



Drexel Intensive Courses Abroad (ICAs)

Background

Intensive Courses Abroad (ICAs) are experiential academic programs with a duration of generally 7 to 14 days. ICAs are faculty-led, developed around the faculty's own expertise, experience and/or interest in the host country. The host location should be one that easily lends itself to exploration of the chosen topic.

ICAs are generally 1 to 4 credits depending on the extent of course content, learning outcomes, and assessments. The most common and sustainable ICA model is as intensive standalone course taught primarily abroad with supplementary classroom or online pre and post instruction. Alternatively, ICAs can be designed to enhance an existing course – taking place either before or after the course – bringing the subject matter to life. When conceptualizing an ICA, faculty are encouraged to develop an experience that will attract a range of student interests (topic, location, etc.)

While abroad, ICAs use various tools for teaching and learning such as:

- Lecture / guest lecturers
- Industry and site visits
- Discussion groups
- Interaction with local partners
- Reflective practice (e.g. journals and blogs)
- Analytical practice (e.g. individual and group research and discussion)

ICAs provide the following advantages:

- Meet Drexel's unique calendar and learning / teaching approach
- Academic framework for experiential learning
- Faculty international research collaborations
- Alignment with Drexel's global strategic initiatives and learning outcomes
- Accessibility for a wide range of students
- Relationship building between faculty and students
- Encouragement for additional global learning
- Immersion in real-life situations
- Provides distinctiveness to departments to recruit and retain students

To review examples of ICAs visit www.drexel.edu/studyabroad/programs/intensive-courses-abroad/

Guidelines for ICA Proposals

- Drexel Global provides guidance as faculty draft their proposal documents.
- It is strongly advised to seek departmental approval before working on a proposal.
- ICA development begins 12 + months in advance of travel. Program forms are due in final **7 to 9 months** in advance.
- Faculty are required to work with an international partner / vendor for logistical and financial aspects of the ICA. Drexel Global provides guidance on this aspect of planning.

ICA Proposal Packets must include:

- ICA Program Form signed by Department Chair and Dean
- ICA Course Syllabus reflecting the selected ICA model
- ICA Program Itinerary
- ICA Program Budget
- ICA Leader Responsibilities Guide

What do Drexel students say about ICAs?

I would 100% recommend this course...This may be one of the best experiences I have had with Drexel...

I was strongly impacted by our visit to the Kolkata wetlands. Having worked at Philadelphia Water Department and studying Environmental Science for several years, I was very impressed with the wetlands and (guest lecturer) Dr. Ghosh's work with them.

Through the tours of the various facilities... I was able to get a better sense of the cultural context in which the policies are taking place. We were also able to ask the various professionals questions in real time...

I learned an exceptional amount at each event...inspired me to think creatively.

Even though the lectures were only a week, the material was deep and complete... it felt like we had been there for a few months, rather than just a week.

ICA development begins 12+ months in advance of travel. To get started, contact:

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