

IAS 399
Study Abroad Internship

Professor Joel E. Oestreich
Director, International Area Studies Program

Office: MacAlister 2024
Telephone: x6794
Email: jeo25@drexel.edu

The Course:

The purpose of IAS 399 is to give students a full study-abroad and internship experience. To successfully complete the course, students must accomplish three things: serve in their internship to the satisfaction of their employer; reflect meaningfully on what they have learned and on their overall experience living and working in a foreign country; and write a research paper which demonstrates their knowledge of a related set of issues and their ability to think clearly about them.

Grading of these assignments breaks down as follows:

20% completion of internship (pass/fail)
30% reflection paper
50% research paper

The grading will be done on this scale:

A+	97-100
A	93-96
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82 and so on.

All this will be done in cooperation with Professor Oestreich, as Director of the International Area Studies Program. Students must be sure to contact me before they leave, to let me know when they are going and where they will be; and to remain in touch to be sure they are on the right track in terms of fulfilling their assignments. It is ultimately the responsibility of the student to keep me informed of their progress and activities. I will provide you with guidance during the process.

Assignments

The Internship Experience

Students in IAS 399 will spend part of their time overseas serving in an internship arranged by Educational Programmes Abroad. To successfully complete this part of their requirement, they must satisfy EPA that they have spent the required time at work and performed to the expectations of their employer and EPA.

The Internship Reflection Paper

This paper will be 7-10 pages reflecting on your internship experience. It should discuss what you did with your time, what you learned from it, and what you thought of the experience as a whole. The best technique for this would be to keep a journal of your experiences, and to convert that into a paper, but I will not ask you to send me weekly updates...still, if you wrote a page each week summarizing what has happened to you, and compiled those into a single document at the end, that would work very well. This is a chance to generally consider what the experience was about and how you grew from it. You can also mention aspects you found particularly interesting, what went well and badly, etc.

The Research Paper

This will be a 10-12 page paper on a topic of your choice. The topic should be something relevant to your study abroad experience, concerning the country where you are studying. It can be related to your internship, but does not have to be. It can be about almost topic you find interesting: the politics, culture, history, etc., of your country.

The paper will be researched, and the bibliography must include academic sources as well as more “popular” sources of information. It is not a “reflection” paper but a piece of academic work to demonstrate your knowledge of a particular topic. Please clear the topic with the professor before working on it!

By the fifth week of your internship you should have decided on a topic and cleared it with the IAS Director; by the eighth week you will need to present a detailed outline and an extensive working bibliography. The paper itself will be due at the end of the internship, before you return home.