

Study Abroad Guide for Political Science

The Political Science major is relatively flexible. Students who fulfill their senior comprehensive requirement in the department must complete 28 credit hours; double majors who fulfill the requirement in their other major complete 27 credit hours. That leaves considerable room for a study abroad experience and/or participation in the Washington Semester Program at American University.

Most Political Science majors who study abroad do so as sophomores, though during the junior year is also possible.

Many Political Science majors participate in the Washington Semester Program. Those who do so complete their senior comprehensive in the department; they begin the project while they're in Washington.

Students who participate in the Washington Semester typically do so in the spring of their junior year. On occasion, a student will go in the fall of her junior year.

With careful planning (particularly if Political Science is not the student's only major), it is possible both to spend a semester abroad and participate in the Washington Semester.

Washington Semester participants complete two of the required upper-level Political Science courses while in Washington.

Courses taken in a study abroad program will be considered for application to upper-level Political Science requirements on a case-by-case basis. Students should consult with the department chair.

Three of the five required upper-level courses in the major must be taken in residence at Saint Mary's. Students who choose to do both the Washington Semester and study abroad should be aware that only the Washington Semester courses will be applied toward their Political Science requirements. Courses from the study abroad semester may be used toward general education requirements and free electives.

Note: Arrangements to participate in the Washington Semester Program at American University should be made through the Political Science Department, not the Global Education Office.