The Basics: What EVERYONE needs to know!

- You must take courses abroad for a grade and not for pass/fail credit.
- UNC faculty-led programs offer graded credit that impacts your UNC GPA.
- Non faculty-led programs offer TREQ (transfer) credit. This does not impact your GPA.
- You must receive a grade of “C” (or equivalent) or better in each TREQ credit course in order to request credit and transfer hours toward your UNC degree. If you receive a grade below “C” (or equivalent), or if you take a course pass/fail on a TREQ credit program, you will not receive ANY credit toward your UNC degree.
- You must take the equivalent of 12 (minimum) to 18 (maximum) credit hours per semester. You may transfer a maximum of 32 credit hours per year from study abroad. You will retain full-time student status at Carolina while you are studying abroad.
- There are limits to how much TREQ/transfer credit can count toward your major or minor – talk to your Academic Advisor.
- Graduating seniors should read the Study Abroad Graduation Policy before applying.
- Transfer students should read the Study Abroad Transfer Student Application Policy before applying.
- Meet with your Academic Advisor before applying to discuss academic planning and course needs.
- Bring back the syllabus, reading list, written papers, and other relevant materials from each course to support your requests for credit.

How can my course credits from abroad count towards my degree?

GENERAL ELECTIVE CREDIT is easily earned through Study Abroad. With a few exceptions, almost all courses offered through UNC-CH approved Study Abroad programs can be used as general elective credit.

GENERAL EDUCATION CREDIT (foundations, approaches, connections, supplemental education) may also be earned for courses taken abroad. Your Study Abroad Advisor will help you identify courses abroad that meet these guidelines. Course content is the critical factor in determining if a course abroad can be approved.

MAJOR, MINOR, LANGUAGE CREDIT is approved at the discretion of each specific department. Your Study Abroad Advisor will inform you about the appropriate contact and process for seeking credit from your academic department. Please meet with your Study Abroad Advisor before applying in order to identify the best program for your academic needs. You must take at least half of your major course requirements and at least 9 hours of your minor at Carolina; talk to your academic advisor.

Students in the PROFESSIONAL SCHOOLS (Business, Journalism, Public Health, etc.) may study abroad on UNC Study Abroad programs and potentially earn credit for those majors/minors. These students are strongly encouraged to meet with their professional school advisor and appropriate Study Abroad Advisor to discuss program options and the credit transfer process.
How do I plan my schedule to get the credit I need?

MEET WITH YOUR ACADEMIC ADVISOR AT UNC. You need to know what requirements you have left at Carolina and what courses you need to take while abroad. You are not required to meet with Advising in order to apply for study abroad, but keeping up with regular meetings will help you understand your remaining requirements, as well as the most appropriate term for you to apply.

Review the course information for your study abroad program, including online course catalogues, and the program credit information. Familiarize yourself with the academic system of the school abroad, including credit/grade conversions. Click “Credit Information for UNC-Chapel Hill Students” on your study abroad program brochure page.

Make an appointment with your study abroad advisor in the Global Education Center to discuss your program interests and academic needs. If your program choice is influenced by academic credits that you need for particular requirements, your Study Abroad Advisor can help you consider the options that will work best for you academically.

How does this credit appear on my transcript after I return?

- Return to the U.S. with ALL course materials, including syllabi, notes, and assignments.
- Your host institution transcript will be sent to the Study Abroad Office (can take months!).
- You will complete a Program Evaluation and Credit Request Form to provide feedback on your program and express how you would like for credits to be transferred.
- The Study Abroad Credit Transfer Specialist will evaluate requests for Elective and General Education Requirement courses, and will help you connect with DUS and departmental contacts for major/minor/language approvals via email.
- Once all approvals are finalized, the Study Abroad Credit Transfer Specialist will submit your transcript and credits for processing.
- Credits will appear on your UNC-CH transcript with the designation “Study Abroad in ____” and the total hours earned. Each course will be listed with a TREQ (transfer equivalent) designation that notes if a major/minor/language/gen. ed./elective course is fulfilled.
- For most study abroad programs, neither individual course names nor actual grades appear on the UNC-CH transcript. Grades will not be factored into your GPA. You will receive “PS” (pass) if you earn the equivalent of a C or better. Exceptions apply if you are participating in a graded credit program.

What if I need copies of my foreign transcript for graduate school or job applications?

Note: Although your grades abroad may not affect your UNC GPA, in the future if you apply to graduate school, you will need to provide the graded foreign transcript.

The Study Abroad Office can send copies of your graded foreign transcript upon written request. Visit http://studyabroad.unc.edu and click “Transcript Request.”