

**SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE**  
**UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**  
**Study Abroad Programs 2017-2018**

## **INTRODUCTION**

As part of our curricular goals for the undergraduate architecture program, the School of Architecture aims to provide the opportunity to study abroad for one semester to all students in good standing who wish to do so in their fourth year. We currently offer four different global programs, two based in Europe, one in Asia, and one in South America. A full semester of study is required in all programs, including courses in design, history, cultural studies, and technology. The experience of these programs has had a powerful and memorable impact on students. During almost every alumni gathering, be it Homecoming or an Architectural Guild event, former students reflect on their USC education and speak fondly of their semester abroad and how it affected their lives and professional work. The benefits of this experience last many students a lifetime.

One impact of this learning experience is the powerful difference it presents between a familiar context of the United States and the uniqueness that European, South American, and Asian cities offer. Experiencing these places allows one to think more creatively about urbanism and the rich possibilities the environment of a city offers its citizens for interaction and stimulation. Resolving design problems within this foreign context also provides an intellectual and creative challenge that engages students directly in understanding the place at several different levels. Each program includes four to five weeks of travel field studies along with seven to eight weeks intensively focusing on the design studio. All programs emphasize collaboration with students and faculty of architecture in the locales of study.

Students in the program are introduced to contrasting systems of spatial organization that challenge conventional assumptions. They emerge with a more cosmopolitan understanding of the built environment and they leave with a sense of how history and culture have led to distinct physical patterns of settlement. Students understand more about designing both within the context of the United States and also globally by seeing and testing ideas first-hand how things can be accomplished differently in different contexts.

Classes are taught in a highly integrated manner, which gives students another way of thinking about how information from other disciplines can affect the process of design exploration and design decision-making. Furthermore, lectures, site visits, and design exercises are contributed by a distinguished group of local architects and educators as well as faculty from the USC School of Architecture.

## **ELIGIBILITY AND ADMISSION**

The goal of each overseas study program is to provide a place for approximately 20 outstanding fourth year\* architecture students each semester to extend the boundaries of their architectural studies beyond the USC campus. Students develop an understanding of the relationship between architecture and the culture that serves to build a broader, more thoughtful, critical framework for their own work. They can compare the development of architecture in Europe or Asia with that which has occurred in the United States.

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Every upper division Bachelor of Architecture student, and every upper division Bachelor of Science in Architectural Studies student with a cumulative GPA of at least 2.75 is eligible to apply for one of the current foreign studies programs, both cumulatively and in their design studios. Students are asked to apply for all programs that they are interested in and rank their preference so that, if they do not get selected in their first choice program they are still be considered for their subsequent choices. The selection process involves a review by the Directors based on academic performance, interviews, and other distribution factors relating to each program and a final assignment by the Chair of Undergraduate Programs and the Chair of Global Studies.

The schedule for application and selection is shown on the attached calendar of events.

*\*Please note: Students in the four year Bachelor of Science in Architectural Studies (BS) degree are eligible only for summer and fall programs, due to conflicting final semester requirements.*

## **PROGRAMS**

### **FALL PROGRAM: BCN BARCELONA, SPAIN**

The School of Architecture Global Program in Barcelona begins its eighth year in Fall 2017. Students are immersed in the issues of urban design and architecture that have shaped the city and develop critical thinking and methodologies of analysis by designing in the urban context. Barcelona is a model of cultural activity and an impressive locus for new architecture, landscape architecture and urban design. Examples of public space and architecture from antiquity to the 21st century are studied in the context of a city which seeks to project its future in dialogue with engaging its past and present. The course of study examines a culture committed to design and to architectural practices that engage and challenge traditional and modernist orthodoxies.

Field studies within Spain and Western Europe introduce a critical range of historical and modern examples of buildings, landscapes and urban environments within their cultural settings. Two weeks of field studies trips within Spain examine places in great transformation: Madrid, Toledo, Salamanca, Bilbao, and San Sebastian, and the new/old cities of southern Spain: Granada, Seville, and Cordoba. Travel outside of Spain includes study in Paris, Amsterdam, Rotterdam, Utrecht, and, in 2016, Venice, where the newest work from around the world is exhibited at the Venice Architecture Biennale. Field studies include organized visits to architects' offices in Barcelona, Madrid, Rotterdam and Amsterdam, and local experts introduce students to unique aspects of the cities they visit. Student hotels for field studies trips and apartments in Barcelona are arranged for the duration of the program.

