

Global Education Opportunities

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PLU is committed to a vibrant array of global educational opportunities, linked to its mission and vision of educating to achieve a just, healthy, sustainable, and peaceful world.

Both on- and off-campus opportunities abound. On-campus academic majors and minors provide study of global issues such as development, global resources and trade, and human rights as well as specific cultures, languages, and societies. Departmental courses and multidisciplinary programs are described in detail in their respective sections of this catalog.

Off-campus programs span the globe and the calendar. PLU encourages majors in all fields to participate in off-campus study – for a January term, semester, academic year, or summer term. The following outline suggests the types of programs available to undergraduates; consult the Wang Center for Global Education for comprehensive and more detailed information.

PLU GATEWAY PROGRAMS

China

Offered every fall semester, this study away program is based at Sichuan University in Chengdu. The curriculum is centered around Chinese culture and language, business, and global studies courses and includes unique study travel opportunities – including an educational excursion to Tibet. Service learning assignments and part-time international internships provide opportunities to apply knowledge gained in the classroom. Students may arrange to spend the full year at Sichuan University. No prior Chinese language study is required. Students earn up to 17 semester credit hours.

International Internships

PLU offers internship opportunities to selected locations around the globe, providing students the chance to apply their on-campus curriculum in an international work setting. International internships can be completed concurrently with a study away program (depending on the study away format and location) or independently with supporting university coursework. Every year PLU students explore career possibilities and enhance their skills by completing semester-long internships in England, Namibia, and beyond.

Mexico

Designed for advanced Spanish language students with an interest in Latin American Studies this fall semester program – based in Oaxaca – explores the intersection of development, culture, and social change through the lens of the dynamic and evolving context of contemporary Mexico. Student learning is deepened through home stays, educational excursions, and the opportunity for academic internships. **Prerequisites:** Completion of Hispanic Studies 202 (301 preferred). Students earn up to 16 semester credit hours.

Norway

Option A: Hedmark University College in Hamar, Norway (fall semester only). Courses are taught in English and focus on Norway's successful implementation of programs in international development, conflict resolution, and peacebuilding. Opportunities for field study experiences and research papers allow students to analyze and reflect on topics related to the various academic areas, and are especially well suited for communications and political science majors and minors. PLU's innovative tripartite relationship with Hedmark UC and the University of Namibia, whose students also study on this program, afford students unique comparative learning opportunities. Students earn up to 16 semester credit hours.

Option B: Scandinavian Studies at Telemark University College (fall and/or spring semester). Courses are taught in English and Norwegian for foreign students. Course work at Telemark is especially appropriate for students with majors in the humanities, social sciences, and Norwegian language. Students earn up to 16 semester credit opportunities.

Trinidad and Tobago

January to mid-May, this study away program provides students with unique opportunities to explore the islands and learn about the varied heritages of the country's multicultural society. During January students take a core course, which varies from year to year, and begin preparations for the Carnival celebration. From February to mid-May students take a second core course, Caribbean Culture and Society, and choose two additional courses from the regular offerings at the University of the West Indies. Because of the direct enrollment feature at UWI, this program is suitable for a wide variety of academic majors and minors including studies in the natural sciences. Students earn up to 18 semester credit hours.

NON-PLU FEATURED PROGRAMS

England

Located in the Bloomsbury District, this program – offered every fall and spring term – uses London as its classroom. Students explore the city's exceptional resources through an interdisciplinary study of literature, history, political science, theater, and art. Academic and cultural learning is enhanced through extensive co-curricular activities, weekend study tours, living with a British family, and optional service learning. Students earn up to 16 semester credit hours.

Spain

Students take upper-intermediate and advanced level Spanish at the Centro de Lenguas Modernas at the University of Granada. With its Moorish past, rich cultural heritage, and natural beauty, Granada provides an excellent setting to build Spanish language skills. The program is offered every fall and spring semester. **Prerequisites:** Completion of Hispanic Studies 202 for fall term; completion of Hispanic Studies 301 for spring term. Students earn up to 16 semester credit hours in the fall and up to 18 in the spring, which includes J-term.

