



# Study Away in Theology/Religion

*Imagine...* studying Celtic spirituality during January-term, escaping for a summer to Thailand to learn about Buddhism, or taking courses in ministry, Christian ethics, Hebrew, or world religions during a semester abroad in places such as Wales, Italy, Finland or China.

## Study abroad can help you

- Prepare to work in an increasingly diverse and international workplace
- Gain first-hand exposure to world religions
- See different trends within Christianity
- Explore new perspectives on international issues
- Work toward fluency in a second language
- Gain confidence in yourself
- Enhance your interpersonal and communication skills

Study abroad will change your life and widen your career options. With today's increasingly interdependent world characterized by diversity and change, significant cross-cultural and foreign language experience is exactly what employers seek.

## Can I afford to study abroad?

YES! A semester abroad is generally not more expensive than a semester of tuition, room, and board on campus. With multiple

sources of funding and programs of varying length, study abroad is financially possible for nearly all students.

Students may generally apply their college scholarships and financial aid to affiliated programs, many of which offer their own scholarships for study abroad. Through the CPE, Elmhurst also offers endowed scholarships for students with financial need. Outside scholarship providers that students may pursue include:

- Phi Kappa Phi
- Boren/National Security Education Program
- Hispanic Scholarship Fund
- Gilman
- Midwest Regional Center IIE
- EC Affiliated Programs

Also be sure to contact the Elmhurst College Office of Financial Aid.

## Contact

Dr. Wally Lagerwey  
Dir. International Education  
Center for Prof. Excellence  
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[http://public.elmhurst.edu/  
academics/study](http://public.elmhurst.edu/academics/study)

# Academic Considerations for Theology/Religion Students

## Get Started!

Attend one of the monthly study abroad information sessions during the academic year and go to the Study Away Fair. Then, call or stop by the Center for Professional Excellence, located in Circle Hall, to make an appointment with Dr. Lagerwey.  
(630) 617-3604 or wallyl@elmhurst.edu

## Talk to Religious Studies Faculty

Religious Studies faculty understand the importance of study abroad, and those listed below even lead programs themselves! They are happy to talk with you about your interests and possibilities.

- Inamul Haq, Paul Parker, Mladen Turk (India, Turkey, Jordan)
- Nancy Lee (South Africa, Holocaust)
- Kevin O'Donnell (Italy)

Contact: ihaq@elmhurst.edu,  
paulp@elmhurst.edu, turkm@elmhurst.edu,  
nancyl@elmhurst.edu, kevinod@elmhurst.edu

## Investigate programs

Use catalogues found in the Center for Professional Excellence and look at the program sponsors' websites to find the program that's right for you or visit the study abroad area of the Elmhurst College webpage (see back page of brochure).

## Set goals and plan for results

- Begin planning as soon as possible. Set some goals. The best study abroad option for you depends on what you want. Consider: Country/region/location, setting and environment (studying with local or international students, living with a host family), personal and professional goals, and importance of internships or service learning.
- Prepare academically. You may need to take language or other prerequisite courses for your chosen program.
- Research and talk to students who have studied abroad previously.

## Sample Questions to Ask the Director of International Education

- I would like to fulfill General Education requirements while abroad. How do I know if my courses meet these requirements?
- Several programs offer courses in the country to which I would like to travel. Which program would you recommend for me based on my language skills and academic and personal interests?

## What to Bring to Your Advising Meeting

- Copies of course descriptions or related information on the courses you are interested in taking while abroad
- Your advising handbook
- A tentative four-year plan

## Sample Questions to Ask Your Adviser

- I have copies of course descriptions for courses I am considering taking while abroad. Do these courses meet any of my major or minor requirements or any requirements outside my major or minor?
- Do I meet the minimum 3.0 GPA required for Study Abroad?
- What do I need to do to follow up with you when I return from study abroad?
- Are there particular requirements I should/should not try to complete abroad?
- What should I do if I get abroad and can't take these classes? May I e-mail you for guidance in making alternative choices?

## General Education Requirements

General Education requirements are great to take while abroad. UMAIE courses offer a wide variety of options for January Term. The Director of International Education can tell you what Gen Ed's, if any, courses fulfill. A few of the more common ones that study abroad students have taken abroad include: People Power and Politics, Global Society, Literature, Western Culture and Fine Arts.

In the pages to come, you will learn more about each of the semester and summer options available to Elmhurst students. Many choices are available, so plan ahead!

