

Guidelines for ES and HYDRO Majors Planning to Study Abroad

If you're considering studying abroad, make sure to read this document before asking an ES Academic Advisor to sign your *EAP Academic Planning Form*

Each year, scores of Environmental Studies (ES) and Hydrology (HYDRO) students opt to study abroad in countries worldwide via [UCEAP](#) and [approved third-party programs](#). UC's EAP, with its 40 countries and 160+ programs, is a very popular choice offering many different environmental studies and science programs at numerous universities. Other colleges provide environmental courses through traditional academic departments like biology, geography, and earth sciences. ES students can also choose courses from non-environmental departments to meet their 16-unit requirement for Area C (Outside Concentration). Below, you'll find essential information for ES students planning to study abroad to help one meet major requirements most efficiently.

RULES FOR HOW MANY & WHERE STUDY ABROAD UNITS MAY APPLY:

ES & HYDRO majors are welcome to petition study abroad units towards any part of their major assuming they are UC transferable, the right class level (i.e. lower vs upper-division), and meet the following requirements:

Preparation for the Major:

For both ES and HYDRO majors, students can apply as many abroad courses for lower-division major requirements as they want. You just need to submit an [ES Major Petition](#) proving the abroad course(s) content is at least 75% like the content of the lower-division UCSB course(s) you want to replace.

Upper-division for Environmental Studies Majors:

Area A - Themed Clusters (max 4 units or one cluster): This requirement focuses on current environmental challenges through the integration of knowledge across multiple disciplines with a critical, solutions-focused lens. You can petition to apply a study abroad course to just one Area A cluster if it meets either of the following criteria:

- 1) The description of the abroad course is at least 75% the same as a course within a cluster.
- 2) The study abroad course content must align with the benchmarks for one of the following clusters:
 - An ***Ecosystems and Society*** substitution must examine social-environmental interactions through the lens of ecological systems, the services they provide to society, including supporting, provision, regulating and cultural services, local to global threats to ecological systems, and approaches to managing the intersection of ecological systems and social systems.
 - An ***Energy/Water/Climate*** substitution must examine social-environmental interactions through the lens of earth systems and cycles, including the water cycle, carbon cycle, planetary energy balance, the services these systems and cycles provide to society, local to global disruptions to earth systems and cycles, and approaches to managing the intersections of earth systems and social systems.
 - A ***Built Environment*** substitution must examine social-environmental interactions through the lens of built systems, related to the services such systems provide to society, including transportation, habitation, production, etc., the environmental and justice consequences of the creation, distribution, maintenance, and decay of built systems, & approaches to managing the intersection of built, social, and environmental systems.

Area B - ES Electives (max of 12 units): This requirement allows up to 12 abroad units to this area if they transfer to UCSB as upper-division and one of the following conditions are met:

- a) Content and description are 75% the same as an existing UCSB ES elective course.
- b) Course is offered from a designated environmental studies or science department or program.
- c) Course title contains the word 'environment' or 'sustainability'.
- d) Can prove the course studies how *humans interact with their physical or natural environment*.

Note: ES B.S. students are welcome to apply abroad units to the B-1 elective section if the course integrates a significant physical or natural science concepts while addressing an environmental topic.

Area C - Outside Concentration (max of 16 units): The most flexible part of the ES major with the option to fulfill up to the entire 16 UD units with abroad coursework using one of two options:

- a) Single department option: Complete any 16 upper-division units from any one department or program from a university abroad (B.S. majors may only pursue STEM departments).
- b) Interdisciplinary emphasis: Combine 16 upper-division units from more than one department or program to create a concentration of study that forms a coherent emphasis.

Note: Students may combine units from both UCSB and abroad to with either of these requirements.

Upper-division for Hydrologic Sciences & Policy:

Area A - Required Hydro Courses (max 8 units or two requirements): Abroad substitution must be at least 75% the same as one of the required courses.

Area B - Required Emphasis (max 8 units or two requirements): 8 abroad units may apply as long as minimum 75% is same material as the required emphasis course(s) you wish to substitute.

Area C - Emphasis Electives (max of 8 units): No more than 8 abroad units may apply if one can justify the course is either like one of the existing electives or a unique Hydrology topic within the emphasis.

ADDITIONAL RULES & REMINDERS:

- 1) Any study abroad units to be used to fulfill ES or HYDRO major requirements must be approved by Environmental Studies using the [ES Petition for Degree Requirements](#). Petitions can only be submitted after the courses have been completed, transferred to UCSB, and posted to your Course History on GOLD.
- 2) For GE and University requirements, petition separately through the [College of Letters and Science](#).
- 3) Check how abroad units will transfer. Focus on number of quarter units awarded and class level and remember, only upper-division courses can count for UD major requirements – no exceptions!
- 4) When taking classes through UC EAP the grade will transfer. Just like here at UCSB, if you want these to count towards your major, be sure to take it for a letter grade.
- 5) Retain all abroad course descriptions and syllabi as they can be helpful justification when petitioning.
- 6) When registering for abroad courses, if your desired EAP courses aren't available, select substitutes. If you follow the guidelines and rules listed above you should feel comfortable with the classes you end up taking. One can always email ES Advising to review any new courses you are considering.

STEPS TO STUDY ABROAD:

- 1) Read and understand the above guidelines and rules for applying study abroad units.
- 2) Explore and find a suitable abroad program on the [UCEAP website](#) or third-party program.
- 3) Apply for your chosen abroad program before the application deadline (which can vary by country).
- 4) Complete the required Academic Planning Form (APF) listing potential EAP courses you might take, noting that these are just options, and only upon completion and posting of abroad courses to GOLD will you then petition relevant courses to count toward major requirements.
- 5) Meet with an [ES Academic Advisor](#) to review and approve your APF, either in person or by emailing it to advising@es.ucsb.edu.
- 6) Go abroad and have an amazing experience!!!
- 7) Upon return from studying abroad, and the successful transfer of your abroad units to your UCSB Course History on GOLD, submit the appropriate [petition](#) to apply courses towards major and/or GE requirements.

I've read and understand the Guidelines for Applying Abroad Units towards my major requirements:

Student's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____