



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 the above emphasis areas 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. **SDSU Faculty-Led Programs:** *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: [SDSU Faculty-Programs](#)*
2. **International Internship:** *Includes an opportunity to work abroad in a paid or unpaid capacity for a minimum of 1 month. Please note: most countries do not allow international students to work while abroad. International internships listed in the Global Education Portal are unpaid.*
3. **Exchange Programs:** *Includes semester or year-long study abroad programs offered through SDSU Global Education Office. Programs can be found at: [Exchange Programs](#)*
4. **Partner Programs:** *Includes winter break, summer, and semester -long programs though ISEP Direct, API, and other programs. More information here: [Partner Programs](#)*
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 the above 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 Nikki Loseff.
- Faculty-Led 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 1 month in length.

Scholarship Policy

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 more information on the Payne School Travel Allowance Application, go to htm.sdsu.edu -> "Scholarships" -> "HTM/RTM Study Abroad Travel Allowance"

Exclusive for HTM and RTM students, this generous award provided by Dwight & Fern Sample, and their daughter, Mary Willette, is offered to a limited number of applicants. The allowance will cover the cost of 80% of the student's airfare up to \$1,200 and funds must be used on round-trip travel to/from the country of study.

📄 For additional scholarship opportunities, please visit [Global Education Portal - Funding Tab.](#)

Approved Program List

The following programs/schools are pre-approved. Full school descriptions can be found here: <https://globaleducation.sdsu.edu>

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

Payne School Course Articulations can be found here: [HTM Course Equivalencies](#)

SDSU and CSU Exchange Programs:

School Name	Location
Edinburgh Napier University	Edinburgh, United Kingdom
University of Applied Sciences of the Grisons (FHGR) (previously HTW Chur)	Chur, Switzerland
University of Technology, Sydney	Sydney, Australia
Chinese University of Hong Kong	Sha Tin, Hong Kong SAR
Sejong University	Seoul, South Korea
Instituto Tecnológico de Monterrey (ITESM)	Monterrey, Mexico
Universidad Carlos III de Madrid	Madrid, Spain

ISEP Exchange and Direct Programs:

School Name	Location
Edinburgh Napier University *	Edinburgh, United Kingdom
London Metropolitan University	London, United Kingdom
Tio University of Applied Sciences	Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Université d'Angers	Angers, France
Hanyang University	Seoul, South Korea
Yonsei University (Summer)	Seoul, South Korea
Keimyung University	Daegu, South Korea

Universitat Rovira I Virgili	Tarragona, Spain
University of New York in Prague	Prague, Czech Republic
FUA - The American University of Florence	Florence, Italy
Tokyo University	Tokyo, Japan
Centro Universitario EUSA (Study in Sevilla)	Sevilla, Spain

* 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:

School Name	Location
API Semester Business and Liberal Arts in Barcelona: University Autònoma of Barcelona (UAB), Int'l Studies	Barcelona, Spain
API Tourism and Hospitality Studies in Barcelona at Universitat de Barcelona	Barcelona, Spain
API - CETT Barcelona School of Tourism, Hospitality and Gastronomy	Barcelona, Spain
API Florence at Lorenzo de' Medici - Marist College	Florence, Italy

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

- Resources from the Fowler College of Business: [*Fowler Course Equivalencies](#)