

## Transferable Courses

In general, you will receive transfer credit for any university-level course taken at an accredited/recognized institution.

1. **University-Level Courses:** Courses must be similar in content and credit value to a UW–Madison course. Courses which are designed to provide experiences in the food, drink, or culture of a country or are remedial, technical, vocational, or doctrinal in nature are *not* transferable. If Madison does not offer anything similar to the course, chances are it won't transfer.

**NOTE:** We do not pre-approve internships, field study, or independent study courses. When you return from your study abroad program, take your course outline or summary of work completed (issued by the instructor) and discuss it with the appropriate departmental advisor. If the departmental advisor determines the course to be credit-worthy, he/she should notify our office.

2. **Accredited/Recognized Institutions:** U.S. colleges and universities must be accredited by one of the six U.S. regional associations of colleges and schools. International postsecondary recognition is conferred by governmental agencies, usually the Ministry of Education or Ministry of Higher Education.

## Number of Credits

We will convert foreign credits/hours to U.S. semester credits. You should not assume that your foreign credits/hours will transfer at face value.

## Determining an Equivalency

To determine how the course will transfer, compare the other school's course description(s) to UW–Madison's course description(s) and ask yourself these questions:

1. **Breadth:** What is the breadth (subject area) of the course?
2. **Level:** What is the level of the course? Is it at the introductory level within a department or at a more advanced level?
3. **Prerequisites:** Do you need to have attained a certain class standing (e.g. junior level) or completed certain courses before you can enroll in the course?
4. **Direct Equivalent:** Does the course cover the content of a UW–Madison course? Is it offered at the same level with similar prerequisites? If it does, then it will likely transfer as a direct equivalent to the UW–Madison course. However, very few study abroad courses are similar enough to transfer as direct equivalents to UW–Madison courses.
5. **Elective Credits:** Is the course unlike any UW–Madison course, but similar in the type of content and level? If it is, it will transfer as "elective" credits in the appropriate department with a designated breadth and level (e.g. history electives with social studies breadth at the intermediate level). The majority of study abroad courses will transfer as elective credits.

## Fulfilling a Requirement

UW–Madison degree requirements are specific to this institution and our academic programs. While many transfer courses will count as degree credits, you should not expect to satisfy more specific requirements, especially in the areas below.

1. **Foreign Language:** Make sure the transfer course is part of a sequence of courses. In most cases, foreign language credit is granted sequentially. We determine the level of foreign language completed prior to your study abroad work, and grant transfer credit based on your prior language study. If you take foreign language coursework that is at the same level as course work you completed previously, you will receive elective credit at the same level. If you take foreign language course work that is at a lower level than coursework you completed previously, you will not receive transfer credit since it duplicates previous work. In some cases, we will need to consult with the appropriate foreign language advisor when determining transfer credit.
2. **Liberal Arts** (e.g., history, anthropology, psychology, etc.): If it is a university-level course, it will transfer as either elective credits or a direct equivalent.
3. **General Education Requirements (GER):** Do not expect to fulfill your GER off campus. The requirements are specific to UW–Madison and are difficult to complete at another institution.

## Preliminary Course Equivalency Requests

You may request preliminary course equivalencies for courses not listed on our Study Abroad Readmission Web site. Visit [www.admissions.wisc.edu/studyabroad](http://www.admissions.wisc.edu/studyabroad) for lists of course equivalencies and important instructions and forms.

We will equate a maximum of five courses per semester for one study abroad program only. We cannot provide additional pre-equivalencies if you arrive at your study abroad location and decide to take different courses than those we previously equated.

### Submission Deadlines:

Fall Overseas Study	August 1
Spring Overseas Study	December 1
Summer Overseas Study	May 15

Our preliminary course equivalencies are for informational purposes only. They should not be construed as a contract or offer to contract. We cannot guarantee final, official equivalencies until we receive your final, official study abroad transcript.