

# OPPORTUNITIES ABROAD

## COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

LAS Study Abroad  
IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

# Computer Science

Many opportunities exist for students majoring in Computer Science to learn or work abroad. Study abroad allows first-hand access to the landscapes, sites, and cultures that produced revolutions, scientific discoveries, and or artistic innovation. Computer Science students can develop a keener understanding of globalization and the international workplace. Seeing the U.S. from the outside is an equally valuable asset for students of today. And of course the opportunity to learn or master a foreign language is enhanced via immersion in another culture.

### Study abroad can help you...

- Enhance analytical and critical thinking skills through real world experiences
- Expand your cross-cultural and problem-solving skills
- Complete coursework for your degree in an international setting
- Develop contacts, opportunity, or skills for future research or work
- Improve your foreign language skills
- Develop valuable overseas connections
- Expose yourself to new perspectives on international issues
- Prepare to work in an increasingly diverse and international workplace

### Set goals and plan for results

Computer Science students can study abroad at any time, but ideally during their freshman or sophomore years. The process of selecting a study

abroad program is similar to selecting your major or minor:

- Begin planning right away—it is never too early to start!
- Set some goals. No single program is best suited for Computer Science students. The best one for you depends on what you want.
- Prioritize your goals. Consider long-term academic and professional goals, as well as on-campus degree requirements.
- Consider both short-term and long-term programs.
- Prepare academically. You may need to take language or other prerequisites for your chosen program.
- Talk to your adviser and to other students who have studied abroad.

### Can I afford to study abroad?

Yes! As long as you will earn academic credit, most or all of your ISU financial aid may be used to fund your study abroad experience. It doesn't matter whether you study with an ISU program or through another institution. Student Financial Aid, 0210 Beardshear, can provide information on how your current aid package will apply and other sources of funding available to you. The ISU Study Abroad Center offers need-based Sojourner Scholarships for summer, spring, fall, and academic year programs. The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences offer merit-based scholarships in two annual competitions (March 1 and November 1). Go to [isuabroad.iastate.edu](http://isuabroad.iastate.edu) to apply.

## What are my next steps?

### 1. Explore your options

Search [isuabroad.iastate.edu](http://isuabroad.iastate.edu) to identify locations or programs that look appealing. Visit the Study Abroad Center and meet with a Peer Adviser, weekdays between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

### 2. Meet with a study abroad staff member or program coordinator

Call the Study Abroad Center (294-6792) to make an appointment with a staff member familiar with the program or country that interests you. The staff can suggest programs you may not have considered. If you've already chosen a program, meet with the program coordinator to clarify details and requirements.

### 3. Meet with your academic adviser in International Studies

Discuss the course requirements for your major and the course options from the program you want to attend. Your academic adviser will help you make selections from what is available at the host school.

## ACADEMIC CONSIDERATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDIES MAJORS

### Fulfill general education requirements

Plan early to apply study abroad credits to the college's general education requirements. Work with your Computer Science adviser to determine which requirements are best satisfied abroad. While abroad students are encouraged to take some General Education courses or to consider coursework that applies to another major or/minor.

### Work on your International Studies major or minor requirements

- Students majoring in Computer Science can study abroad at any time, but freshman or sophomore years are recommended.
- Choosing a program abroad that emphasizes cross-cultural communication or that focuses on globalization enhances a student's overall program of study in Computer Science.
- Electives in the humanities, sciences, or social sciences can be completed abroad with little difficulty.
- Coursework in Computer Science can be taken abroad, but students will need to discuss their course selection with their academic adviser prior to departure. Then upon return, students seeking to have Computer Science courses transferred back into their program of study will need to meet with their adviser. Students are urged to bring back relevant course materials to ensure proper transfer credit evaluation. Course materials would include: 1) course syllabus; 2) two homework examples; 3) at least one exam. The Computer Science instructor for each course may need to provide input on how a given course will transfer back to Iowa State.

### Develop or strengthen second language skills

Study abroad is a smart option for fulfilling your language requirement. You can make rapid progress in starting a new language by being immersed in the target-language culture. If you already have intermediate to advanced language skills, consider a program taught entirely in the language that allows you to complete a minor or second major in a World Language.

## Learning Abroad Options in Computer Science

The list below provides some learning abroad options that can fit well into the program of study of Computer Science majors and minors. These are meant to be examples, so do not limit your search to this list. Be aware that many study abroad programs actually combine elements of classroom study and experiential learning (e.g., internships, service learning, volunteer work, field experience).

### SHORT-TERM PROGRAMS

Students with no prior international experience may feel the need for a short-term experience before they are ready for a semester or year abroad. Others seek short-term programs because they best fit schedule, interest, or need. Short-term programs are sometimes taught by ISU faculty, and offerings may vary from year to year.

