

American University

American University (AU) has a well-deserved reputation as a global university, with more than 1,000 international students from 140 countries, many award-winning faculty members engaged in international scholarship and research, and a curriculum notable for its wide array of courses with international themes. Many of the university's academic programs are rated among the best in the United States. A distinctive feature of many programs is their close integration with Washington-based organizations and decision makers, both governmental and nongovernmental. The university is committed to public service, diversity, and experiential and interdisciplinary learning.

AU is located on an 84-acre campus in northwest Washington, at the top of Embassy Row and close to downtown. The campus is in a beautiful residential neighborhood where many diplomats live and which is one of the safest areas in Washington, D.C. AU has 14 classroom buildings, a library with more than 1,000,000 titles and ties to other area university libraries, a 50,000-watt broadcast center, a state-of-the-art language resource center, science and computer science laboratories, and buildings for art and the performing arts. AU is known for its advanced information technology resources, including its wireless capacity for all students.

Washington, D.C.

Washington, D.C., the capital of the United States, is a truly dynamic cosmopolitan city with many points of interest. Students can tour many of the federal buildings in the city, such as the U.S. Capitol or the Supreme Court. Most museums in Washington, D.C., are free, including the National Portrait Gallery, the National Museum of American History, and the National Museum of Natural History. Some of the most beautiful sights of the city are monuments to American leaders and heroes: the Washington Monument, the Lincoln Memorial, the Vietnam War Memorial—to name a few. Students can enjoy concerts at the Kennedy Center, festivals on the National Mall, the National Zoo, the nightlife of Georgetown and Adams Morgan, the many parks and bike trails, and the mountains and beaches located only a few hours away. Spring and fall are lovely, with temperatures averaging 67F/20C. Summers are hot and humid, with high temperatures averaging 85F/30C, while winters are mild with temperatures averaging 20F-40F/0C-4—but *be prepared for snow!*



Abroad at AU



THE APPLICATION PROCESS

To be considered for admission into the program, Abroad at AU applicants must be enrolled in a university at the undergraduate level and must submit the following documents:

1. **Application form:** The application form can be found online at: http://abroadatau.american.edu/aa_u_admissions.cfm . If you are unable to submit an online application, you can submit a paper application by mail.
2. **Official transcript:** Obtain an official transcript from the university that you currently attend. If the transcript is not in English, you will also need to provide a certified English translation.
3. **Essay:** The application essay must answer the question: *Why Do You Want to Study at American University?* Your answering essay should be filled in directly on the application form.
4. **Letter of recommendation:** Submit one letter of recommendation from a faculty member or an academic advisor.
5. **Proof of English Language Proficiency:** You can submit official test results based on one of the tests listed below. Official score reports can be sent directly from the testing agency upon request.
 - TOEFL (minimum: 550 paper based, 213 computer based, 80 Internet based); institutional code: 5007
 - IELTS (minimum: 6.5)
 - SAT I Reasoning Test (minimum: 530 Verbal); institutional code: 5007
 - SAT II Subject Test (minimum: 970 English Language Proficiency); institutional code: 5007
 - Or: two approved academic English writing courses from a U.S. college or university (case by case)
6. **Financial documents:** Documents proving your financial ability to participate in the Abroad at AU program can be submitted at the same time with the application materials or shortly thereafter. Please refer to the "Visa Requirements" section of this information packet for more information.

With the exception of the online application, all application materials must be sent by regular mail. If you choose to fax us a copy of your application materials you must also submit the original documents by regular mail.

Application Deadlines	Study Term
March 15	Fall Semester (August–December), Full Academic Year (August–May)
October 15	Spring Semester (January–May), Full Academic Year (January–December)



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VISA REQUIREMENTS

All international students (except U.S. citizens or permanent residents) accepted into the Abroad at AU program must apply for a student visa. Abroad at AU students come on either F-1 student visas or J-1 exchange visitor visas.

