Approaches to sustainability vary around the world and we have a lot to learn from other countries. By studying abroad, students in the Global Studies Environments and Sustainability track have the opportunity to engage with international faculty and learn different perspectives on sustainability within the three E’s of environment, economy & policy, and equity, while earning credit toward their major. Many programs offer students the chance to conduct research in the field or participate in an internship in a variety of settings, allowing students to expand their professional network and gain practical experience.

Benefits of International Experience

Approaches to sustainability vary around the world and we have a lot to learn from other countries. By studying abroad, students in the Global Studies Environments and Sustainability track have the opportunity to engage with international faculty and learn different perspectives on sustainability within the three E’s of environment, economy & policy, and equity, while earning credit toward their major. Many programs offer students the chance to conduct research in the field or participate in an internship in a variety of settings, allowing students to expand their professional network and gain practical experience.

Funding your Experience Abroad

- There is a program for every budget! Speak with an Education Abroad Advisor to learn about your options.
- Financial aid is portable. If you receive any kind of financial aid or use a program such as VPEP, make sure to tell your advisor early in your planning.
- Scholarship application deadlines are often earlier than program application deadlines—research and apply early!
- Use the cost comparison worksheet on the Education Abroad website to compare programs, what is included in each program, and what meets your budget.
Academic and Timing Considerations

Students in the GSVS track can study abroad in their 2nd or 3rd year. You must be on-Grounds to complete the 4th year capstone. Students may use up to 15 credits from study abroad towards their GSVS major. All courses must be pre-approved by Prof. Phoebe Crisman, the GSVS coordinator. For programs with transfer credit, you can find the transfer credit pre-approval form in your study abroad application. When participating on a program that offers direct credit, you should still confirm with Prof. Crisman that the courses can count to the major ahead of time. If you think you want to use coursework or research from your education abroad experience for your capstone project, you should also speak with Prof. Crisman ahead of time. If you have a second major, you need to consult with that department regarding relevant coursework.

International Opportunities in Global Environments & Sustainability

UVA Exchange Programs

An exchange is a relationship that allows reciprocal movement of students for a semester or year between U.Va. and a partner university abroad. Students attend classes taught by local faculty and study alongside local students. To be nominated as an exchange student, first apply through the International Studies Office at U.Va. The following list of exchange programs is merely a starting point; you are not limited to these options.

- Australia, University of Tasmania
- Canada, Montreal, McGill University
- England, Lancaster University
- Hong Kong, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
- Netherlands, University of Amsterdam
- New Zealand, University of Otago

UVA Programs

UVA Programs are designed and operated by the University of Virginia or in partnership with another organization. Students may all be from University of Virginia or may include students from other U.S. colleges and universities.

- UVA in Italy: Florence at the Palazzo Rucellai: Sustainable Food and Environmental Studies Program
- UVA Architecture: Switzerland: Sustainable Europe
- UVA Commerce: Sustainability in Denmark
- UVA in Sweden: Systems Practicum
Outside Programs

Outside programs are operated by a third-party provider. Some facilitate direct enrollment at a foreign university while others offer their own program for U.S. students. A U.Va. application is required along with an application to the program provider. The following list is merely a starting point; you are not limited to these options.

- Australia, School for Field Studies: Tropical Rainforest Studies
- Australia, SIT (School for International Training): Sustainability and Environmental Action
- Australia, SIT (School for International Training): Rainforest, Reef, and Cultural Ecology
- Brazil, SIT (School for International Training): Amazon Resource Management and Human Ecology
- Costa Rica, CIEE: Tropical Ecology and Conservation
- Costa Rica, School for Field Studies: Tropical Ecology and Sustainable Development Studies
- Denmark, Danish Institute for Study Abroad (DIS): Sustainability
- Denmark, Danish Institute for Study Abroad (DIS): Urban Studies
- Denmark, Danish Institute for Study Abroad (DIS): Environmental Science of the Arctic
- Ecuador, IES Abroad: Environmental Studies
- Ecuador, SIT (School for International Training): Comparative Ecology and Conservation
- Ecuador, University of Minnesota: International Development
- Germany, IES Abroad: Environmental Sciences and Sustainability
- India, University of Minnesota: International Development
- Madagascar, SIT (School for International Training): Biodiversity and Natural Resource Management
- Mongolia, SIT (School for International Training): Geopolitics and the Environment
- New Zealand, Ecoquest
- Panama, SIT (School for International Training): Tropical Ecology, Marine Ecosystems and Biodiversity Conservation
- Peru, IFSA-Butler: Community Building and Sustainable Development (Summer)
- Senegal, University of Minnesota: International Development
- Spain, CIEE: Architecture and Design
- Tanzania, SIT (School for International Training): Wildlife Conservation and Political Ecology
- Turks and Caicos, School for Field Studies: Marine Resource Studies
- Multiple, International Honors Program: Cities in the 21st Century
- Multiple, Sea Semester: Oceans and Climate
- Multiple, Sea Semester: Marine Biodiversity and Conservation
- Multiple, Sea Semester: Sustainability in Polynesian Island Cultures and Ecosystems