The design studio component, nine weeks of the fifteen-week program, is in collaboration with faculty and students at La Salle University in Barcelona. The studio is taught in English by a team of two or three faculty, in studio sections of 10-15 students comprised of both USC and LaSalle students. The design studio collaboration encourages the development of strong working relationships, cultural exchanges, and lasting friendships. Students from both schools are in their fourth year of a total of five years of undergraduate study.

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**FALL PROGRAM: ASIAN ARCHITECTURE, LANDSCAPE, AND URBANISM (AALU)/ EASTERN ASIA**

The AALU program will anchor in two countries, Japan and China, and will be based in two important cities in both of these countries. Students will spend the first part of the program in Japan, and the second part in China. Participating students will engage in the translative working forces of urbanism, landscape, and architecture to mediate the spectrum between universal civilization and the indigenous particularities of place, society and culture. To enrich the learning process, students of the AALU program will also interface with a number of local universities in the form of joint workshops, forums, and lectures.

CHINA: In China, the program will be based in Shanghai and Beijing with travel to other important cities. While traditional understanding of Cities and their formation is historically rooted in the Western culture, a major momentum of city growth, social formation and morphological transformation is now taking place in China. China's mass urbanization effort is unprecedented in the history of cities and societies. The speed and scale for which it is happening is generating tremendous urban, social and cultural friction yet, at the same time, exciting new urban paradigms, morphologies and typologies are being born. As the new frontier of city making and proliferation, China offers a student of architecture, landscape and urbanism the great opportunity for cross sectional understanding of city genealogies, and comparative analysis to Japan and their Western counterparts. The formal structure and socio-economic formation of Shanghai and Beijing will offer an important comparison between the geographic patterns of development between these two great cities as well as the form and process of "bottom up" development. Students will also visit a number of other Chinese mega-cities in varying degrees of formation and transformation (Hong Kong, Shenzhen, Guangzhou).

**(AALU Continued)**

JAPAN: In Japan, the program will spend time in Tokyo and Kyoto/Osaka as two paradigms of urban development. Though the major momentum of new city proliferation in Asia largely rests with China, as a comparison, cities in Japan have already gone through an initial agglomerated cycle and are now undergoing various phases of regeneration, evolution and mutation. With the globally influential post-war Metabolism movement, Japanese architects and urbanisms have had wide reaching influence throughout the world from post-war era to current times.

Mega-cities such as Tokyo are known as a highly economically efficient constructed environment, seemingly guided by minimum planning. Often times this creates an urban environment with the coexistence of unrelated functions without boundaries, often disconnected from its historic development in a never ending cycle of construction and destruction, a city in perpetual flux. The urban ecology of the Japanese city like Tokyo defies the western model of historic precedence. The multifarious layers of function and program, from transportation, housing, to commercial development, all coexisting in a multitude of juxtaposed adjacencies, layers and inter-connected spaces. Whereas there are many similarities in the western model of "agora" and associated public spaces with a clear hierarchical relationship between public and private space, this diagram is de-constructed and layered to create a much more complex relationship between function and space.

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While architecture and landscape may seem peripheral in a critical discourse about cities, it invariably contributes to the physicality and experiences of them. Therefore, equally paramount to the academic content of the AALU program is to understand the contribution that architecture and landscape makes to the everyday life, culture and identity of place. The architecture and landscape to be visited and studied will range from the generic to the iconic, historic to the contemporary, practical to the theoretical.

