
• Up to 49 credit hours through classroom instruction, labs, tours, lectures, and field trips
• Housing
• International health insurance
• International Student ID card
• Study center social activities
• Cultural excursions
• Full-time administrative and academic support
• 24/7 emergency support
• Some meals
  (Florence, London, Valencia)
• Visas
  (Italy, Republic of Panama, Spain)

FINANCING
• Financial aid is applicable towards program fees
• Our financial aid specialist can assist you
• Program fees are broken into seven payments. After the confirmation deposit is paid, two payments are due prior to the start of each semester.
The International Programs experience is outstanding for several reasons. Classes are small—providing a lot of one-on-one interaction with faculty. Study centers are in the epicenter of the best cities in the world—allowing them to serve as our textbooks. Faculty are there because they love to teach. You can’t beat this combination for providing superb international study experience.

FSU DOES MANY THINGS WELL, AND OUR STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM IS SECOND TO NONE.

Mark Zeigler
Communications Professor
Florida State Distinguished Teacher Award recipient
Looking back on my time in London, I couldn’t have pictured a better freshman year experience. I’m so thankful that FSU has a First Year Abroad program. There’s nothing like being able to use the city you live in as your classroom every day. My theatre class would see shows throughout the week while my biology class would visit different museums and the houses of famous scientists. I even made a speech on the tube as part of my public speaking class! The professors really want you to learn as much as you possibly can about London, and they go out of their way to make sure it can be incorporated into their lessons. I also got to visit many different countries, each with many cultural experiences and new opportunities that made my first year memorable. Since being abroad, I’ve grown to be more independent, and I have a better view of the world around me. Whenever people ask me if I would recommend the program, my response is that you’d be crazy to pass up the opportunity.

Mackenzie Isom
FYA London
FSU London is located in a historic 17th century-listed building, and is a state-of-the-art educational and living facility. The exceptional faculty at this center include instructors who live in the London area and enjoy sharing their knowledge and love of their country, as well as faculty from our Tallahassee campus who look forward to joining our students in England each year.

Students choosing to study in London are based in the heart of the Bloomsbury district, one block from the British Museum and minutes from the theatre district, the National Gallery, and countless other landmarks and events in this world capital. Short walks and easy access to city buses and the London Underground enable students to safely explore this fascinating city as well as enjoy off-site lectures and program-organized trips.

Students live in shared apartments that feature fully-equipped kitchens, furnished living areas, wifi and cable, and great views of the bustling Great Russell Street. Just below the flats, students can access the library, computer labs, laundry facilities, student lounge, classrooms, and administrative offices through the corridor that links the buildings. The 24-hour secure access to the computer labs and lounge gives students the flexibility to make quick work of class assignments whenever they like, as well as easily head to the student lounge for movie night or an after-dinner screening of college football.

LONDON, ENGLAND

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$39,995
FLORENCE, ITALY

FSU Florence is one of the few U.S. study abroad programs actually located in the heart of this remarkable city. Housed in the 15th-century Alessandri Palace, the Florence Study Center is a short stroll from the marbled Duomo, the Ponte Vecchio, and the world-renowned Uffizi Gallery.

Surrounded by these centuries-old historic sites, the study center classrooms, library, computer lab, and student lounge are equipped with modern comforts and state-of-the-art technology. Students and faculty also use the center as a gathering place for both study and social activities. In addition to Florida State faculty who travel from the main campus to teach in Florence, students are instructed by seasoned faculty who live in the area, have been with us for many years, and are always enthusiastic about teaching our American students. In addition to class times, students have many opportunities to interact with faculty and staff during program coordinated trips and while enjoying authentic Italian food at organized group dinners.

Student housing is in a traditional Florentine apartment building within walking distance of the study center. A popular area in this housing set up is a large courtyard with a communal kitchen, providing a great spot for sharing food, fun, and conversation.

$ 39,995
Studying abroad for a year is one of those amazing experiences that you will never regret. The amount I saw, learned, and experienced is almost beyond words. The city of Florence is a work of art, and I am blessed to have been a resident for so long. That is one of the best things about the FYA program; **YOU ARE NOT A TOURIST, BECAUSE YOU LIVE IN THE CITY! YOU KNOW THE PEOPLE, THE SECRET SHORTCUTS HOME, AND EVERY SINGLE COBBLESTONE ON THE ROAD TO CLASS.** Florence is my second home, and I think about it every single day. Every person I studied abroad with is part of my family. We all still talk and dream about going back to Florence. **IT IS INCREDIBLE THAT SO MANY DIFFERENT PEOPLE FROM AROUND THE WORLD CAN GET ALONG SO WELL.** I had friends from Venezuela, Colombia, and Scotland. These are people who would not be in my life if I hadn’t been an FYA! I am thankful and feel very privileged to have gone on such a great adventure!