# Study Abroad Options for Theology/Religion Students

## Short-Term Options

### January Term

Students who wish to study abroad during January Term may choose between courses offered through the college and courses offered through the UMAIE consortium. Check each year for study abroad opportunities by looking at the list of course offerings at the International Education Fair, or by going online or stopping into the Center for Professional Excellence. Keep in mind that January Term is also a great time to fulfill general education requirements while exploring the world.

### *Elmhurst*

Every year, several Elmhurst faculty members lead groups of students to a select number of locations for foreign language study, other academic electives, or service learning projects. Religious studies faculty have taken students to locations in Europe, Jamaica, Italy, and South Africa. Contact the Department of Religious Studies to find out which trips will be held next!

### *UMAIE*

UMAIE is a consortium of schools in the Midwest offering joint January Term abroad options. Examples of theology electives offered in the past include: *Ireland: Understanding Celtic Spirituality*, *Islam and Its Influences in Turkey* and *Religions and Cultures of India*.

### Summer

Elmhurst College and most of the Elmhurst-affiliated programs offer summer options, so you can get away without missing a beat in your regular school-year studies and activities.

### *ISEP*

One ISEP summer program that has been offered is: *Buddhism and Thai Society*, a four week program with Thammasat University in Thailand, focusing on the complex relationship between Buddhism and Thai history, politics, economics, education, literature, law, arts and theatre.

### *IES*

IES has a summer program in Rome, for which students take one Italian language course and one additional course taught in English of the student's choice. One option has been: *Mystics, Philosophers, Saints and Sinners: Studies in the Roman Catholic Tradition*.

## Semester- or Year-long Options

Elmhurst is affiliated with a variety of sponsor programs and four partner institutions.

While the following lists give suggestions for programs strong in this major, it is by no means exhaustive. You are encouraged to seek out programs that will best help you complement your studies, either through your chosen minor or through elective credit.

**Note: In addition to program costs, all students on long-term programs will be billed the \$600 international fee during the term they are abroad. See website for more details.**

### *ISEP*

ISEP is an exchange program, which means that students pay regular tuition directly to Elmhurst and attend classes in a host university alongside native students. If you have a strong background in a foreign language, you may wish to pursue course-

work in that language, however there are many English language options as well.

Åbo Akademi University in Finland has courses in English in the fields of comparative religions and theology. University of Chester in England has courses in both theology and religious studies. Students may also be able to find some courses in English at American University of Bulgaria, University of Malta, and University of Ghana

Spanish speakers have options for studying theology through ISEP in Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica and Mexico. French and German speakers can find theology courses at universities in Switzerland, while other options are also available in France, Germany and Austria.

### IFSA-Butler

IFSA-Butler is a study abroad program that allows you to enroll in one or more universities. IFSA-Butler has a strong orientation program and will organize some social activities and trips where you will be with other international students. Theology and/or religion courses can be found at schools in: Australia, New Zealand, Argentina, Chile, Costa Rica, Spain, England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales, with some examples listed below.

Study religion within Oxford University at the colleges of Lady Margaret Hall, Mansfield or St. Catherine's. Cambridge University is another competitive British school with theology and religious studies courses available.

The School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, is a great option for students interested in world religions, with course offerings such as: *Jainism, Hinduism, Death and the Meaning of Life, Zoroastrianism in Ancient and Modern Worlds, Pentecostalism Worldwide, Mar-*

*tyrs and Monks in Eastern Christian Writings and Religion, Power and Society in Modern Africa.*

Bristol University in England offers courses such as: *Christian History and Theology; The Theology of John Calvin; Monism and Monotheism in Hindu Thought; Death and Afterlife in Buddhism; Judaism; and The Religious World of Dante.*

Theology is a top department at the National University of Ireland, Maynooth. Queen's University Belfast is another Irish school with extensive offerings in theology, especially in the areas of biblical studies and Christian history.

Scotland's University of Edinburgh offers courses in the areas of biblical studies, ecclesiastical history, religious studies, and theology and ethics.

### IES

With IES, students take courses at an IES center in the host country. The courses are taught by local faculty, but you will be with other international students. With director approval, you may be able to take one or two courses at a local university. IES offers **internship** opportunities and **volunteer** options.

The School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, is a great option for students interested in world religions (see more details under the IFSA-Butler heading, as this school is an option available through either program).

In Ireland, students should consider Trinity College Dublin, where there is a selection of religion and theology courses available to study abroad students, including *Philosophical and Theological Approaches to God; Prophecy in Israel; Apocalyptic, Magic, and Mysticism in Early Judaism;*

*Introduction to Hebrew; Introduction to Islamic Civilization; and Literary and Historical Approaches to the Gospels.*

Learn Italian in Rome while taking religious studies courses in English. Or, take courses on Japanese religions from Nanzan University in Nagoya while studying Japanese.

