Spend your first year abroad, then pay in-state rates while completing your degree!

First Year Abroad Program

Introducing an Extraordinary Educational and Career Opportunity Created Especially for High-Achieving, Global-Thinking, Adventurous Students.

Fall 2016 – Summer 2017
An Incomparable Once-In-A-Lifetime College Career Opportunity... 

The First Year Abroad (FYA) program allows students to complete the first twelve months of their Florida State careers studying abroad with International Programs at any of our four study centers located in London, England; Florence, Italy; Panama City, Republic of Panama; and Valencia, Spain. FYA students can also opt to change their location for the summer term, spending it at another study center, though visa restrictions apply for some locations. Following this first year, students continue to earn their Florida State degree in Tallahassee.

Note: Science or engineering majors must choose London, Panama, or Valencia to meet prerequisite requirements.

Professor Mark Zeigler teaching on the London program

"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 we love to teach. You can't beat this combination for providing superb international study experience. Florida State does many things well, and our study abroad program is second to none."

- Mark Zeigler
  Communication Professor
  Florida State Distinguished Teacher Award recipient
  Florida State University & International Programs London Study Centre
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 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 intellectually curious, globally conscious, energetic, and inspiring.

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-knowledge.

STUDENT WELL-BEING AND SECURITY
We strive to ensure a 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, both at home and abroad.
PROGRAM INFORMATION, BENEFITS, AND REWARDS

- FYA is designed for seamless continuation toward graduation.
- Students take up to 49 credit hours over 12 months, beginning in the fall term.
- Classes are taught in English, except for foreign language classes.
- Living among native speakers immeasurably aids Spanish or Italian 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 First Year Abroad fulfills the summer residency required of most students.
“Our students come home more self-assured, open-minded, and globally aware – a huge asset for both their college and professional careers.”

- Dr. Jim Pitts
Director, FSU International Programs

The rewards of being an FYA student continue upon return to the main campus:

- 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. Students must attend consecutive semesters without interruption (post-FYA summer terms excluded), progressing toward their degree completion, and staying “on map.”

- For a typical four-year degree, savings could total $40,000 to $50,000 dependent upon the student’s study location!
ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS
Students who participate in the FYA program are required to meet the following criteria:

- Accepted to Florida State: Apply at admissions.fsu.edu/freshman/
- Upon admittance to Florida State, students must also apply to the FYA program at international.fsu.edu/Types/FYA/FYA.aspx

PROGRAM FEE COVERAGE
Each program fee is comprehensive, including:

- Up to 49 credit hours through classroom instruction, labs, tours, lectures, and field trips
- Housing
- International health insurance
- International Student Identification Card
- Study Center social activities
- Cultural excursions
- Full-time administrative support
- Full-time academic guidance
- 24/7 emergency contact assistance
- Some meals (Florence, London, Valencia)
- Visas (Italy, Republic of Panama, Spain)

Program fees are listed in the “Student Notes” section following this information.

FINANCING A PROGRAM:
Paying for a program is easier than you may think:

- 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 before the start of each semester.

FOR ADDITIONAL FYA INFORMATION:
We can answer all of your questions regarding this exciting freshman year opportunity!

- Contact our dedicated team of First Year Abroad coordinators:
  1-800-374-8581
  or
  IP-freshman@fsu.edu

  Visit us at:
  international.fsu.edu/Types/FYA/FYA.aspx

“Student Notes” from each of our study centers . . .
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 everyday. 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 a 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, England
Discovering all the sites London has to offer, including visiting Buckingham Palace

Exploring the historic Roman Baths

Touring the Olympic site

Surfing lessons on the English coast

Class lecture in Cambridge’s King’s College

Modern living areas mix with 17th century architectural charm

2016-2017 Program Fee: $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 short-cuts home, and every single cobble stone 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 still all talk and dream about going back home to Florence. It is incredible that so many different people from around the world could 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, Italy
Classes took place throughout this spectacular city!

Magnificent architecture across the city

Every view in Florence is a beautiful view

Learning about the local sites

Florida State boasts the only study abroad center that is located right in the heart of Florence!

2016-2017 Program Fee:
$39,995
There are so many different elements of Panama and I enjoyed exploring every part, including the famous canal and the Bridge of the Americas. Panama is a fascinating country!

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 freshman year of college abroad, but living and studying in a culture as diverse and exciting as Panama was the best experience of my life, and I would recommend the First Year Abroad Program to anyone.

- Lauren Stuart

FYA Panama City, Republic of Panama
From boating to zip-lining, to meeting local craftsmen, students have the chance to explore all that Panama has to offer.

Panama City offers great restaurants and shops

FSU Panama’s Cayuco racing team

White water rafting excursion

Panama features spectacular beaches

Panama City, REPUBLIC OF PANAMA

This beautiful country makes a great home for your freshman year!

2016-2017 Program Fee: $36,750
I have never loved going to class so much in my life! Every day we were exposed to an amazing amount of culture in world famous places.

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 the help of 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 First Year Abroad program taught me. The First Year Abroad 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, Spain
At the marina with our Center director, Ignacio Messana

Practicing Spanish with local vendors

Taking in the local architecture

Our Study Center is located right behind the Serrano Towers

Valencia’s beautiful City of Arts and Sciences

Immerse yourself in the Spanish culture!

2016-2017 Program Fee: $39,400
My husband and I are very happy with our decision to enroll our daughter, Andrea, in the FYA program in Spain. She was excited about the opportunity to experience a new culture and learn a new language. We were excited that she would also have the opportunity to be in small classes with lots of one-on-one time with professors from an outstanding university for her first time in college. I was NOT so excited about being separated from my youngest daughter for a WHOLE year!

Now that she has returned safe and sound, I can say I would not have changed anything about the experience - and neither would she. The Tallahassee staff was very helpful in obtaining her paperwork and travel documents; and we felt reassured the Spain staff would be there to meet her when she arrived and keep an eye on her throughout her stay.

My husband and I had the opportunity to visit 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 included as part of her coursework. I would strongly encourage any parent to consider sending their son or daughter to study abroad!

- Sue and Pete Lievense
FYA Parents
"I can easily say my First Year Abroad experience was the best experience of my life. I learned so much not only in the classroom, but also outside in the beautiful cities I visited. The professors were some of the most brilliant, funny, and enthusiastic people I have ever met. They presented me with so many opportunities and so much knowledge that cannot be gained by simply reading a textbook. I encourage everyone to take the opportunity to study abroad because it truly is like living a dream.

- Ryann Espinosa
FYA Florence & London programs

"Since my husband and I gained so much from our Florida State London program experience, we decided to give our daughters the same opportunity. To live and learn in a different culture and see our American culture from another perspective is life-changing. I want all of our students to become competent global citizens by having the same experience."

- Dr. Mary Coburn
VP of Student Affairs
Florida State University

mary with daughter, Katie, who studied with us in London
(Above: Katie Coburn in London)