

Caltech Scholars Programs

General Information

Application Deadline for all Official Programs is January 25th, by 3pm virtual submission

Melbourne Scholars Program
Ecole Polytechnique Scholars Program
Cambridge Scholars Program
Chicago Scholars Study Away Program
Copenhagen Scholars Program
Edinburgh Scholars Program
UCL Scholars Program

Caltech offers one study away and six official study abroad opportunities for students in any discipline. Students apply during their sophomore or junior year to study abroad during their junior or senior year for one term. All programs are for the Fall Term, except Cambridge, which can be for Fall or Winter Term. Students must apply through the Fellowships Advising and Study Abroad Office and may only study abroad at one of these six official programs. Once accepted into a Scholars Program and nominated by Caltech, students are then guided through the process of applying to the specific partnered university. Students cannot study abroad or away for credit and receive financial aid if an add awardee at a program not on the official list above.

Caltech Credit

Students must take a minimum of 36 units at the host university while studying abroad or away. Students are granted Caltech credit, provided they complete academic work as required by Caltech and the host university. Students must successfully pass classes abroad, get required Course Report Forms from the instructors or supervision/tutorial/petite class leaders abroad and complete the required evaluation process upon return to Caltech. Students may be granted general, HSS or option credit. It is possible to earn up to 45 unit at some programs and if needed take a Course by Correspondence (remote class or thesis.)

Courses taken abroad or away can fulfill specific course requirements, i.e., replace a Caltech course, if the instructor agrees to evaluate the course upon the student's return. This is commonly done, and we keep a list of such courses in our [Equivalent Course Guide](#), which is updated yearly and is available in the FASA Library and posted online at the fasa.caltech.edu website. Students must pass classes and have a Course Report form completed for each class. Students must bring back all coursework, notes, exams, essays, problem sets, etc. There is a mandatory credit transfer meeting held by the FASA Office on the student's return to Caltech the following term. Note that students must be fully enrolled the term prior to and term following study abroad.

Courses taken at any partnered university must be taken for a grade, but the grades do not transfer to the Caltech transcript, only the number of units granted.

Students must take at least 18 units in the department closed to their Caltech option. Other classes can be in the option, another STEM field or HSS as allowed by the host university. This is detailed in other materials.

Courses by Correspondence: If a student must take a required Caltech class during the term they are studying abroad or away, it is possible to take one Caltech course "by correspondence" with the consent of the instructor. This can be a senior thesis or research that can be done remotely up to 12 credits maximum. The course must be listed in the proposed course list and if accepted into the program, the student must obtain written approval from the CIT faculty member teaching the course next year. Such classes are taken for a Caltech grade and not as pass/fail unless that is the grading structure of the class. All homework, exams, projects, etc. must be completed by the student by the regular class schedule. Students register for this class on Regis and are subject to Drop/Add dates. Students should note that taking a course by correspondence is a large time commitment that will require about one day per week dedicated to the class. The Course by Correspondence must be listed in the Proposed Course List and cannot substitute for the required 36 units

minimum taken at the host university. The student cannot exceed 51 units including the Course by Correspondence.

Application Process

Applicants should currently be enrolled sophomores or juniors. Students will study abroad/away during their junior or senior year. An exception is made for students who are now seniors, who will be officially registered students during the fall and winter of the next academic year. Students must be enrolled the term prior to and following their study abroad term. Students are fully enrolled at Caltech during the study abroad term and are enrolled simultaneously in their host university.

There is no citizenship requirement, although it may be impossible to accept students from countries that do not have diplomatic relations with our host countries. While the FASA office will provide instructions, students are responsible for applying for necessary visas and paying all associated costs related to study abroad. Non-visa nationals for the UK do not have to obtain a visa. All students must obtain a visa for study in Australia, Denmark, or France.

Our partner universities require that students must be at least eighteen years of age before departing for study abroad or study away.

Minimum GPA Requirements:

Cambridge: 3.6 GPA overall, 3.7 GPA in Option

Copenhagen (DTU & UCPH): 3.0 (2.8 considered)

Chicago: 3.5

Ecole Polytechnique: 3.3

Edinburgh: 3.0

Melbourne: 3.0

UCL: 3.3 (3.5 for Biological Sciences Biomedical Sciences and 3.7 for Neuroscience.

Sophomores with a cumulative GPA under 3.0 are not eligible to apply for study abroad or away.

Juniors with a cumulative 2.8 or 2.9 and with a stable GPA may apply for Edinburgh or DTU if they have a 3.0 cumulative GPA in their option. Such applicants must have a stable or rising GPA and strong letters of recommendation.

