

Things to Know About Study Abroad for Psychology Majors

1) You must understand that when you go abroad there is no guarantee that there will be psychology courses for you to take or that you will necessarily get into psychology courses. Your plan for completing the requirement for the major must be flexible enough to accommodate this possibility. So, if you are going abroad with the idea that you must take 2 psychology courses or you won't finish the requirements for the major on time, you may need to rethink your decision to go abroad.



2) You may only take 2 psychology classes per semester while you are abroad. This means that although I will generally try to approve more than 2 in the interest of flexibility, you may only take 2. The idea in going abroad is to have academic experiences beyond what is available on the Emory campus and that involves not just taking classes that you could have taken in Atlanta. So, take no more than 2 psychology classes.

3) Since courses taken abroad are rarely exactly like ones on the Emory campus, courses abroad are approved as special topics. This allows greater flexibility and offers me greater leeway in approving classes. Therefore, approved courses will have a 385/388R: Special Topics number. So, all psychology courses receive a general equivalency number.

4) All psychology courses are initially approved as electives toward your major. You may be interested in a course you believe is the equivalent to one of the breadth courses for the major. Before you take the class, I cannot approve it as a breadth requirement. Bring back all your academic 'stuff' for the course (syllabus, books, papers, readings, etc) and we can take a look to determine if the course is actually the equivalent in content (not just name only!) of the breadth courses on the Emory campus. So, elective credit (at least initially) for courses.

5) It is always a good idea to check with the instructors of the courses to be certain that you have the appropriate background for the class. The final decision about whether a class is an appropriate one rests with you. Once you take a class and receive a grade, the psychology department at Emory will not change that grade. So, be certain the class is an appropriate one for you given your background.

6) Be certain that you understand how you will be evaluated in your class and who is doing the evaluation. Strategies that work well on the Emory campus may not be effective in classes abroad. So, pay attention to what is expected of you as a student.

7) Have a wonderful semester!

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