

Latin American Studies Program

Study abroad guidelines for majors and minors

Majors and Minors in Latin American Studies are strongly encouraged to pursue study abroad in the region. The guidelines below establish the quantity and nature of the major credit they may obtain from approved study abroad programs. The following rules apply in all cases.

- Students may bring a maximum of six major or minor credits from an approved summer program.
- Students may bring a maximum of nine major credits or six minor credits from an approved semester program.
- Students attending more than one program may bring a maximum total of 12 credits for a major and nine credits for a minor.
- All major and minor credit must be approved by the director of undergraduate studies, through the procedures established by the Office of Overseas Programs. The validity of courses taken abroad for the major is at the sole discretion of the DUS. Credit is subject to policies regarding individual programs as described below.
- Latin American Studies majors are required to attend a study abroad program in Latin America or to take an additional 3-credit course above major requirements in replacement.
- Study abroad programs (semester or summer) in which courses are taught in Spanish and Portuguese count towards one semester of the four consecutive semesters in the language requirement.
- All major credit from study abroad programs must be exclusive, i.e. it cannot double-count towards another major or minor.
- Courses must be content-based, focused at least 50% on Latin America or any of its countries in the social sciences and the humanities. Language classes do not count towards the LAS majors. Classes on subjects not related to Latin America (such as European history or psychology) do not count either, even if taken in a program in Latin America.

Washington University-approved Summer Program in Buenos Aires, Argentina, with IFSA Butler

LAS majors and minors may count the Argentine History class as an elective or as their history requirement. The Literature class may be counted as an elective.

Washington University Semester Program in Santiago de Chile, or Tulane University in Cuba

Students may obtain up to nine credits from the Chile and Cuba programs. They may be electives or any of the 300-level requirements. Students must consult with the LAS director of undergraduate studies prior to enrolling in the courses. Courses must meet the requirements outlined above.

WU-approved SIT, OTS and CIEE Semester and Summer Programs in Latin America.

Students may obtain credit as long as it does not exceed the restrictions outlined above. For instance, courses on cultural and social issues count, but science courses do not. Credit may be obtained after the syllabus is approved by the DUS. Independent studies, internships and practicums do not count towards LAS credit, unless they have a substantial academic component.

Washington University Semester Program in Madrid.

Students attending the Madrid program may count courses that meet the requirements outlined above. Study abroad in Spain does not satisfy the LAS study abroad requirement, since Spain is not Latin America. Programs in Spain do satisfy the language requirement.

Washington University Summer Program in Madrid

These programs do not provide courses equivalent to major credit in LAS, and they do not satisfy the LAS study abroad requirement, but may be counted as one semester of the language requirement.

Focus programs in Argentina and Cuba

Students may obtain three elective credits towards the LAS major (not the minor), if they complete the two courses and go to the program's trip. Focus programs do not satisfy the study abroad or the language requirement.

Other semester or summer programs in Latin America

Any other programs not already approved by WU for academic credit must be approved via petition by the Office of Overseas Programs, and individual courses must be approved by the LAS Director of undergraduate studies on a case-by-case basis.