**SPRING PROGRAM: ANTHONY A. MARNELL, II, ITALIAN ARCHITECTURE STUDIES PROGRAM (MXP)**

Italy has epitomized the role of architecture and design throughout its history. The Anthony A. Marnell, II, Italian Architecture Studies Program (MXP) investigates the history, culture and form of Italian architecture and urbanism from the Romans to the present. Field studies and the design studio both begin in Rome, with a study/analysis of the layers of ancient, Medieval, Renaissance, Novecento and current architecture in the city, and a design workshop with faculty and students from the University of Roma Tre. Other travel in Italy includes Florence, with its exceptional Renaissance architecture, and the Veneto region: Ferrara, Verona, Vicenza and Venice, to study urban form of Italy along with works of Andrea Palladio, Carlo Scarpa and others. Field studies to Switzerland, Germany, France and Austria examine architecture and design in countries whose recent connections to northern Italy are increasingly important to Italy's design direction for the future.

Milan and Como in the Lombardy region, where students are based for two months, is the heart of design, graphics, furniture design, and fashion for Europe. Como, thirty miles from Milan, was initially established as an urban settlement during the Roman era in 59 AD. Como has the features and appearance of a medieval city but is also the birthplace of Antonio Sant' Elia, the celebrated Futuristic Architect, and locus of important work by Giuseppe Terragni, a significant architect and pioneer of the Italian nationalistic movement. Many of Terragni's notable buildings are situated in the center of the city, including the Casa del Fascio, Casa Giuliani Frigerio, Novocomum, and Asilo Sant' Elia. Como's scale and accessibility, along with its proximity to Milan, site of the yearly April furniture fair, Salone Internazionale del Mobile, an element of program study, makes it an excellent base from which to investigate both local events and the surroundings of Western Europe.

The USC/MXP program explores design in all its dimensions, and a series of design projects, some done in collaboration with Italian architecture students and faculty in Rome and Milan, move from urban considerations to design strategy to design implementation.

## **CRITICAL ISSUES**

### **Study Abroad Orientation**

Students who have been accepted into a program are required to attend a mandatory School of Architecture Study Abroad Orientation, per University policy. Important documents, policies and program information will be discussed and distributed. University representatives will be on hand to answer questions regarding health insurance as well as financial aid. Students will be given a timeline for document submission, which is required by the University's Office of the Provost. Students who

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neglect to turn in their packets of required information according to the timeline may not participate in the study abroad program.

**Preparation Course**

The semester prior to your semester abroad you are required to enroll in a prerequisite course that will give you an understanding of the cities, buildings and urban spaces for the area you will be visiting. It includes historical background and theoretical discussions (2 units).

**Academic Standing and Integrity**

If your grades drop significantly or you have exhibited integrity or academic behavior that raises alarm, and it is determined by the Global Studies Chair, your Program's Coordinator, and/or the School of Architecture Administration that you have not met the academic needs, reliability, or other behavioral standards required to participate in the program, you will not be allowed to continue on to the travel portion of the program. Should a situation arise you will be notified and your options will be shared with you.

**Foreign Language Study**

Each student participating in any of the programs must complete a minimum of one semester of foreign language study relevant for the selected program prior to traveling. This course may be taken at USC or another language institute. Arrangements can be made for a student to complete this requirement online or using an approved language software. It is highly recommended to take the language course at USC. If you have previous foreign language knowledge, you may take the USC Placement Test to demonstrate current proficiency.

**Passport**

Your passport is a valuable document. It will be your primary source of identification abroad, particularly when cashing travelers' checks, registering with local authorities, and traveling across borders. Guard it with care. It is strongly recommended that you keep a photocopy of your passport in a separate secure place. This will make it much easier to get a replacement in the event that yours is lost or stolen.

If you do not have a passport, you need to obtain one. You must apply in person and you should apply at once. You must bring a completed passport application, a copy of your birth certificate or your expired passport or your certified copy of Naturalization or Citizenship and a photo ID with signature (i.e. driver's license) as well as two passport size photographs and the appropriate processing fee. Be sure to leave yourself plenty of time for processing. International students will need the equivalent document from their country of citizenship. Resources are available in the Office of International Services.

