Off-Campus Study

Students are encouraged to broaden and enrich their education through participation in semester- and year-long programs of off-campus study. Whether off-campus study occurs abroad or in the United States, the College regards it as an extension of the on-campus educational experience and expects the courses in which students earn credit toward the degree to be in a field of study characteristic of the liberal arts and to be comparable in intellectual challenge to work done at Bowdoin.

A student who wishes to count academic credit earned in an off-campus study program toward the Bowdoin degree is required to obtain approval, in advance, from the Office of Off-Campus Study. If the student wishes to count credits earned in the program toward the major, the approval of the major department is required as well. Students contemplating off-campus study should consult the online Guidelines for Off-Campus Study published by the Office of Off-Campus Study; they are urged to begin planning early in the academic year before that in which they hope to study away, and must complete a request for permission to study away by Bowdoin’s application deadline. (Application deadlines for individual programs vary considerably; it is the responsibility of the student to determine these deadlines and ensure that they are met.) To be approved for Bowdoin degree credit, the proposed program of study away should satisfy the College’s academic standards and form an integral part of a student’s overall academic plan. Approval of individual requests may also be affected by the College’s concern to maintain a balance between the number of students away during the fall and spring terms.

Students are expected to carry a full course-load in any off-campus study program. Credit earned is not formally transferred until the Office of the Registrar has received and reviewed appropriate documentation from the program. In some cases, it may be required that the appropriate Bowdoin department review the student’s completed work.

Bowdoin charges an off-campus study fee (see page 20). Financial aid normally continues to be available for students who qualify.

Depending on their academic needs, students normally are expected to select from the options list of approximately one hundred programs and universities kept by the Office of Off-Campus Study. See below for information on programs in which Bowdoin students participate by special arrangement with the sponsoring institutions.

American University Washington Semester Program
The Washington Semester Program, based at American University’s Tenley campus in Washington, D.C., offers semesters on several topics, including American Politics, Economic Policy, Foreign Policy, International Environment and Development, Justice, Peace and Conflict Resolution, and Public Law. Courses are taught by American University faculty. Students who wish to apply must be nominated by Bowdoin’s program representative, Janet Martin, in the Department of Government and Legal Studies.

Hamilton College Junior Year in France
The Hamilton College Junior Year in France offers a combination of courses in the Paris university system and in-house courses taken with students of the program. Hamilton College French professors direct the full-year program on a rotating basis.
Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies in Rome
The Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies (ICCS) in Rome provides undergraduates with an opportunity to study Roman art, archaeology, and history, as well as Greek and Roman literature, Italian language, and Renaissance and baroque Italian art. Under a consortial arrangement managed by Duke University, ICCS operates two semesters each academic year; students generally enroll for one semester during their junior year.

Institute for the International Education of Students (IES)
IES operates semester and full-year programs in several foreign countries. In most cases, IES offers a combination of classes taught expressly for Institute students and regular course offerings at a local partner university. IES programs approved for participating Bowdoin students include those in Vienna (Austria), Nantes (France), Berlin and Freiburg (Germany), Milan and Rome (Italy), Nagoya (Japan), and Granada, Madrid, and Salamanca (Spain).

Intercollegiate Sri Lanka Education (ISLE) Program
The ISLE Program, in Kandy, Sri Lanka, is a consortial program of leading liberal arts colleges affiliated with the University of Peradeniya, for which Bowdoin is the agency college. In each of the fall and spring semesters, ISLE provides students with the opportunity to study language, art, archaeology, and development. ISLE offers core courses in conversational Sinhala and material culture with independent study and electives in subjects such as Buddhism, women’s studies, Sri Lankan literature, history, environmental studies, sociology, anthropology, and Sri Lankan politics. Students live with Sri Lankan families, take courses designed for them by leading university professors, and tour important archaeological and other sites relevant to their study.

Marine Biological Laboratory: Semester in Environmental Science
The Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, offers the Semester in Environmental Science Program each fall at its ecological research arm, the Ecosystems Center. Two core lecture and laboratory courses, Aquatic Ecosystems and Terrestrial Ecosystems, present basic ecological systems and processes. Students also participate in one of several electives. Students use the skills learned throughout the semester to develop and conduct independent team research projects.

South India Term Abroad (SITA) Program
The SITA Program operates in Tamil Nadu, India. SITA offers one-semester programs in fall and spring, as well as a full-year program. Participants live with host families and tour several regions in South India. Course offerings include Tamil language, social and political issues, religion and art, Indian literature, directed field research, and independent study. Students prepare throughout the semester for the culminating month-long independent study project, and gain significant experience in interviewing, as well as other field methods.

The Swedish Program
The Swedish Program is sponsored by the University of Stockholm and a consortium of American colleges and universities, including Bowdoin. It offers students the opportunity to spend either a semester or a year studying comparative institutional organization and public policy in complex industrial societies. Most courses are interdisciplinary in nature. The only
required course is a semester of Swedish language, but nearly all students also take Comparative Public Policy: The Swedish Model and the European Union. Other courses offered typically include Women, Swedish Society, and Culture; Swedish and European Cinema; Globalization and Its Discontents; Europe and the World Economy; and Environmental Policy.

Twelve College Exchange
The Twelve College Exchange provides Bowdoin students with the opportunity to study for a year at Amherst, Connecticut, Dartmouth, Mount Holyoke, Smith, Trinity, Vassar, Wellesley, or Wheaton Colleges or Wesleyan University. Also available through the Twelve College Exchange are the Williams College–Mystic Seaport Program in American Maritime Studies and the National Theater Institute.