

Study Away Opportunities for

Neuroscience

Trinity College *Office of International Programs*

Why Study Away?

Studying abroad allows students to be fully immersed into another culture and gain firsthand experience of a new environment. This is attractive to graduate schools, medical schools, and prospective employers who value students who have broadened their education and knowledge through international study. Neuroscience students can also find opportunities to study away in the U.S. through participation in special field-based programs. Students who plan to do an honors thesis may identify or refine potential topics based on their experiences studying away.

How Is Neuroscience Taught Overseas?

For students who plan to study abroad at a foreign university, it is important to note that many academic systems outside the US differ greatly in the style of teaching. In many countries, students specialize early in their academic career. Therefore, many science departments overseas require visiting students to have a strong background in science in order to take classes with host university students. Academic systems outside the US can differ greatly in the style of teaching. Formal class time may be reduced, because students are expected to work more independently. The amount of coursework required during the semester for classes taken abroad is usually less than in the US. This means that final exams and papers are weighted more heavily abroad. These factors require students taking courses in foreign universities to be flexible, disciplined and self-motivated. It is also important to be aware that in many countries, laboratories are not integrated into lecture classes; thus, students who wish to take courses with laboratory components need to investigate the availability of such courses in advance. In many countries, students spend one semester studying a topic in biology or chemistry in the classroom and complete the related laboratory class the next semester. Many students study abroad on programs that are especially designed for American students. In these cases, the primary difference in teaching may be the course offerings and the ability to participate in on-site field study and research.

When Should I Study Away?

Neuroscience majors can study away in their sophomore or junior years or in first semester of their senior year. Because the Trinity deadline for applying for approval to study away is in December of the previous academic year, it is important for students to plan early. Students can study away for a semester, a full academic year, or a summer.

What Classes Should I Take Before I Go?

Students should make good progress toward completing Trinity's general education distribution requirements before studying away. It is especially helpful if students have declared their Neuroscience major and have completed several neuroscience courses prior to studying away. Please note that all students must have fulfilled the quantitative literacy requirement prior to studying away and must be in good social and academic standing.

What Classes Should I Plan To Take Abroad?

Neuroscience is a broad, multidisciplinary field concerned with the nervous system, its components, , and functional activities. Neuroscience involves biology, chemistry, engineering, philosophy, and psychology. Students who major in neuroscience pursue careers in scientific research, the health professions, education, business, law, government, and other areas. The major requires fourteen courses, including seven core courses and seven major electives. Students must earn a C- or above to have classes count toward the major. Students who wish major credit for course work at other institutions should submit to the director the name of the institution and the number, title, and catalogue description of the course for approval. This must be done prior to study away. Students can also fulfill up to two Trinity general education distribution requirements (with approval of the Registrar's Office), and improve foreign language skills while studying away.

Can I Study In A Foreign Language Destination?

Students are encouraged to study abroad in a foreign language destination. Students with strong language skills may be able to take some or all of your courses in the local language. Students with beginning or intermediate language skills can choose from programs that combine regular courses in English with local language study courses or offer their entire curriculum in English. Please refer to the *Guidelines for Study Away* for further information.

Where Should I Study Away?

It is very important for students to select a program that will meet all of their criteria (e.g. academic interests, language study, country of choice). For a selection of programs recommended by Trinity College and your department, students should refer to the program chart at the end of this document and contact OIP for further advising. It is important that students meet the eligibility requirements for their programs of interest and that they apply for (and receive) approval to study away through

OIP before submitting program-specific application(s) to their program providers.

What Different Types Of Programs Are Available?

Trinity College has approximately 60 approved study away programs in more than 35 countries, including the U.S. Included are Trinity's Rome Campus and the Trinity Global Learning Sites in Barcelona, Trinidad, Moscow, Santiago, Cape Town, Istanbul, Vienna, and Paris. Some programs allow students to enroll directly in a local university, while others are designed specifically for American and/or international students.

For students who do not have foreign language skills, there are programs in English-speaking countries and programs that offer courses in English, even where the local language is different (e.g. School for Field Studies programs, DIS in Denmark). For those who wish to improve or develop foreign language skills, there are programs with courses in the local language and those that focus on intensive language study. All programs on Trinity's approved list aim to integrate students into the local culture to the greatest extent possible.