**Visas**

All students are required to obtain a Visa for the country in which they study. Each consulate requires different documentation with the application. Students are responsible for obtaining all required documentation to the consulate in person. If this process is not completed in a timely manner, a student may not be able to attend the program. It is suggested that students apply for a passport upon acceptance into a program, as this is the first document necessary for the Visa application. Without a

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valid passport, the process can be delayed up to 90 days. Deadlines, fees, and necessary documents may differ based on student's country of citizenship.

**Non-United States Citizens**

If you are on a student visa, please contact the Office of International Services in the Student Union (third floor) for assistance. You can also contact the same office for information on obtaining an international student identification card.

If you are not a citizen of the United States, it is your responsibility to ensure that you have a valid passport from your country of citizenship. You must also contact the consulate of the countries where you will study and countries where you plan to travel during weekends, semester breaks or at the end of the program. Do this as soon as possible since you will need time to make it over all of the hurdles if you must apply for a special student visa.

**Immunizations**

There may not be any immunization requirements for travel between the United States and Western Europe; however, travel to other areas may require additional immunizations. Check with local health departments, government publications and web sites or the student health center for information. The phone number for the student health center is (213) 740-9355.

**Special Needs**

If you have any special needs that might affect your full participation in the study abroad program please bring it to the attention of the program director or student advisor prior to departure. Special needs include but are not limited to dietary needs, medical conditions, prescription medications, learning disabilities or anything that may require special consideration or accommodations. Further details will be covered in the Architecture Study Abroad Orientation.

**Program Costs**

As a student in the School of Architecture overseas study program you will pay regular USC tuition at the current rate for full-time study. Your USC Financial Aid package applies in the same manner as if you were studying on campus. Please know that you may need to apply for additional private loans to help cover the costs of the program.

In addition to regular tuition fees, each program has an *approximation* of costs. These budgets include airfare, food & housing, and non-program related travel. You must budget out of personal funds for all additional expenses, just as you do on campus. Refer to the attached budget information for each program.

All programs will require some prepayment for housing and hotels prior to the beginning of the program, because deposits need to be made months in advance of the trip. There is a required deposit for each program that is due the second week of School the semester before each program begins.

As is the case for study on campus, students incur additional expenses during a study abroad program. These expenses include books, toiletries, laundry, postage, entertainment, local travel, weekend and

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vacation travel depending on each student's individual needs. To determine what is right for you, take a realistic look at what you spend on campus in a semester.

Please keep in mind that overall and local expenses are dependent on rates of exchange that may vary due to the current value of the US Dollar in foreign countries. The assumed exchange rate is indicated on the budgets for each program, which may change depending on current economic conditions.

Budgets included are estimated using current exchange rates for applicable foreign currencies. A general contingency of approximately 10% should be considered when deciding whether participation in a program is viable. Program Directors and facilitators will do what they can to keep costs down if it is not possible to meet proposed budget.

**Program Fees**

Three separate program fees will be required for all participants.

**Application Fee: Due with application**

There is an application fee of \$10. When starting an application through the online program Slideroom a student will be prompted to pay the fee in order to submit her/his application.

- The Commitment Fee is paid by students in order to reserve their space in their selected program
- This fee is non-refundable.
- Fee is partially used for administrative expenses.
- Fee is paid through Slideshare system using a credit card.

**Program Commitment Fee: Due in January**

Program Commitment Fee of \$500 due to reserve a student's place in the program she/he is selected for. This will be due after the holiday break, in January. Students will be reminded to make their commitment payments in the Spring semester.

- The Commitment Fee is paid by students in order to reserve their space in their selected program
- This fee is refundable only up and until the final add/drop date of the semester of their Arch 406 prep course. For some this will be the semester after they are accepted [summer programs] and other it could be almost a year [spring programs].
- Fee to be used toward their program expenses (as reflected on the program's budget).
- Fee should be paid by check and made out to 'USC School of Architecture' with the name of the program noted in the memo section.

**Program Logistics Prepayment Fee: Due 3 weeks into a program's prep-course**

In the semester a student takes his/her Arch 406 study abroad prep-course, a fee of \$1000 will be added to the tuition bill no earlier than the three week into the semester add/drop period.

