

Department of Environmental Studies – Study Abroad Plan

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Given the international and global nature of environmental problems, study abroad experiences are an excellent option for Environmental Studies majors, and students are strongly encouraged to consider participating! The following are some recommendations to assist Environmental Studies majors in the decision-making process:

- 1) Consult with an academic advisor in Environmental Studies early, during your first year if possible. We want to help you map out required core courses within the context of studying abroad and make sure you take any additional course work needed before going abroad (such as language classes)
- 2) Consider when you want to study abroad. For Environmental Studies majors, the best time for study abroad is **sophomore year (either semester)**. Going during your sophomore year will make it easier for you to complete some of the courses required for the major in a timely fashion. Summer programs are also an option for all majors, and are the best choice for students in the Environmental STEM concentration that are completing the dual degree program in Engineering at the University of Notre Dame.
- 3) Consider your goals for studying abroad – what are you hoping to accomplish academically during your trip?
 - a. All of the Saint Mary's study abroad programs allow students to take Sophia Program courses; more information on these courses can be found on the Study Abroad website and through study abroad program coordinators. If you are most interested in experiencing another culture or location, but achieving major requirements is of less importance, you can choose almost any program that appeals to you. Be sure to work with your advisor to “save” some of those Sophia courses – where better to take art history than Spain, philosophy than Rome, religious studies than Ireland, or global studies than Morocco?
 - b. Students wishing to complete some major requirements or major electives during their time abroad should consider participating in the South Africa program. You should consult with the Environmental Studies Department Chair about how courses in this or other programs may meet major requirements before finalizing your study abroad plan.
 - c. Many study abroad programs have internship or language immersion options. Considering these possibilities can allow you to further extend your skill set and marketability in our increasingly globalized world.