

Neuroscience Program Study Abroad Guide

Concentrations offered and planning: The Neuroscience Program offers three concentrations: 1) Neurobiology 2) Neuropsychology, and 3) Cognitive Science. Study abroad is encouraged for each concentration, but careful planning will be needed, particularly for the Neurobiology and Neuropsychology concentrations combined with Pre-Health programs. Contact a Neuroscience advisor or our Neuroscience Administrative Assistance, Ms. Rulli (arulli@saintmarys.edu), to find an advisor to help plan for a semester abroad.

Types of Programs: Summer and semester break programs are open to all students and require minimal planning to fit in your schedule.

Semester programs require more careful attention in advance of the semester of travel.

Semester Program Restrictions for all Neuroscience Students:

1. Students should study abroad in the following semesters: **sophomore fall, sophomore spring, junior fall.** Year-long study abroad requires very careful planning, and usually one of the following: entering with AP/IB credit, especially in science and math classes; summer classes; or a 5th year semester.
2. Students are required to complete **BIO155-158, PSYC 157/158, I like Brains, Neuroscience, and Neuropsychology** prior to Junior Spring semester, so plan accordingly for study abroad.
3. Year-long course sequences required for Neuroscience majors make scheduling for semester-based study abroad more challenging. These include: language, foundations in biology, physics, for all Neuroscience students and may include math (calculus), principles of chemistry, and organic chemistry, depending on concentration and planned health related careers.

Common solutions for completing year-long supporting courses interrupted by study abroad – particularly for pre-Health students that require courses before entrance exams in Jr Yr Spring.

- 1) Stagger the first and second course. Take course one in the fall and course two in the spring of the next year.
- 2) Take both courses during the summer to ensure continuity between the end of the first and start of the second term (possible for supporting courses, but not for core courses).
- 3) Consider doing a gap year. This allows the student to take year-long course sequences in the senior year after traveling abroad during either the sophomore or junior year. Take the entrance exam for a professional program in the spring of the senior year, followed by application after graduation.

It is possible that some math and science courses can be completed during a semester abroad if offered by the university affiliated with the study abroad program, but this is not encouraged for career or major important courses (like Neuroscience/Neuropsychology) due to the different teaching and grading systems. All such courses must receive approval by the chair of the department that normally offers that science or math course at Saint Mary's. More typically, study abroad courses are used to satisfy Sophia or Neuroscience Connections course requirements.

Neuroscience students might be interested in two study abroad courses that you have the pre-reqs for, given your required Foundation of Biology courses.

BIO 209 Marine Biology (lab, 4 credit hours)

Marine biology is offered in the spring semester on alternate years. Students learn principles of marine biology during lecture hours and complete their laboratory work with a week-long Spring Break trip to an island off the coast of Belize. Typical activities include designing and carrying out experiments that typically involve snorkeling, sample collecting, observations, and data analysis.

Sophia credits included with the course:

LO3 Global Learning B

LO3: Academic Experiential Learning

BIO 270 Environments of Ecuador (non-lab, 3 credit hours)

Environments of Ecuador is offered in alternate years in the summer. See the Course description for more details as it may change before the next time it is offered.