To begin the visa application process, as required by the U.S. government, students must show financial ability to support their program of study and living expenses while in the United States. The following financial documents are required and cannot be older than 3 months:

a. *If the student has a sponsor in the home country:*

- Official Bank Statement of the sponsor (no more than 3 months old), stamped and signed by a bank official
- Account summary or summary of liquid assets of the sponsor
- A letter of sponsorship from the sponsor, including duration, amount, and nature of sponsorship, and stating that the student is allowed to use the funds for study in the United States

b. *If the student has a sponsor in the United States:*

- Official Bank Statement of the U.S. sponsor, stamped and signed by a bank official
- Account summary or summary of liquid assets of the U.S. sponsor
- A student's individual sponsor who is a U.S. citizen or U.S. permanent resident must also submit an I-134 Affidavit of Support at <http://uscis.gov/graphics/formsfee/forms/i-134.ha>.

c. *If the student has a scholarship:*

- Scholarship letter from sponsoring organization outlining dates, amount, and terms of sponsorship

Once all financial documents have been received, the Abroad at AU office will process the student's paperwork and submit the financial documents to the International Student and Scholar Services (ISSS) office at American University. After careful evaluation of the student's documents, ISSS will issue the immigration documents necessary to obtain an F-1 or J-1 visa. F-1 visa applicants will receive an I-20 form and J-1 visa applicants will receive a DS-2019 form.

For visa resources you can visit:

<http://educationusa.state.gov/usvisa.htm>

<http://www.american.edu/ocl/iss>



Abroad at AU



Abroad at AU students have the unique opportunity to participate in unpaid, noncredit internships at businesses, NGOs, government agencies, and multilateral institutions in the Washington, D.C., area. However, the scope of the Abroad at AU program is primarily academic, and internships are not a required component of the program.

After your arrival at American University, you can use AU's award-winning Career Center, for help with internship announcements, résumé and cover-letter writing, and other career guides. Over 80 percent of all AU's undergraduate students participate in an internship before they graduate.

Abroad at AU Student Internships and Other Extracurricular Activities

Ayumi Kimura >

University of Tokyo, Japan

Abroad at AU Student: Fall 2005–Spring 2006

Ayumi was an intern for the International Labor Rights Fund, an advocacy organization located in Washington, D.C., dedicated to achieving just and humane treatment for workers worldwide. At ILRF, she helped run a campaign against forced child labor in Liberia and built relationships with Japanese media outlets and NGOs. Ayumi also spent time in Washington, D.C., schools, teaching American students about Japan and Japanese culture.



< Nina Butkhuzi

Tbilisi State University, Georgia

Abroad at AU Student: Fall 2005–Spring 2006

A very ambitious student, Nina held three internships during her stay in the United States. She interned at the Georgian embassy and Congressman Owen's office, both in Washington, D.C., and at the United Nations, in New York City. As an intern with the UN, Nina worked for the Georgian delegation and learned a great deal about multilateral organizations.

Romain Brunet >

Université Paris XII Val de Marne, France

Abroad at AU Student: Fall 2005–Spring 2006

For the duration of the Abroad at AU program, Romain maintained a blog that was featured in *Le Monde*, the well-known French daily newspaper. Romain was also a press correspondent for the French Web site dedicated to American basketball: <http://basketusa.com>. One of Romain's assignments was to cover the NBA All-Star Weekend (February 17–19, Houston, Tex.) and its All-Star Game, a basketball game featuring the best NBA players.



Housing

Abroad at AU students are offered on-campus housing. AU has six student residence halls (McDowell, Leonard, Hughes, Letts, Anderson, and Centennial), where students live in double rooms with a bed, desk, dresser, and closet for each student, plus in-room wiring for telephones, computers, Internet access, and cable. Clean, modern bathrooms are shared on each floor, and all dorms have laundry facilities. A shuttle bus runs every ten minutes between the main campus and Tenleytown, the closest Metro subway station.

Off-campus housing is available in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area and the Housing Office maintains an updated list of available rentals: http://www.american.edu/ocl/housing/academic_year_housing/univ_apts.html. Homestay accommodation can also be found in the Washington, D.C., area and it is facilitated through specialized agencies.