Connor Barniskis
FYA Florence
The First Year Abroad program in Valencia showed me the world. Every day was filled with different experiences whether I was walking through the Central Market or visiting the local Belles Artes Museum. From day one, I was immersed in a new culture and learned to love it and everything it had to offer. With help from the professors in Valencia, I made the decision to change my major to Spanish. One day, I hope to teach Spanish to students in such a way that they learn to love the language and culture like the FYA program taught me. This program helped me grow, not only as a student, but as a more culturally rounded explorer of the world. Not a day goes by that I don’t think about my return to the beautiful city of Valencia.

Stacey Hanson
FYA Valencia
VALENCIA, SPAIN

FSU Valencia is housed in two historic buildings in the center of city, just behind the landmark Serrano Towers. The Valencia Study Center contains part of the original Roman city wall, as well as a portion of a thousand-year-old Arabic wall, and several 14th century tanning tanks. Accommodations in these historic buildings complement the beauty of the past while still being very modern and featuring the latest technology. In addition to being taught by FSU faculty who travel to teach at this center, students are also taught by English-speaking instructors who live in the Valencia area and are passionate about sharing their knowledge of their country and its culture with our students.

The local neighborhood provides a host of opportunities for sightseeing, shopping, and traditional Spanish dining while interacting with members of the community on a daily basis. It is also home to the annual springtime Fallas celebration. Students and staff enjoy taking part in preparation of the festival floats, cooking authentic food, and participating in this truly unique cultural immersion. Here, students enjoy the deep culture of an ancient city, the modernity of the new City of the Arts and Sciences, and the Mediterranean beaches—as well as the academic resources and cultural attractions of Spain’s third largest city.
FSU Panama provides all the facilities and services of a small college. Located in the City of Knowledge, it is right in the heart of an international complex for education, research, and innovation. Within this complex, students enjoy full facilities including the largest English-language library in Panama, computer and science labs, classrooms equipped with state-of-the-art technology, a recreation room, and a cafeteria. Additionally, students have access to the Kiwanis sports complex, which has a swimming pool, gymnasium, and athletic field, as well as tennis, basketball, football, and soccer facilities.

Student housing is located in a residential area near the complex, within walking or biking distance of the campus. A nice selection of small restaurants and a convenience store make it easy for students to secure supplies, grab a bite to eat, or enjoy a leisurely meal with other students and City of Knowledge residents. The beautiful Panama weather makes outside sports extremely popular, as are cookouts, open-air music, and the special “Night of the Arts” events, when both faculty and students exhibit and perform their works of art.
From exploring the bustling Panama City, to white water rafting down a river in the rainforest, to spending a weekend relaxing on an island in the Caribbean, there is never a dull moment in Panama. The adventurous lifestyle, vibrant culture, and friendly people opened my eyes and made me more globally aware. **MY EXPERIENCE HELPED ME DISCOVER PASSIONS I NEVER KNEW I HAD, LEFT ME WITH LIFELONG FRIENDS, AND HELPED ME BECOME MORE CONFIDENT.** I never would have imagined spending my freshmen year of college abroad, but living and studying in a culture as diverse and exciting as Panama was the best experience of my life. I would recommend the FYA program to anyone.

Lauren Stuart
FYA Panama City
My husband and I had the opportunity to visit our daughter Andrea at the Valencia campus. We were very impressed with both the staff and the facilities. Our daughter acted as our tour guide and translator, as she proudly showed us around the beautiful city. **SHE BECAME A VERY INDEPENDENT AND CONFIDENT STUDENT** during her stay in Valencia—enjoying her classes as well as the trips and tours. **I WOULD STRONGLY ENCOURAGE ANY PARENT TO CONSIDER Sending their son or daughter to study abroad!**

*Sue and Pete Lievense*

FYA Parents
RETURNING TO TALLAHASSEE

• Upon completion of a minimum of 36 Florida State credit hours during 3 consecutive semesters at an international location with an FSU GPA of 3.0 or better, FYA students will qualify for out-of-state tuition waivers allowing them to pay in-state tuition for the remainder of their first undergraduate degree at Florida State in Tallahassee. This arrangement is contingent upon the student remaining in good academic and judicial standing throughout their FSU career and having met all financial obligations for the FYA Program. Students must attend consecutive semesters without interruption (post-FYA summer terms excluded), progressing toward their degree completion, and staying “on map.” Savings could total approximately $36,000 for a typical four year degree!
• A portion of the requirements for the Global Citizenship Certificate can be started while on the FYA program.
• Florida State’s Garnet and Gold Scholar Society’s international engagement requirement can be met by participating in FYA.
• Students interested in Florida State’s British Studies, Iberian Studies, or Italian Studies minors can earn over half their required credits abroad and then finish the minor on the main campus. Each minor requires 15 credits, 9 of which must be completed at the corresponding study center.