You may also be able to find courses in China, India and Morocco.

### **AustraLearn**

AustraLearn is a program where students study at one of over 30 universities in Australia, New Zealand and Fiji and take classes with Australian students. A few of the universities theology or religion students might be interested in are listed below.

Murdoch University in Western Australia offers courses with an Australian and Asian spin to Christian topics of religion, church, history and philosophy. Many of the courses at Australia's University of Queensland explore the intersection of religion with other disciplines, such as science, psychology, health, ecology and others. Also, examples of courses at the University of Sydney's School of Studies in Religion include: *Tibetan Buddhism; Mysticism, Religion and Cognition; and Religion and the Arts.*

Massey University in New Zealand offers religion courses such as: *God, Freedom and Evil; East Asian Religions; Judaism, Christianity and Islam; and Sex, Gender and Religion.* University of Auckland in New Zealand offers courses relating to Christianity, such as *The Bible in Popular Culture* and *Worlds and Cultures of the Bible*, as well as courses like *Feminist Theologies* and *Maori Theology.*

Other AustraLearn schools students should look into include: Victoria University of Wellington, University of Waikato, University of Otago, and University of Canterbury, all located in New Zealand.

### **Arcadia University**

Arcadia offers a variety of experiences including courses for international students, immersion in a host university, **internships** and more. Their program-finder can help you locate the right program for you.

At Bangor University in Wales, students may take courses such as: *Christian Doctrine, Worship and Preaching, An Outline of Church History, Living Religions, Humanity and Pastoral Care, Theology for Christian Ministry*, and courses in biblical studies.

In Scotland, the University of Aberdeen has a program in Divinity and Religious Studies, with many relevant course offerings. Theological studies and biblical studies courses are also both offered at the University of the Western Cape in South Africa.

Students may be able to find programs in other locations such as Australia, New Zealand, England and Ireland.

### **SIT**

The SIT program centers on **field research** accompanied by coursework, all focused around a specific theme. SIT also emphasizes foreign language learning and practice. Two examples of SIT programs that could fit in well with a Religious Studies major are: *Islam, Diaspora Communities, and the EU* in the Netherlands and *Tibetan and Himalayan Studies* in Tibet/Bhutan.

### **IPSL**

The International Partnership for Service-Learning and Leadership integrates **volunteer** work into your study abroad experience. Religious studies students may be interested in the programs in India or Thailand. Many past students in this major have been placed at the Mother Theresa Homes in Calcutta, and they can attest to the powerful nature of such an experience.

*This is just a sampling and some programs may be subject to change. For more options, visit the Elmhurst College Study Abroad website or talk to the Director of International Education.*

### **Kansai Gaidai**

Japan's Kansai Gaidai University has a renowned Asian Studies Program for international students. Learn Japanese while taking courses in English from an Asian perspective. Students interested in Asian culture may wish to work on their minor or fulfill their Fine Arts, Global Society or other Gen Ed's at this university. Related courses may include: *Religion in Japan; Shinto; Zen Buddhism; and Death in East Asian Thought.*

### **Chicago Semester**

Spend a semester living and working in the city of Chicago. Chicago Semester will help students find an **internship** in their field of study. Students work 4 full days, or 32 hours, per week and also participate in seminar courses on urban life. Theology and religious studies students may be interested in a placement in the field of social services, perhaps within a youth ministry or nonprofit organization, but no matter your individual interest, Chicago Semester will help you find a placement.

# Sample Options for Theology/Religion Students

## **New Zealand**

### **University of Otago**

University of Otago has all the facilities and entertainment of larger cities, but is small enough to be friendly and intimate. Opportunities abound for admiring spectacular landscapes or participating in sports like hiking or skiing. The school many relevant academic fields, such as Religious Studies, which has courses like: *Hinduism and Buddhism*; *The Dead Sea Scrolls*; *The Body in Asian Religions*; *Women and Religions*; and *Religion and Globalization*. Courses within Christian Thought and History include: *On Being Human*; *Christianity, War and Violence*; and *God and Ethics in the Modern World*. Other relevant fields are in Biblical Studies, Pastoral Studies, Ministry, and Hebrew.

**(Sponsor: AustraLearn)**

## **Hong Kong**

### **Chinese University of Hong Kong**

Study Chinese history, culture, and contemporary society in Hong Kong. A twenty minute commuter train brings students to Mainland China, and visits to places such as Shenzhen, Shanghai, or Beijing are all possible. Theology and religious studies courses at Chinese University of Hong Kong are both located within the Faculty of Arts. Religious studies courses range from topics in religious traditions; religion, classics and literature; religion, education and contemporary society; and common areas of cultural and religious study. Under theology, course topic headings extend to biblical studies, history of Christianity, theology, pastoral studies, and Christianity and society.

