



Drexel Intensive Courses Abroad

Background

Intensive Courses Abroad (ICAs) are international academic programs with a duration of approximately 7 – 14 days. ICAs are faculty-led, thus 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 – 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 / post instruction. Alternatively, ICAs can be designed to enhance an existing course – taking place either before or after the course – thereby 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 (location, subject matter, etc.)

While abroad, ICAs use various tools of 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:

- Meets Drexel's unique calendar and learning / teaching approach
- Academic framework for experiential learning
- Faculty international research collaborations
- Alignment with Drexel's global strategic plan 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 programs in order to recruit and retain students

To see examples of ICAs, visit drexel.edu/studyabroad/programs/intensive-courses-abroad/



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.

General Guidelines for ICA Proposals

- Priority is given to proposals submitted **7 to 9 months** before program departure.
- Faculty are encouraged to work with Drexel's existing international partner institutions if possible.
- It is strongly advised to seek departmental approval before starting a proposal.
- The Study Abroad Office provides guidance and feedback as faculty draft their proposal documents.

ICA Proposal Packets must include:

- Study Abroad Proposal Form
- ICA Course Syllabus
- ICA Program Itinerary
- ICA Program Budget
- ICA Instruction Guide Sheet
- Program Leader Responsibilities Agreement

To learn more or begin developing an ICA, contact:

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