



SAN DIEGO STATE
UNIVERSITY

L. Robert Payne School of
Hospitality & Tourism Management

International Experience Policy & Guidelines

It is the policy of the Payne School to require some students, and to strongly encourage all students, to gain an international experience while in college. Please refer to your SDSU Degree Evaluation to see if you are required to study abroad.

The School policy is based on several factors we have observed over the years:

- Students returning from international experiences are more mature and “worldly” than their peers.
- Employers show a clear preference for these students

Students return with better study habits, a better world view and a level of confidence in dealing with people and problems.

We have observed few true obstacles to students participating in an international experience. Students often cite financial reasons and the *Payne School has resources and plans to help every student with true financial inability to travel abroad. In most cases, we can make it virtually the same cost as studying at SDSU.* We acknowledge that many students fear an international experience. We view this as natural and part of the development process.

Our school policy is spelled out for students studying Sustainable Tourism, Hotels and Meetings & Events in the SDSU General Catalog as:

ALL STUDENTS IN THIS EMPHASIS ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLETE AN INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENT. TO MEET THIS REQUIREMENT STUDENTS MUST COMPLETE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING WITH **THE APPROVAL AND WRITTEN CONSENT OF THE UNDERGRADUATE ADVISER.** SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE.

THE INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE SHOULD MEET THE STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES OF THE EMPHASIS.

1. **INTERNATIONAL FIELD TRIP;** *Includes faculty-led programs that include academic credit through SDSU. Program must be at least 2 weeks in length. A complete list of these experiences can be found at <https://sdsu-sa.terradotta.com/>*
2. **INTERNATIONAL INTERNSHIP;** *Includes an opportunity to work abroad in a paid capacity for a minimum of 3 months. Please note: most international experiences require a minimum of 6 months commitment.*
3. **INTERNATIONAL STUDENT EXCHANGE;** *Includes semester long study abroad programs offered through SDSU Study Abroad Center. Programs can be found at www.sdsu.edu/studyabroad*
4. **CSU STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM;** *Includes semester long study abroad programs offered through SDSU Study Abroad Center. Programs can be found at www.sdsu.edu/studyabroad*
5. **INTERNATIONAL PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENT.** *Includes an opportunity to travel internationally on a program developed by the L. Robert Payne School of Hospitality and Tourism. Opportunities are rare and will be announced when available.*

Some key points from this language are as follows:

- Not every program will count. They need to align with our school's learning objectives. Any programs outside the "approved program list" **require written consent prior** to the trip for it to count towards the International Experience Requirement. Current approvers are Carl Winston and Christina Jeffries.
- Faculty-Led Study Abroad Programs must be pre-approved and at least 2 weeks in length.
- Internships and working abroad are also strongly encouraged and must be at least 3 months in length.

Approved Program List

The following programs/schools are pre-approved. Full school descriptions can be found here: www.sdsu.edu/aztecsabroad

Other programs offered on the Aztec Abroad website may be available but require HTM department pre-approval. Please meet with an HTM advisor to seek this pre-approval.

SDSU Exchange Programs:

School Name	Location
Edinburgh Napier University	Edinburgh, United Kingdom
La Trobe University	Melbourne, Australia
University College Birmingham	Birmingham, United Kingdom
University of Applied Sciences of the Grisons (previously HTW Chur)	Chur, Switzerland
University of Technology, Sydney	Sydney, Australia
Chinese University of Hong Kong	Sha Tin, Hong Kong SAR
International University of Applied Sciences	Bad Honnef, Germany
University of South Australia	Mawson Lakes (Adelaide), Australia

ISEP Exchange and Direct Programs

School Name	Location
Edinburgh Napier University *	Edinburgh, United Kingdom
Tio University of Applied Sciences	Amsterdam, The Netherlands

* Please note Edinburgh Napier may be available through SDSU Exchange, ISEP Exchange or ISEP Direct. Our numbers fluctuate so we must check at the time of application how to apply.

Partner Programs:

API Semester Business and Liberal Arts in Barcelona: University Autònoma of Barcelona, Int'l Studies	Barcelona, Spain
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Updated: August 25, 2021

Winter and Summer Program Options: For those students seeking opportunities to fulfill their international experience, there are a variety of options. Use the [Aztecs Abroad Database](#) to research your options and search for a desired location and area of study. To assist in your search, please reference the following information:

- List of international schools offering business classes:
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1Hxrkrq1iS1VPO2GxbvipD5oJFCLufTyq/edit?usp=sharing&oid=100783027881940949165&rtpof=true&sd=true>
- Resources from the Fowler College of Business:
<https://business.sdsu.edu/undergrad/international-programs>

Scholarship Policy

Associate Students offers most students funds to study abroad. Minimum awards are \$400. See more information in the [Aztecs Study Abroad Section](#).

The Payne School is very fortunate to have a donor who supports travel costs for international experiences. The donor had her own unique experience some 50 years ago where she met someone (who is still one of her best friends!) We can virtually promise all students will receive support if they have an approved international experience.

For the Payne School Travel Allowance Application, click here: https://htm.sdsu.edu/documents/Study_Abroad_Travel2021.pdf

The travel allowance will pay for up to 80% of the airfare and up to a maximum of \$1,200.

- For additional scholarship opportunities, please visit Aztecs Abroad at <https://sdsu-sa.terradotta.com/>