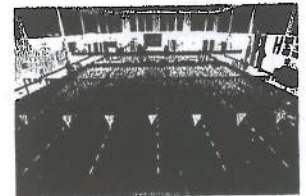


Dining

Abroad at AU students can choose from five types of meal plans, each customized for different preferences. Meals can be taken in the Mary Graydon Center's Terrace Dining Room (known as TDR) or one of the other on-campus dining facilities: the Marketplace (featuring Einstein Bagels, Salsa, and Field of Greens), the Tavern (featuring American Pie, and Chick-Fil-A), the Eagles Nest (featuring Subway), and the Mega Bytes Café (featuring Starbucks).

Recreational Facilities and Activities

Abroad at AU students can enjoy an array of on-campus recreational facilities and activities that include: the university media centers, speakers, forums, panel discussions, movies, concerts and plays, as well as a state-of-the-art fitness center, and an Olympic-size swimming pool.



Student Services

Abroad at AU students have access to a variety of services offered at our university.

- **International Student & Scholar Services:** ISSS is dedicated to meeting the special needs of international students. In addition to providing visa and immigration support, the office organizes orientation sessions for international students and offers individual counseling.
- **Academic Support Center:** ASC has a dedicated counselor for international students, who can assist individuals in gaining the tools necessary for academic success in the United States. ASC services, including individual instruction and writing support, are available to international students..
- **Career Center:** This office provides internship guidance for Abroad at AU students.
- **Health Center:** The Student Health Center provides primary care medical services and health education and wellness programming to AU students and is staffed by a dedicated team of medical professionals.
- **Writing Center:** This center helps students work on their academic writing skills. International students can be paired one-on-one with a consultant to improve their writing fluency.
- **IT Help Desk:** Students with technical questions or problems can contact the Help Desk 24 hours a day for help with computer issues.



Abroad at AU



PROGRAM INFORMATION

Course Offerings

International students participating in Abroad at AU can take courses from the university's extensive course offerings in more than 50 subject areas for undergraduate studies in the following AU schools and colleges: College of Arts & Sciences, Kogod School of Business, School of Communication, School of International Service, and School of Public Affairs.

UNDERGRADUATE FIELDS OF STUDY		
American Studies	History	Multi-Ethnic Studies
Anthropology	Information Systems & Technology	Multimedia Design and Development
Arab Studies	Interdisciplinary Studies	Music
Art History	International Studies	Music Theatre
Audio Production	Jewish Studies	Philosophy
Audio Technology	Journalism	Physics
Biochemistry	Justice	Political Science
Biology	Language and Area Studies:	Public Communication
Business Administration	Arabic/Middle East	Psychology
Chemistry	Chinese/Asia	Public Administration
Cinema Studies	French/Europe	Quantitative Methods
Communication	German/Europe	Religion
Computer Science	Italian/Europe	Sociology
Dance	Japanese/Asia	Statistics
Economics	Russian/Area Studies	Studio Art
Education	Spanish/Latin America	Theatre
Environmental Studies	Law and Society	Visual Media (Film/Media Arts)
Fine Arts	Literature	Women's and Gender Studies
Graphic Design	Marine Science	
Health Promotion	Mathematics	

Required Courses

The centerpiece of the program is two innovative courses designed especially for Abroad at AU. Students enrolled for one semester take **one** of these two required courses and students enrolled for two semesters take **both** required courses.

What Is America?

This course studies the history and present day reality of the United States, exploring American society, politics, culture, economics, and foreign policy. It takes an interdisciplinary approach to discovering the essence of America and features guest lectures by professors from diverse fields of study. Usually offered every fall.

How Washington Works

An introductory overview of the basic features of the U.S. political system, with an emphasis on how they affect the decision-making process in Washington, D.C. It examines both the formal branches of government—Congress, the presidency and executive, and judiciary—and non-formal actors including interest groups and lobbyists, the press and other media, and policy research and advocacy institutions, as well as the role of foreign embassies and international organizations. Offered every spring.

Transferability of Credits

Transferability of credits for course work will be determined by the students' home institutions.

Abroad at AU Program Certificate

Students who fulfill the program requirements will receive a transcript and the opportunity to receive a Certificate in the American Experience from AU for their work in the program.



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