Program Preference:

Students applying to Cambridge or UCL as their first choice should propose a second choice due to the large number of applicants. The second choice should not be UCL or Cambridge unless the applicant has a third choice. Students are always encouraged to apply to more than one program (Cambridge, Copenhagen, Ecole Polytechnique, Edinburgh, Melbourne, and/or UCL). Students applying to only one of the above six programs should have a good reason for doing so and are not given preference for that program in relation to those applying to multiple programs. Applying for multiple programs increases chances of studying abroad or away, even if students are not selected for their top choice. Note again that Cambridge requires a second choice other than an alternate term at Cambridge. This means if you list Michaelmas or Lent, you need a third choice.

To begin the application process, students should read through the handout for the programs they are interested in and start researching the course offerings at each university. Any further information needed about the applications can be found in these handouts and the Application Directions.

Disciplinary and Academic Standing

Applicants must be in good academic and disciplinary standing. They should be mature and responsible individuals who can adapt well to a new country and academic environment. Students going abroad/away in the fall must clear all extensions by August 1 before they depart, and extensions taken in the third term must be reported to the FASA Office. Students going to Cambridge Lent may not take any extensions the term before they study abroad. All "I's" will be considered on a case by case basis.

Study Abroad/Away Costs

Students are charged standard Caltech room, board, tuition, and fees during their term abroad or away. The cost of each study abroad or away program can be higher as related to food, room, and in the case of Cambridge, tuition. Most universities have longer terms than Caltech's, which results in additional costs for food, housing and personal expenses. This allows time to travel before or after the term ends. Students are responsible for their own travel arrangements and visa fees. There are other costs associated with living abroad or away such as public transportation, entertainment, daytrips, weekend travel or fall vacation week travel for programs that have a vacation week: DTU, UCPH, Ecole Polytechnique Students should budget accordingly for these. Cambridge has a 9 week term that starts on October 1 and ends in early December for Michaelmas and mid-January to mid-March for Lent.

Financial aid is available for study abroad and study away programs for those awarded financial aid. Financial aid will cover official supplemental charges for tuition, room, and board if any. There is also a no-interest travel loan (Martin Loan) available to pay for flights to and from the host university. Please consult the Financial Aid Office for details on applying for and eligibility for financial aid related to study abroad/away.

Living Abroad/Away

Students live in Caltech arranged housing in each location in official residence halls. Students live in single rooms on a hallway or in a suite with a shared bathroom, living space, and access to a kitchen. In Denmark students usually have their own bathroom. Students must live in program designated housing and may not arrange their own housing. Most programs require students to cook for themselves or provides access to pay as you go dining halls.

Study Abroad/Away Policies

Students must attend all classes, lectures, tutorials, supervision labs, etc., whether virtual or taught in person. No time conflicts are allowed. All coursework must be completed before leaving the host university, and no extensions are allowed. Students must return to Caltech in time for classes the term following their study abroad or away period and must be fully enrolled the term prior to and after their term abroad. Students must complete the official credit transfer process.

Students are encouraged to travel before or after their term abroad or away begins. If the program has a term holiday or vacation week this is an ideal time for travel. Weekend and day trips are options for local travel. The local areas around each university abound with interesting nooks worth exploring. Do not apply to study abroad or away if your sole reason for going is personal travel. It is first and foremost an educational experience. Cambridge students are not allowed to travel outside the UK during their term at Cambridge. They can make daytrips or a few weekend trips in the UK. This is due to the residency requirement at Cambridge and the short term length of 9 weeks for the program. Students have ample time to travel before or after the Michaelmas or Lent Term.

Additional Resources

More information is available on each of these programs in the Fellowships Advising and Study Abroad Office, and on our website <http://fasa.caltech.edu/studyabroad>. Each program has an information handout with full details about the different departments, housing, academic structure, cultural experience, etc. Students should read these carefully.

Do not hesitate to come by the Fellowships Advising and Study Abroad (FASA) Office, Rm. 319 in the Center for Student Services, if you have questions. It is helpful if you call first, x2150, to schedule a meeting time. We will handle walk-in questions during posted walk-in hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9-11am and 2-4pm. The FASA Library is open every weekday during office hours (8am-5pm, closed for lunch 12noon-1pm) for students to look through previous proposals, lecture lists, prospectuses, study abroad/away student surveys, etc. You do not need an appointment to use the library. DURING THE PANDEMIC THERE IS NO DROP IN AVAILABILITY. All appointments must be booked and access to the FASA library to view example proposals is via the Doodle survey posted on the FASA website: <http://www.fasa.caltech.edu>.