Tanzania

With a focus on post-colonial issues in Tanzania and Africa, the program begins in late-July with an in-depth orientation at Arusha and basic training in the Swahili language. Through lectures by local experts, visits to rural and wildlife areas, and teaching conversational English to school children, students work to develop an understanding of this region of the world. During fall semester, students select three or four courses from the wide offerings available at the University of Dar es Salaam. All university courses are taught in English. Students earn up to 16 semester credit hours.

JANUARY TERM COURSES**January Term**

Every January a wide variety of off-campus “J-term” courses led by PLU faculty take students around the globe to destinations ranging from Neah Bay to New Zealand. In January 2006, PLU received national attention when it became the first U.S. university to have students studying on all seven continents at the same time. Nearly 400 students participate annually in these intensive J-term learning experiences, which fulfill many degree requirements. The application process occurs during the preceding spring semester, with remaining openings filled during summer and early fall. See the Wang Center website for current offerings: www.plu.edu/wangcenter/study-away.

OTHER PROGRAMS**Approved Programs**

PLU students participate in the Gateway and Featured Programs listed above every year. However, sometimes a student’s particular academic goals are better served by a different program. Through collaborative partnerships with other universities and agreements with study abroad program providers, PLU offers an array of semester- and year-long study away programs with courses in a wide variety of academic disciplines. Short-term study away programs are also available during the summer months. PLU awards academic credit for approved programs and locations. For details call the Wang Center for International Programs at 253-535-7577. Or, visit the on-line study away catalog at www.plu.edu/wangcenter/study-away.

Non-Approved Programs

Opportunities to study abroad are made available through many other organizations and colleges in the United States. Some U.S. students choose to enroll directly in an overseas university. In these cases, special arrangements must be made in advance for appropriate credit transfer. PLU financial aid is not applicable.

Study away, with appropriate planning, is possible for qualified students in any major to successfully incorporate study away into their degree plans. Prior to studying off-campus on semester or yearlong programs and on short-term sponsored programs, students work with their academic advisors to determine how courses taken and credits earned will fit with their academic goals and transfer back to PLU. Using a pre-departure academic planning worksheet, the student’s intended course of study is documented, approved by the appropriate academic chair, and filed with the Wang Center.

Application Process

Because off-campus study requires an additional level of independence and the ability to adapt to other cultures, the application, selection, and pre-departure review process is rigorous and includes a comprehensive evaluation of student records. Applications for off-campus study must be pre-approved by the university. Students must submit applications to the Wang Center by the relevant application deadline, which is typically six to twelve months prior to the program start date.

Application materials include, but are not limited to, an official transcript, an essay, letters of recommendation, and an application fee. Consult with the Wang Center for application requirements and deadlines by calling 253-535-7577. The university reserves the right to decline an application for off-campus study and/or to cancel the participation of an accepted student before departure or during the program.

Grading Policy and Credits

Students participating on approved study away programs receive PLU credit and letter grades for their coursework. Courses, credits and grades are recorded on the PLU transcript. However, study away grades are only calculated into the PLU G.P.A. for courses taught by PLU faculty and for students in the School of Business. Study away courses are not pass/fail.

Program Costs and Financial Aid

Financial aid may be applied to all PLU approved programs. This includes State and Federal financial aid (with the exception of work study), university grants and scholarships, and government loans. Students may use their PLU aid on any Gateway or Featured Program, but may take PLU aid on only one PLU-Approved Program, i.e., a third-party provided program such as CIEE, IES, SFS, SIT, etc. The new global Scholars Awards are specifically designed to increase access to study away for students with high financial need who might not otherwise be able to participate. While abroad, students continue to be billed by PLU and are expected to maintain their payment plan arrangements. Tuition remission benefits apply to the cost of study away tuition on PLU approved programs, but not to housing and meal charges. Tuition exchange benefits apply only to the tuition component of these PLU-directed programs: Norway, China, Mexico, Trinidad, and International Internships. Tuition exchange benefits do not apply to any other study away programs offered through third party providers, consortia, etc.

Grants for Global Involvement

The Wang Center for Global Education awards grants on a competitive basis to students interested in advanced research and experiential learning in a global context, building on previous international experience.

Post-graduation Opportunities

PLU graduates pursue their global interests in many ways after they complete their degrees. These include Fulbright awards, Rotary scholarships, and Wang Teaching Fellowships in China.

Contact the Wang Center at 253-535-7577 for more detail on all programs offered.