What About Credits?

There are two types of credit offered by study away programs: Trinity in-residence credit and transfer credit. Please see the *Guidelines for Study Away* for detailed information about credit transfer. Programs may offer

in-residence credit, transfer credit, or a combination. Students can apply both in-residence and transfer credit earned on an approved study away program toward their Trinity degree. Please be aware that Trinity will only accept credit for liberal arts courses and that all transfer credit courses must be pre-approved by the Registrar's Office. Students must consult their department chairperson or program director to determine whether courses they plan to take abroad will count for the major. In order to avoid difficulties with regard to transfer credit, students should keep copies of their written work, their course syllabus, and a complete reading list for each class taken while studying away. Grades for in-residence credit courses calculate into the Trinity GPA. Grades for transfer credit courses taken at the Rome Campus, Trinity's Global Learning Sites, and PRESHCO also calculate into the Trinity GPA. Grades for transfer credit courses taken on all other programs DO NOT.

How Can I Find Out More Information?

Stop by the OIP in the Goodwin Lounge, Mondays through Fridays from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m., or contact us at x2005. Attend a Study Away Information Session (required for all study away applicants.) Contact the OIP for an updated schedule, or go to: www.trincoll.edu/Academics/StudyAway/OIP.htm. Talk with your academic advisor and with one of the department's *Designated Study Away Advisor*, Sarah Raskin, sarah.raskin@trincoll.edu, x2342.

Sample List of Study Away Programs Recommended for Neuroscience Majors

*Australia: Curtin University of Technology, Perth	http://studyabroad.curtin.edu.au/studyab/index.htm
Australia: James Cook University, Townsville or Cairns	www.jcu.edu.au
Australia: SFS Program in Tropical Rainforest Management, Northern Queensland	www.fieldstudies.org
Australia: University of Queensland, Brisbane	www.uq.edu.au
*Austria: Trinity-in-Vienna Global Site, Vienna	www.trincoll.edu/Academics/StudyAway/OIP.htm
British West Indies: SFS Program in Marine Resource Studies, Turks and Caicos Islands	www.fieldstudies.org
*Chile: Trinity-in-Santiago Global Site, Santiago	www.trincoll.edu/Academics/StudyAway/OIP.htm
Duke: Organization for Tropical Studies, Las Cruces and San Jose	www.ots.ac.cr
Costa Rica: SFS Program in Sustainable Development, La Presa	www.fieldstudies.org
Denmark: Danish International Studies, Copenhagen	www.dis.dk
Ecuador: SIT, Comparative Ecology & Conservation, Quito	www.sit.edu
*England: University of East Anglia, Norwich	www.trincoll.edu/Academics/StudyAway/OIP.htm
England: University College London, London	www.ucl.ac.uk/
*Istanbul: Trinity-in-Istanbul Global Site, Istanbul	www.trincoll.edu/Academics/StudyAway/OIP.htm
Mexico: SFS Program in Marine Mammal Conservation & Coastal Ecosystems, Baja	www.fieldstudies.org
Netherlands: Center for European Studies, Maastricht	www.ces.unimaas.nl/
New Zealand: EcoQuest, various locations	www.ecoquest.unh.edu/
New Zealand; University of Otago, Dunedin	www.otago.ac.nz/
Northern Ireland: Queen's University, Belfast	www.qub.ac.uk/
Scotland: University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh	www.gla.ac.uk/studyabroad
*South Africa: Trinity-in-Cape Town Global Site, Cape Town	www.trincoll.edu/Academics/StudyAway/OIP.htm
*Trinidad: Trinity-in-Trinidad Global Site, St. Augustine	www.trincoll.edu/Academics/StudyAway/OIP.htm
Multi-country: Duke Marine Laboratory, Bermuda & N.C.	www.nicholas.duke.edu/marinelab/
USA: Woods Hole Sea Semester, Woods Hole, MA	www.sea.edu/
USA: Semester in Environmental Science, Woods Hole, MA	http://www.courses.mbl.edu/SES/intro/intro.html
USA: Williams-Mystic Maritime Studies Program, Mystic, CT	www.mystic.org/Williams-mystic

* denotes Trinity College Affiliated program