

Geography Semester Abroad at the University of Dundee, Scotland, UK

For more information and to apply: [Programs-Global Education Office \(vt.edu\)](#)

Take a virtual tour: [Virtual Tour | University of Dundee](#)

Dundee Study Abroad: [Study Abroad at the University of Dundee for visiting students | University of Dundee](#)

Study geography for a semester at University of Dundee, UK

An agreement between VT's Department of Geography and University of Dundee's [Department of Geography and Environmental Science](#) will allow you to spend a semester studying geography in the heart of Dundee, Scotland. Known as "One city, many discoveries", Dundee offers history, art and design, outdoor activities and culture. At the University of Dundee, you'll be able to study geospatial information science, physical and human geography, and even meet Pathways requirements. You may also have the opportunity to participate in local class field trips in Scotland, and conduct fieldwork in Iceland or Spain.

What are the benefits of a semester-long experience?

Semester-long education abroad programs offer a one-in-a lifetime opportunity to immerse yourself into a different culture. Most likely, you will return with new perspectives, learn more about yourself, and maybe even discover your dream career.

As a participant in this semester long program, you will have the opportunity to:

- Complete major requirements while studying abroad
- Take geography and environmental science electives that can apply toward your GEOG or MTRG major
- Learn new field skills in both human and physical geography
- Immersive yourself into Scottish culture and lifestyle
- Gain new perspectives
- Make lifelong friends
- Develop increased self-reliance and independence
- Acquire soft-skills valued by employers

Who is this program for?

This program is ideally suited for **junior-level** Geography or Meteorology majors, or GIS/geography minors.

To determine if this program may be right for you, start by visiting this site to learn more: [Study Abroad at the University of Dundee for visiting students | University of Dundee](#)

Let's Get Started!

Make an appointment to discuss this opportunity with your academic advisor:

Your academic advisor is an important partner in planning to study abroad. Talk with your advisor about your interests, goals, and plans for going abroad early in the planning stage. Students planning to spend a semester abroad should discuss their plans with their advisor prior to their departure - the sooner the better. Your advisor can help you coordinate your plans with your major requirements.

Make sure to ask your advisor if studying abroad changes your timeline to graduation, how the program can meet your Experiential Learning Requirement (GEOG and MTRG majors) and about the process for completing the Authorization to Take Courses Abroad form.

Dr. Lynn Resler (resler@vt.edu) in the VT Department of Geography is also a resource for you. Reach out to her if you would like to talk more about the program.

Use resources available through the Office of Glocal Education: The Virginia Tech [Global Education Office](#) (GEO) is the primary resource for students studying abroad. GEO offers services to support you through the entire study abroad process. The Global Education Office can help you determine if this program is right for you, prepare you for departure, help you while abroad, and facilitate your return home. GEO has developed several online resources that will help you as you initiate plans to study abroad.

The program website is available here: [Programs-Global Education Office \(vt.edu\)](#)

When can I study abroad at the University of Dundee?

At the University of Dundee, the standard academic year is divided into two teaching semesters, with 4- and 3-week vacations at Christmas and Easter respectively. You can choose to spend your semester abroad in either Semester 1 (VT Fall) or Semester 2 (VT Spring) semesters. Approximate time periods for semesters are as follows:

Semester 1: September – December
Semester 2: January – May

Specific dates by year of enrollment is available at this link:
<https://www.dundee.ac.uk/corporate-information/academic-dates>

How much does it cost, and how can I pay for a semester abroad?

Tuition for international students enrolling in the Geography program is approximately £ 9000 per semester. Room and board (described below) is additional.

A breakdown of estimated monthly living costs can be found here: [Living costs in Dundee | University of Dundee](#)

Geography Advanced Field Modules at Dundee (such as GE32025 Advanced Field Research-Physical Environments, and GE31021 Advanced Field Research-Human Geography) include field excursions to Iceland (Physical Environments) and Spain (Human Geography). Additional costs for these trips may apply (in 2023 these extra costs are estimated to be £325 for Spain, and £720 for Iceland). These field trips are also self-catered, meaning while on the excursion students will need to consider a food budget.

Financial Aid

- Consult with the [Office of University Scholarships and Financial Aid Office](#) **early in the planning phase** to make sure in advance whether your type of aid (i.e. 529 plan) is applicable to study abroad.
- The [VT Global Education Office Financial Matters](#) website is a must for information about financial aid, fees, and VT and Non-VT scholarships.

