

Considerations for Study Abroad During Your Final Semester

The Center for Global Education supports students seeking a global experience at any stage of their Chapman career and senior year may be students' final chance as an undergraduate. Read below for considerations and tips to make a smooth transition abroad and upon return.

1. Students must enroll in a **full-time course load** (12-18 semester credits) while abroad, even if you do not need that many credits to graduate.
2. The semester you apply to study abroad (two semesters prior to your final semester), **review your program evaluation** and your academic plan with your academic and your program advisor. Understand your remaining requirements to fulfill prior to going at Chapman and during your final semester while abroad. Then you can discuss these requirements with your Global Education Advisor to find a program abroad that may fulfill these requirements. Meet with your advisors again the semester before you study abroad to identify final degree requirements.
 - a) Confirm if you need to be at Chapman your last semester for a capstone or other course. You may be able to take that final course before your last semester. If you need to be on campus, then see below for alternate options to a semester abroad.
 - b) Depending on the semester abroad program, **course registration** may not occur until after you are abroad and therefore you may not be guaranteed specific courses in advance. If you need a specific course in order to graduate that semester, confirm with your program the likelihood of enrolling in that course. You may want to consider a different program where course registration occurs before departure.
3. Submit your **Global Course Request form** as soon as it is available the semester before you go abroad to request course approvals for additional courses. If your preferred courses are not approved, submit new courses. Remain flexible by considering backup programs should your courses not get approved as desired. You may discuss contingency plans with your Global Education Advisor.
4. Your **foreign transcript** is sent to the Center for Global Education two-to-four months after your semester ends, sometimes longer. Be sure to pay your program any extra fees incurred (lost room key, course or excursion fee, etc.) so that your transcript is not placed on hold.
 - a) Transcripts are then cross-referenced with your Global Course Request form to ensure that the appropriate credit has been determined by the Registrar. **It is important that you seek credit approval for all courses you plan to take abroad before you depart or at the latest when you first arrive abroad.**
 - b) The foreign transcript is articulated to your Chapman transcript by the Center for Global Education and the Registrar. Usually, you can expect this to be completed within 1-2 weeks **after** the Center for Global Education receives your transcript. You will receive email notifications updates.
 - c) Students may not receive their diploma until late in the semester after returning. If you need your official transcript earlier for a professional or graduate opportunity (medical school, MBA program, etc.), check with that program to see if they will accept a late official transcript or unofficial transcript. The Center for Global Education can provide a letter to explain that you studied abroad your final semester and there is a routine delay in processing your official transcript. Chapman cannot verify degree completion until all courses from your foreign transcript are on file.
5. Many spring programs finish prior to Chapman's May commencement so students abroad can return and participate in the ceremony and activities. Check your **program abroad end date** to confirm. Note that universities in the Southern hemisphere end their semester in June. Students on spring programs with later end dates can participate in commencement at a future date.
6. Apply for [degree conferral](#) through the Office of the University Registrar by their deadlines for graduation.
7. Read the Office of Financial Aid information for [graduating students](#).

If these points above may prevent you from studying abroad during your final semester, you can still participate in a faculty-led [Travel Course](#) during January or summer (even summer after your senior year!). Students can also participate in a [summer international internship](#) after spring semester by moving your degree conferral to summer. Inquire with the Center for Global Education for additional questions and to start an application.