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- The Program Logistics Prepayment Fee is paid by students in order for the program director to begin making arrangements for accommodations and other logistics, which require early commitments to the student's selected program.
- This fee is non-refundable. (The program director may use his/her discretion when needed.)
- Fee to be used toward their program expenses (as reflected on the program's budget).
- Fee will appear on each student's tuition bill, and may be paid for in any way one would normally pay a tuition payment.

**Additional Program Prepayments: Due throughout a program's prep-course**

In the semester a student takes his/her Arch 406 study abroad prep-course, additional personal costs will need to be paid for by a student for airfare, visa fees, and other costs as outlined in student budget.

- During the semester before a student leaves for his/her abroad program, funds should be accessible for a student to procure the necessary travel documents and airfare required for an approved visa application. Additionally, the program's director will inform a student of any additional fees and payments required in order to reserve housing and other logistics. Summer programs may require more prepayments than programs offered in regular semesters. Payment amounts should not exceed estimates provided by program directors in original budgets.
- Fees to be used toward their program expenses (as reflected on the program's budget).

**Texts & Supplies**

You must purchase your own supplies. Program Directors will provide a general list of recommended and mandatory supplies by the dates of the program orientation.

**Program Travel**

You will be responsible for paying for some travel such as plane, bus, subway, and rail fares on field trips as well as entry fees to museums. Typically, economical arrangements are made for housing on trips that involve overnight stays, which students pay either before or during the travel. Because of space limitations, guests are not permitted on excursions without the advance permission of the Director.

**Health Insurance**

You must be covered by comprehensive health and accident insurance while you take part in our programs. If you are insured under a family policy, you are still required to co-enroll in the university's overseas insurance plan. If you are not insured under a family policy you will be enrolled in an overseas insurance plan designed especially for students living and studying overseas. The cost of the insurance plan will be added to your regular bill of university tuition and fees. It is your responsibility to make sure your policy is in effect for the entire period of the program abroad and that it covers claims outside the United States. Make sure you are informed about procedures for making a claim abroad. For example, do you have to pay medical costs yourself and then submit a claim for reimbursement? All students will



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be issued an International SOS Card free of charge. This company acts as a resource for any health-related questions, issues or referrals.

**Handling Finances Abroad**

You should plan on handling spending money abroad primarily through ATM/debit and credit cards. Also be aware that some banks will charge extra fees for accessing your account through the networks abroad and that some credit card companies charge an additional percentage for foreign purchases.

It's a good idea to have at least one credit or debit card in your name and at least one ATM card. VISA and MasterCard are widely accepted. Check with your card issuer to inquire about services while overseas.

**Personal Spending Money**

You will have the normal personal expenses such as books, laundry, newspapers, snacks, entertainment, postage, and meals during daylong field trips. If you are planning to take weekend excursions, you must budget extra for these.

**Financial Aid**

USC Financial Aid deadlines typically occur in the Spring semester in February. Students are responsible for the prompt filing of Financial Aid documents (FAFSA, etc.) and for meeting the University, State and Federal deadlines for application for Financial Aid.

Financial Aid only covers two terms in an academic year. For example, a student will attend Spring/Summer, Summer/Fall or Spring/Fall. For students attending a full semester Summer program, Financial Aid requires the student to take off the fall semester after the Summer so as not to trigger early payments due to loan lending institutions including the US government. If you have an alternate payment option, the break will not be required.

Financial Aid will typically apply the semester that you are participating in the study abroad program. It is your responsibility to assure that all aid has been properly credited. Once all aid has been applied towards tuition and fees any balance left over is available to you. The easiest way to access this money is to have it electronically transferred into a checking or savings account that you can then access through ATM networks. In order to do this you must complete the Electronic Funds Transfer form and attach a voided check or account information. These documents will be handed out and reviewed during the Orientation.

## **CODES OF CONDUCT**

As a student participating in the School of Architecture's study abroad program, you have the same rights and responsibilities and are subject to the same rules and regulations as students on our home campus. However, programs of study abroad place additional limits on students in order to give each student every benefit from studying and living in a new country.