**(Sponsor: ISEP)**

## **South Africa**

### **Service and Interdisciplinary Study**

This course, offered ever other year, is heavily focused on social justice from various perspectives, including themes such as political rights, poverty, religion, access to good housing, education, and healthcare. The course is con-

ducted with spring seminars on campus and 3-weeks of summer travel. Contact Dr. Wehman, Dr. Lee, or Dr. Lawrence. **(Sponsor: Elmhurst)**

## **Tibet/Bhutan**

### **Tibetan and Himalayan Studies**

Students examine topics including the history and practices of Buddhism and the current social and political situation of the Tibetan community-in-exile. Students interact with experts that range from government officials and local scholars to representatives of nongovernmental and religious institutions. **(Sponsor: SIT)**

## **Edinburgh, Scotland**

### **University of Aberdeen**

The University of Aberdeen's unique location on the north east coast and proximity to some of Scotland's more rugged and breathtaking scenery provides you with plenty of escapes from the classroom. The Divinity and Religious Studies program offers courses such as: *Jesus of Nazareth: Life, Teaching, Context*; *Basics of World Religions*; *Religion at Ground Zero: Theological Responses to Terror, War and Natural Disasters*; and *Christian Belief: It's Critics and Defenders*, plus Greek and Hebrew language. **(Sponsor: Arcadia)**

## **Chicago**

### **Chicago Semester Internship**

Chicago Semester will help students find an **internship** in the social services field, including: counseling, child welfare, art therapy, and other social service settings. They will assist each student in arranging interviews and deciding which place or places best seem to fit their goals. Throughout the semester, students will work 32 hours per week and take seminar courses to enrich and reflect on their experiences. Sample placement sites include: Cornerstone Counseling Center of Chicago, Heartland Human Care Services, and Cook County Juvenile Court, to name a few.

**(Sponsor: Chicago Semester)**

# Sample Four-Year Plan for Theology/Religion Students

## Requirements for the Majors:

### **Religious Studies**

**REL 230** Christian Ethics in Modern Society

**REL 320** The Emergence of Christian Thought

**REL 321** Modern and Contemporary Christian

Thought

3 Electives

### **Religion and Service**

**REL 281** Serving Society

2 Experiential Courses (including study abroad)

3 Electives

### **Theological Studies and Christian Ministry**

**REL 230** Christian Ethics

**REL 320** The Emergence of Christian Thought

**REL 321** Modern and Contemporary Christian

Thought

**REL 280** Ministry: Callings and Practice

2 Experiential Courses (incl. study abroad)

**All: REL 200, REL 240**, Senior Capstone or Independent Study (.5 credit)

## Freshman and Sophomore Years (On Campus Work)

- **REL 200** (Biblical Studies and Contemporary Issues) and other core courses

- General Education Requirements

- Requirements for minor/second major

### **January Term/Summer Abroad**

### **Sophomore or Junior Year**

#### **Semester Abroad**

- Core courses such as **REL 240** (World Religions: General Introduction)

- Theology/Religion electives

- General Education Requirements

- Requirements for minor/second major

### **Junior and Senior Years**

- All remaining major/minor courses

- *Chicago Semester* Internship

- Senior Capstone or Independent Study

\* *Plan to take **CPP 250**, a quarter credit course that prepares you for study abroad, the semester before your summer, semester or year abroad.*

## Program Sponsor Websites

### **Arcadia University**

<http://www.arcadia.edu/abroad/>

### **AustraLearn**

<http://www.australearn.org>

### **IES**

<http://www.IESabroad.org>

### **IFSA-Butler**

<http://www.IFSA-Butler.org>

### **IPSL**

<http://www.ipsl.org>

### **UMAIE**

<http://www.semint.com/umaie/index.html>

### **ISEP**

<http://www.isep.org>

### **SIT Study Abroad**

<http://www.sit.edu/studyabroad/>

### **Kansai Gaidai**

<http://www.kansaigaidai.ac.jp/asp/>

### **Universidad San Francisco de Quito**

<http://www.usfq.edu.ec/home.html>

### **Comillas Pontificia in Madrid**

[www.upcomillas.es](http://www.upcomillas.es)

### **Chicago Semester**

<http://chicagosemester.org>

<http://public.elmhurst.edu/academics/study>