Why study engineering abroad?

Engineering today is a global profession. Engineers are increasingly being called upon to work with other engineers from around the world or they may even find themselves living abroad on an overseas assignment. Learning problem-solving skills in a foreign context will help you to expand your horizons and your adaptability to cross-cultural communications will make you a valuable addition to a team of engineers.

Study abroad will help you develop intellectually, emotionally, culturally, and socially. It allows engineering students to discover the profession through the perspective of engineers working in a different language and culture. You will learn the relationship of culture to science and develop a range of transferrable skills that employers are seeking today.

Why not decide to study abroad today?

Columbia University
The Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science
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Where can I go?

SEAS students have the option of studying engineering at one of SEAS’s partner universities where course equivalencies have been determined:
- University College London (UK)
- Ecole Polytechnique (FR)*
- Ecole Centrale de Paris (FR)*
- Other partnerships are currently being negotiated – check our Web site for the latest updates.

OR

You can choose a peer university; the SEAS Office of Global Initiatives and your departmental advisor will review your choice and, if it is approved, will help you work out your course equivalencies. Courses that do not have direct equivalencies can be taken as non-technical electives. Students from every engineering major have studied abroad without adding additional time to their course of study at Columbia. You may study abroad either for a semester or for a full academic year.

* You must speak fluent French and have excellent mathematical skills to study here.

When should I start planning?

You should begin thinking about study abroad as early in your studies as possible. Planning during your first year is ideal. This will enable you to plan your curriculum around the engineering courses you would like to take overseas. SEAS students typically study engineering coursework abroad during either semester (or both) of their junior year or, in exceptional cases, in their senior year. You must have a 3.0 GPA to qualify for study abroad.

How much does it cost?

You are responsible for paying Columbia’s tuition; Columbia will pay for all the academic fees of the program. You are responsible for all other fees, such as room and board, which will be billed by your host institution. Your financial aid will continue while you are abroad. You must discuss your expenses with your Financial Aid advisor to work out your individual package.

What if I only want to study abroad in the summer?

Summer study abroad programs allow students to earn credits for language instruction and non-technical electives. Columbia sponsors summer programs in France, Brazil, the Dominican Republic, China, Italy, and Japan. Other programs are sponsored by other U.S.-based institutions or are directly administered by foreign institutions of higher education. In order to use any language courses taken abroad towards the Columbia degree, students will need to obtain academic approval. Students in Columbia-sponsored programs receive direct Columbia credit and the courses and grades appear on their academic transcript. Grades for other courses taken in other programs are not factored into the student’s GPA.

How do I go about it?

Your first step should be to visit the Office of Global Initiatives Web site accessible from the SEAS homepage. Here you will find a listing of your options. Next, make an appointment at the SEAS Office of Global Initiatives in 510 Mudd to identify the SEAS formalities that must be completed. The Office of Global Programs in 204 LowJoan Hall then will help you with the rest of your study abroad planning.

Let the world be your learning arena!