[Click here to see classes with Spring Break Travel](#)

[Click here to see ISU “shorts” programs](#)

### SUMMER PROGRAMS

Summer programs are another option for students that may want a short-term experience or for students that do not have time or have conflicting obligations and are not able to study abroad for an entire semester or year.

### LAS GLOBAL SEMINARS

LAS Global Seminars are three- or four-week, three-credit classes taught by ISU professors. They vary in location and subject matter.

[Click here to see a list of Global Seminars](#)

### GREECE: AMERICAN COLLEGE OF THESSALONIKI (ACT)

Experience the language, culture, and history of Greece firsthand. Students wishing to spend a month in Northern Greece combining academic study with a truly unique cultural experience are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity. Students will spend an unforgettable month in Greece’s second-largest city, Thessaloniki. [Click here to view the Thessaloniki brochure](#)

### INTERNATIONAL STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAMS (ISEP)

ISEP offers a variety of summer programs in many countries, some of which are topic-based and taught in English, and others that focus on the study of a foreign language. [Click here to visit the ISEP homepage](#)

### SEMESTER OR ACADEMIC YEAR PROGRAMS

For all semester or academic year programs noted below, course options are varied and, in many cases, mirror courses and programs at Iowa State. Here are a few examples of programs offering computer science classes.

### FINLAND: AALTO UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Alto University is situated on the coast at Otaniemi (population 176,000), ten kilometers west of Helsinki, the capital of Finland. The campus includes various national institutes such as the Technical Research Center of Finland and State Computer Center. [Click here to view the Finland brochure](#)

## **NETHERLANDS: CENTRAL COLLEGE ABROAD IN LEIDEN**

This program focuses on the Netherlands and its European Context introducing students to Dutch culture and society. Includes excursions to Amsterdam, Rotterdam, The Hague and Belgium.

[Click here to visit the Leiden Brochure](#)

## **WALES: SWANSEA UNIVERSITY**

This program begins with either a London or Swansea three-week orientation class. With beautiful scenery and active nightlife, Swansea has something for everyone. Students are fully integrated academically and socially with their British counterparts. Students studying at UCC during the spring semester will have one month off for spring break. [Click here to visit the Swansea brochure](#)

## **SCOTLAND: UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH**

Study at one of the finest universities in the UK in one of Europe's most exciting cultural centers. Students are fully integrated academically and socially with their Scottish counterparts. An internship program with the Scottish Parliament is available to those students who qualify. [Click here to view the Scotland brochure](#)

## **NEW ZEALAND: MASSEY UNIVERSITY**

Massey University's three campuses – Palmerston North, Auckland, and Wellington – offer a variety of locales, from the capital city to stunning harbors and lush green hills. Semesters run from February to June and July to November, and there may be an opportunity for students to gain additional academic credit by attending a J-term “summer” course at University of Otago before joining the Massey Feb.-June semester. Students enroll in regular courses offered by the university. [Click here to view the Massey brochure](#)

## **AUSTRALIA: UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA**

From miles of unspoiled beaches to magnificent mountains, Tassie is a special place that is very accessible to university students. It has two campuses, one in Hobart, and one in Launceston. The program begins with a week-long orientation that prepares students for the academic and cultural experience ahead. [Click here to visit the Tasmania brochure](#)

## **LANGUAGE LEARNING PROGRAMS**

Almost all study programs in non-English-speaking countries offer language coursework, but some programs are built mostly around intensive language study.

Under each language, examples of beginner programs are listed. To acquire more information about a specific school, navigate to the “Programs” tab on the ISUAbroad website, [isuabroad.iastate.edu](http://isuabroad.iastate.edu), click on the ‘Advanced Search’ tab and choose a language of study in the appropriate drop-box.

### **ARABIC:**

- Morocco: Iowa Regents' Arabic Summer Program in Fez
- United Arab Emirates: ISEP Direct Program in Sharjah

### **FRENCH:**

- France: ISEP Exchange or Direct Program at Université Paul in Montpellier
- Québec, Canada: Iowa State University exchange with Université Laval

**GERMAN:**

- Germany: ISEP Exchange at Technische Universität Dortmund in Dortmund

**ITALIAN:**

- Italy: Lorenzo de' Medici in Rome, Florence, Tuscania, and Venice

**MANDARIN:**

- Hong Kong, China: Summer 5-week AsiaLearn Program in Hong Kong
- China: ISEP Exchange with Jiangxi University in Nanchang

**SPANISH:**

- Chile: ISEP Exchange or Direct to Pontificia Universidad Católica in Valparaíso
- Spain: CEA Spanish Culture and Society Program in Seville
- Costa Rica: ISA in Heredia or San José