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Discuss with the Faculty/Program coordinator what codes of conduct are expected while overseas and what the consequences are should you violate them. Be aware that all student conduct policies listed in SCAMPUS apply while you are overseas. This includes the University's policies on alcohol and drug use, as well as sexual misconduct. Remember that all students are considered adults and are expected to take responsibility for their actions while taking part in their programs. Students will be held accountable for communication with the Program Director in regards to travels made outside of the scheduled itinerary for the duration of the program.

**Curriculum**

Regardless of the program chosen, students take a full 17 units of study while abroad. Students will be enrolled in a 6-unit design studio and five courses which cover 11-units of the professional architectural elective degree requirement.

\* Please note: Students are responsible for making up the courses built into the suggested course sequence (on campus) according to the regularly scheduled course offerings.

**Advisement**

To help with academic advising overseas, it is strongly recommended that you schedule an advisement appointment prior to your departure. Review your degree requirements and plan ahead for your registration in the term following your return. You should take a copy of your academic advising sheet with you so that if any questions occur while you are away from the main campus you will have some reference. E-mail communication with the academic advisors will be paramount while studying abroad. You will be held accountable for all deadlines related to D-Clearance, Registration, etc.

**Registration**

Registration is mandatory prior to departure.

Participants will be required to enroll in 17 units of coursework. A standardized program of study includes ARCH 402, Arch 316, Arch 406, and field studies courses ARCH 424, 425, and 426. Students must enroll in all courses and have taken care of the required prerequisite course as well as the language requirement if applicable.

Continuing registration in subsequent semesters following the study abroad program is the responsibility of the individual student. The School of Architecture will not register students for classes and settlement of all tuition and fees as a result of registration are the responsibility of the student.

**Attendance**

One of the benefits of studying abroad is the ability to travel within and outside the country of study. Planned field trips are not only course related but also serve to expand students' understanding of the history, arts and cultural values of the host country.

Attendance in classes (including field trips, discussions, lectures, etc.) is expected in all courses. Personal travel is NOT an excuse for missing classes, lectures or scheduled program field trips. Class participation is part of the final grade. You are strongly encouraged to take your academic responsibilities seriously.

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**Grades**

The same grading policies that apply to courses taken at the USC campus will apply towards courses taken in study abroad programs. This includes but is not limited to minimum passing grades for studio and electives as well as university policies governing academic eligibility.

**Personal Travel and Guests**

Remember that while it may seem fun to invite friends and family to visit while you are studying abroad, you are engaged in an academic program of study, not an extended vacation. Overnight guests are not permitted to stay in the program facilities. There are hotels, and hostels that provide inexpensive accommodations where guests may stay if visiting.

Personal travel can enrich your experience abroad; however, extensive personal travel can undermine the integrity of the program and adversely affect your academic progress.

**Additional Information**

If you have specific questions regarding study abroad opportunities check first on the program website: <http://arch.usc.edu/Programs/Undergraduate/StudyAbroad>

If your questions remain, please contact the current program coordinators:

**Italy Study Abroad, Spring (MXP)**

Olivier Touraine  
[touraine@usc.edu](mailto:touraine@usc.edu)

**Barcelona, Spain Study Abroad, Fall (BCN)**

Kim Coleman  
[kcoleman@usc.edu](mailto:kcoleman@usc.edu)

**Asian Architecture, Landscape,  
and Urbanism (AALU),  
Eastern Asia Study Abroad, Fall  
Yo-ichiro Hakomori  
[yo@why-architecture.com](mailto:yo@why-architecture.com)**

If you have questions about the logistics of the programs, and how studying abroad fits in your academic track, feel free to contact Programs Coordinator, Eric J. Moore at [ericjmoo@usc.edu](mailto:ericjmoo@usc.edu).

**REMEMBER: UNDERGRADUATE STUDY ABROAD APPLICATIONS DUE  
Wednesday, November 9, 12 noon**

**Additional Documents Available for Download**

Critical Dates for Study Abroad Applicants  
Step by Step: How To Submit Your Application  
Estimated Budgets for the Study Abroad Programs

Go to: <http://arch.usc.edu/programs/study-abroad> and click on the 'Undergraduate' tab, and scroll down to the bottom of the page for the file links.