UNDERGRADUATE EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

Experiential Learning

Case Western Reserve University offers undergraduates a variety of experiences inside and outside the classroom that are built on a process of guided inquiry, preparation, action and reflection. Many research, internship, and employment opportunities are aligned with academic programs. Linguistic and cultural immersion characterize the study abroad experience. Courses that incorporate community service or internships into the curriculum forge links between Case Western Reserve undergraduates and schools, neighborhoods, businesses, and governmental and health care institutions in Cleveland and elsewhere.

Course-Based Experiential Learning

In many courses, Case Western Reserve students engage in experiential learning beyond the on-campus classrooms and laboratories. Experiences that form the basis for reflection and synthesis under the guidance of faculty include working with hospitalized children, designing engineering solutions for a problem presented by a municipality, interning at a local media outlet, tutoring in Cleveland’s Hispanic community, gaining experience in public health clinics, studying history with “the city as classroom,” or collecting aquatic specimens from the ponds at the university’s 389-acre farm.

International Experience

Case Western Reserve University encourages all students to study abroad. Students of all majors are able to study abroad without interfering with their graduation timeline. Many of the study abroad programs cost the same as studying in Cleveland, and financial aid can be used to supplement study abroad costs as needed. Additionally, many students will find that they are eligible for scholarships. Students should visit www.case.edu/studyabroad or contact a study abroad advisor at studyabroad@case.edu to find a program that meets their needs.

Semester and Academic Year Programs

Case Western Reserve University partners with several overseas institutions in order to allow students to determine, in consultation with their academic advisor and study abroad advisor, study abroad programs that meet their academic and personal goals. Students can choose from a list of approved study abroad partners (http://www.case.edu/international/edabroad/thinkStudyAbroadLongTerm.html).

Undergraduate students who have completed at least 24 credit-hours of coursework at Case Western Reserve University, have declared a major, and are in good academic and disciplinary standing, with no pending judicial actions, and are otherwise eligible to register on campus at Case Western Reserve University for the proposed semester(s) (no financial holds, e.g.) are eligible to participate in programs of study or practical experience that immerse them in the culture and language of another country.

After matriculation at Case Western Reserve University, students are permitted to earn at other accredited colleges or universities or through an approved program of study abroad no more than 38 credit-hours toward the totals required for the degree, including courses taken through the cross-registration program, with no more than 15 credit-hours taken as part of domestic programs or as summer study in a student’s home country; any off-campus study credits beyond 15 may only be taken through approved study abroad programs. Any additional credit earned at other institutions after matriculation at Case Western Reserve beyond 15 domestically or as summer study in a student’s home country and beyond a total of 38 including study abroad will raise the total number of credit-hours required for the degree by a corresponding number.

Case Western Reserve does not require students to complete any foreign language prerequisites before studying abroad, though students wishing to study in a country where the native language is not English are advised to develop their language skills to the extent possible. However, students studying for at least a semester in a single location where English is not an official language must take a course that advances their skills in a language of the host country during each semester of study abroad, provided such courses are available; this may be a course of language instruction or a course taught in a language of the host country.

Students participating in study abroad experiences that are comparative in nature and visit several sites within the same semester are not required to include language study in their academic programs.

Students participating in semester or academic year study abroad must enroll in the equivalent of at least 12 credit-hours each semester in order to maintain full-time student status for the semester abroad. Upon presentation of an official transcript from the study abroad program, transfer credit will be awarded for courses determined to be equivalent or comparable to those offered by the appropriate academic department at Case Western Reserve University and completed with a grade of C or better.

Students participating in semester or academic year study abroad pay tuition to Case Western Reserve University and maintain their student status during the period of study abroad. Case Western Reserve University will, in turn, pay the tuition costs for the student’s program, but the student will be responsible for all non-tuition costs associated with study abroad. Students eligible for financial aid continue their eligibility during study abroad. For more information, contact a study abroad advisor by emailing studyabroad@case.edu.

CWRU in London at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art

CWRU in London (http://case.edu/international/office-of-education-abroad/programs/london.html) at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art allows students to travel in a cohort to London to study theater and theater history. This theater/humanities program, offered in conjunction with the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, allows students to sharpen their acting skills and gain a solid understanding of theatrical history while living and studying alongside some of the world’s best performing artists. Because students are formally enrolled in CWRU courses while participating in this program, their courses and grades appear on the CWRU transcript in the ordinary way rather than as transfer credit.

Short-Term Programs

Case Western Reserve University offers a robust portfolio of short-term study abroad options, which allow students to travel as a group with a member of the Case Western Reserve University faculty. These programs are often one to three weeks in duration and are offered over Spring Break, Winter Break, and during the summer. Program offerings vary each year, but recent short-term study abroad locations included Botswana, China, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, France, Germany, Guatemala, Israel, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain, and the United Kingdom. All CWRU students in good academic and disciplinary standing are eligible to participate in short-term study abroad programs. For more information, contact a study abroad advisor by emailing studyabroad@case.edu.
Summer Programs
All Case Western Reserve University undergraduates in good academic and disciplinary standing are permitted to study abroad during the summer. With approval, up to 15 credit-hours of summer coursework can be transferred to Case Western Reserve University. In the summer, study abroad students pay tuition and fees directly to the school/provider overseas. A wide variety of summer programs is available through the Office of Education Abroad. For more information, contact a study abroad advisor by emailing studyabroad@case.edu.