VT Scholarship Resources

- CNRE students have the opportunity to apply for the CNRE Dean's International Study Scholarship. Read more about this scholarship [here](#).
- VT Global Education Office offers [scholarships for VT students](#) hoping to study abroad. Note that you can (and should!) apply for these even before your study abroad plans are solidified.

University of Dundee Scholarships

A full list of scholarships available to undergraduate students studying Geography at University of Dundee can be found [here](#). Please note that some of these scholarships are available to students from the United States, and may offer up to £ 6000.

Where would I live while studying abroad at the University of Dundee?

Students have the option to live in on-campus, or off-campus housing while in Dundee. Once admitted, you will work directly with someone at Dundee to arrange your accommodations.

For off campus housing options, please talk to your admissions counselor at the University of Dundee.

On campus housing options include [Heathfield](#) and [Seabreas 1-32](#). Deadlines for applying for accommodations are:

Semester 1	August 25
Semester 2	September 30

You may still apply for on-campus housing after these deadlines, but is subject to availability. Dundee does guarantee accommodation as long as you apply by the deadline. Study abroad students get priority for these on-campus accommodations.

What courses can I take, and how will they count toward my major and Pathways requirements?

Dundee Course #	Dundee Course Name	VT Transfer Equivalent (3 credits)	Scottish Credit (SCQF)	VT Credit Eq	Approved Pathways Concept	Semester
EV31003	Environmental Remote Sensing	GEOG 4354 Intro. to Remote Sensing	20	5	5a	1
EV31004	Biogeography	GEOG 4044 Biogeography	20	5	4	1
EV41006	Environmental Sustainability in Practice	GEOG 4444 (NR 4444) Practicing Sustainability	30	7.5	3	1
GE31013	Geographies of Health and Disability	GEOG 4074 Medical Geography	30	7.5	3	1
GE31018	Water Hazards and Risk	GEOG 4134 Interdisc. Issues and Ethics in Water Resources	30	7.5	4	1
GE32014	Geographies of Power	GEOG 2054 Intro. to World Politics	30	7.5	2	1
GE32018	Cities - People, Places, and Conflict	GEOG 3244 The U.S. City	30	3.75	2	2
GE32012	Geographical Information Systems	GEOG 2084 Prin. of GIS	30	7.5	5f	2
GE31004	Hydrology and Water Resources	GEOG/WATR 2004 Water, Env't. and Soc.	30	7.5	4	2
GE31017	Geographies of Children and Youth	GEOG 3XXX	30	7.5	3	1
GE31019	Research Methods in Human Geography	GEOG 3XXX	15	3.75	1a	1
GE31020	Field and Laboratory Skills in Physical Geography	GEOG 4XXX	15	3.75	5a	1
GE32021	Data Analysis and Stats	FREC 3004 Env't. Informatice	15	3.75	5f	1
GE32019	Tourism, Transnationalism and Mobility	GEOG 3XXX	30	7.5	3	2
GE32020	Applying Theory to Research and Practice	GEOG 4XXX	15	3.75	none	2
GE32025	Advanced Field Research (Physical Environments) *	GEOG 4XXX	15	3.75	none	2
GE31021	Advanced Field Research (Human Geography) **	GEOG 4XXX	15	3.75	none	2
GE32026	Polar Environments	GEOG 3XXX	30	7.5	3	2

Please note that not all electives (30 Scottish Credits) are offered each year. Courses are referred to as “modules” in the Dundee system.

*Includes a week-long residential field trip to Iceland, combining lectures, and student led field research projects. Extra fees will apply for field course.

** Includes a week-long residential field trip to Spain, combining lectures, and student led field research projects. Extra fees will apply for field course.

For courses where there is a VT approved transfer equivalent, 3 credits will be awarded for the VT equivalent course, with remaining VT equivalent credit awarded as elective credit.

Recommendation/tips by students who have been there:

- Bring warm clothes and good walking shoes. Pretty much everything in Dundee is walkable.
- The bus system is inexpensive and convenient.
- A sunrise clock is very helpful -- in January, the sun is only up from around 9 am until 3 pm.
- The Scotrail train system is a great option. There's a 10% discount on tickets for people under 25 if they use the Smartcard (basically like the metro smartcard where you load your tickets onto it). Longer-distance travel by bus is also easy.
- On the whole, the cost of living and traveling in Scotland is cheaper than in the US.
- Join a club called Societies at UoD for fun activities.