Research, Service Learning, and Internship Opportunities Abroad
Case Western Reserve University offers research, service learning, and internship opportunities abroad as part of a semester abroad on many of our approved programs, as well as a research-intensive program in partnership with Acadia University (summer options) and EuroScholars (semester options). The CWRU study abroad advisors can help students identify and apply to these programs. Students can also identify independent research projects abroad with the help of the Office of Education Abroad and CWRU faculty.

Research Experience
Undergraduate Research
Case Western Reserve University is a research-intensive community with a historic tradition of involving undergraduates in research and creative endeavors. Regardless of a student’s major or academic interests, there are numerous opportunities to engage in research either on campus with Case Western Reserve faculty or elsewhere during both the academic year and the summer. The SOURCE (http://www.case.edu/provost/source) (Support of Undergraduate Research and Creative Endeavors) Office provides assistance to students throughout the undergraduate educational experience, including:

- helping students identify research and creative project opportunities,
- providing funding for on-campus summer research,
- providing funding for travel for students presenting their work at regional and national conferences,
- providing educational research and informational seminars,
- sponsoring Intersections: SOURCE Symposium and Poster Session for students to present their work to our academic community, and
- advising Discussions: The Undergraduate Research Journal of CWRU.

For more information, email source@case.edu or phone 216.368.8508.

In many cases, students pursuing research under the guidance of a faculty member may earn degree credit by registering for “Undergraduate Research” or “Independent Study” in the appropriate department. These are advanced-level courses and require departmental approval. However, students may not earn both degree credit and pay for the same work. Students may discuss academic credit for research with their major advisor.

Work Experience
The Center for Civic Engagement and Learning
The Center for Civic Engagement and Learning (https://students.case.edu/civicengagement) (CCEL) works to create an engaged campus by providing and supporting opportunities for community service and collective action while promoting civic awareness and leadership. CCEL offers a variety of programs, services, and resources to accommodate different student interests and schedules. These include one-day Saturdays of Service, flexible weekly opportunities through CCEL Serves, week-long and weekend Alternative Break experiences, and the year-long Civic Engagement Scholars program. CCEL coordinates Cleveland excursions to explore and connect with our community and facilitates educational training about community issues, responsible engagement, voter education/registration, and active citizenship. CCEL also provides community service advising and assists faculty and students in designing and implementing service learning courses and community-based capstone projects. For more information, visit the Center for Civic Engagement and Learning, Tinkham Veale University Center, Suite 165.

Cooperative Education
Cooperative Education (Co-op) (http://engineering.case.edu/coop) is an academic program that enables students in majors offered by the Case School of Engineering to alternate classroom studies with career-based experiences in industry. It is a learning experience designed to integrate classroom theory with practical experience and professional development. Co-op is a paid full-time work experience designed to enhance the student’s education. Case Western Reserve co-op assignments are typically for two seven-month periods, each period consisting of a summer and a contiguous spring or fall semester. While participating in co-op, students maintain their full-time student status. This program is available to students pursuing majors in all fields of engineering, computer science (BA and BS), and data science. For additional information, contact the Division of Engineering Leadership and Professional Practice office, Nord Hall, Room 312, 216.368.5119.

Professional Practicum
Practicum (http://students.case.edu/careers/students/jobs/practicums) is an experiential learning collaboration among a student, an employer, and a faculty member serving as the student’s practicum advisor that is coordinated by the Career Center’s Experiential Learning Specialist. The program is open to undergraduate students enrolled in the College of Arts and Sciences and/or the Weatherhead School of Management. The primary goal of a practicum is the intellectual, personal, and professional growth of the student. In order to ensure that this goal is achieved, the collaborators establish learning objectives prior to the start of the practicum. These objectives are reviewed throughout the semester, and the student’s progress is evaluated at both the mid-point and end of the practicum.

While completing a practicum assignment, a student works full-time for a minimum of 14 weeks in a professional setting and does not take classes. The student will maintain full-time student status during the practicum period. Though credit is not awarded, students who successfully complete the practicum assignment will receive transcript notation. A student may participate in up to two practica, but it is recommended that at least one semester be spent on campus between these experiences. Students interested in participating in a practicum should contact the Career Center a semester prior to the intended practicum assignment.

Washington Study Program
The Washington Study Program (http://politicsandscience.case.edu/undergraduate/washington-center-program) provides students with the opportunity to complete a full-time, research-intensive internship in Washington, D.C. By participating in a semester-length program during the fall or spring (WASH 2A (http://bulletin.case.edu/collegeofartsandsciences/washingtonstudyprogram) Washington Center Internship), students earn 9 credit-hours; for a summer internship
(WASH 2D [http://bulletin.case.edu/collegeofartsandsciences/washingtonstudyprogram] Washington Center Summer Internship), they earn 3 credit-hours. In addition, students earn 3 credit-hours for participating in a seminar and attending a weekly lecture/discussion group (WASH 2B [http://bulletin.case.edu/collegeofartsandsciences/washingtonstudyprogram] Washington Center - Politics and Public Policy Course) and 3 credit-hours by developing a portfolio based on their internship experiences (WASH 2C [http://bulletin.case.edu/collegeofartsandsciences/washingtonstudyprogram] Washington Center - Portfolio). The credits earned can be counted as general electives or applied to a student’s major or minor with the prior consent of the individual department(s).

To be eligible for the program, a student is expected to be a junior or senior and have a GPA of at least 3.000. The program director (Professor Justin Buchler [justin.buchler@case.edu], 111 Mather House, 216.368.2646), the student’s major advisor, and the appropriate dean must approve each application. Students must ensure that their participation will not prevent them from meeting on-campus residency or other university requirements.