OFF-CAMPUS STUDY PROGRAMS

Northwest University’s is affiliated with several organizations through which students can spend an extended time – usually a full semester – immersed in concentrated study away from campus. As a member of the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities (CCCU), students are able to participate in the Best Semester student programs. In addition, Northwest has established relationships with other organizations that afford life-changing learning experiences for our students.

Off-Campus Study Program Options

The Council for Christian Colleges and Universities (CCCU) The CCCU is an association of over 110 members in North America and over 70 affiliated institutions in 24 countries which offers many programs to students of its member institutions. The programs offer a unique opportunity for students to make the world their classroom, going beyond the confines of the traditional classroom. These off-campus, interdisciplinary learning opportunities are available to upper-class students. For further information, contact the Provost’s Office or the CCCU Student Programs website: www.bestsemester.com. Specific course descriptions for CCCU programs are listed in the Interdisciplinary Studies (IDIS) course description section of this Catalog.

Non-CCCU Study Programs Many students also participate in programs offered by organizations not affiliated with the CCCU. Several of them are listed below. Periodically students request to travel through other study abroad programs and desire to have the learning applied to their academic programs. Because the University must verify the level of quality for all student learning experiences, the approval of a new program requires many months and students must inform their academic department and the Provost well in advance of their intended travel semester if they desire the program to be covered by registration at Northwest, and thus included in any financial aid packages.

Africa: GoED Africa

Students spend 16 weeks in Uganda and Rwanda to study the root causes of conflict and the efforts for peacebuilding and reconciliation in the region. Study in both Uganda and Rwanda helps students gain perspective about the complexities of the issues, regional and international responses, and efforts towards building lasting peace. Opportunities to interact with local residents, including victims, enhance understanding of the impact of conflict and the challenges of reconciliation. Although Uganda has had relative political stability since 1986, civil dislocation and ethnic tension continue to present the country with considerable challenges to community reconciliation. Students also examine the 1994 Rwandan genocide, a tragedy that resulted in the killing of nearly one million Tutsi and moderate Hutus in a time span of 100 days.

In both Uganda and Rwanda, classroom discussions, readings, and lectures focus on contextual issues of development, culture and religion, issues of peacebuilding, and post-colonial literature. Excursions to carefully selected sites, field-based practicum placements in relief and development, and homestays with local families complement studies. Further information and application requirements may be found at the GoED website: www.go-ed.org

American Studies Program (CCCU)

Since 1976, the American Studies Program has served as an experiential learning laboratory for students committed to connecting their faith to public affairs. Nearly 500 of ASP’s 3,000+ alumni have returned to work in the DC metro area in a variety of professional fields–private and public, for-profit and non-profit. Each student enrolls in the program’s two practicum courses: Internship and Topics in Leadership & Vocation. Students have the option of enrolling in a one-credit Professional Mentorship course. In addition, students apply to either the Global Development Enterprise track or the Public Policy Initiatives track. The Global Development track focuses on partnership initiatives taken by leaders in commercial, governmental and non-governmental organizations as they explore the impact they can achieve by collaborating on issues of sustainable development worldwide. The Public Policy track equips and supports students in their analysis of a pressing public policy issue. Each student produces original research by engaging area experts and practitioners off-site and in the classroom as they investigate the local, national and global factors that influence policy-making in Washington, DC. ASP students earn 15-16 semester hours of credit.

Au Sable Institute

Northwest University is a Participating College in the Au Sable Institute, a Christian institute whose mission is to bring healing to the biosphere and the whole of Creation. It does this through academic programs for college and university students, research projects, environmental education for local school children, and information services for churches and the wider world community. Supported by the natural settings of the Great Lakes Forest of northern Michigan, Puget Sound of the Pacific Northwest, Tangier Island in the Chesapeake Bay, as well as in India and Africa, participants take courses, engage in scholarship, gain field experience, confer, and develop
practical tools for environmental stewardship in programs that take seriously both science and theology.

**Australia Studies Centre (CCCU)**

The Australia Studies Centre (ASC) is offered in partnership with Christian Heritage College (CHC), a CCCU affiliate member in Carindale, a suburb of Brisbane, Queensland. The ASC is designed to integrate the firsthand observation and study of Australian culture, history, religion, politics and Indigenous cultures together with experiential service learning and formal instruction in Christian Studies, Business, Ministries, Social Sciences and Education and Humanities. Every student is required to take “The View from Australia: Issues in Religion, Politics, Economic & Cultural Values” and required to select either “Australian Aboriginal Cultures” or “Indigenous Cultures in Australia & Aotearoa (New Zealand).” Additionally, students choose two discipline units chosen from Christian Heritage College’s offerings in Christian Studies, Business, Ministries, Social Sciences or Education and Humanities. Students live with Australian families and volunteer with local community service providers. Trips vary from semester to semester but may include excursions to the Australian Outback, Aboriginal Communities and New Zealand. ASC students earn 16 semester hours of credit.

**Belize: Creation Care Study Program**

Located along the Caribbean coast of Central America, Belize is home to a host of Caribbean and Central American cultures and ethnic groups. It is also home to inspiring ecological diversity, including neotropical rainforests, with their assortment of monkeys, jaguars, and toucan, as well the largest barrier reef in the western hemisphere. Within this context, students are able to examine sustainable development and tropical ecology through a Christian lens of creation care and stewardship by utilizing field studies in Belizean villages, tropical rainforests, mountain streams, and Caribbean atolls. Students also have the opportunity to take part in interest-specific internship and practicum experiences with Belizean organizations seeking regeneration and renewal of the land and communities. Throughout the semester, the schedule also allows for independent exploration of Belize (and neighboring countries), during breaks and free weekends.

**Cascadia: Creation Care Study Program**

Through this program students gain a deeper understanding of God’s loving purposes for the created order and for human society. Drawing on the remarkably rich Pacific Northwest location of Camano Island, Washington, the program helps empower students to develop new skills as social, environmental, and economic entrepreneurs who live and serve God responsibly in this time of rapid change. Students in this program learn about creation care, economic and environmental sustainability, and new possibilities for community for life after graduation. In addition, opportunities for fieldwork among regional Native American tribes provide cross-cultural experience without the expense of travel outside the United States. This rigorous academic semester comprised of studies in social entrepreneurship, environmental issues, and the theology of creation care is enhanced by and integrated with the program’s intentional community living experience.

**China Studies Program (CCCU)**

The China Studies Program enables students to engage China’s ancient history and intrigue from an insider’s perspective. While immersed in Chinese culture, students participate in seminar courses on the historical, cultural, religious, geographic and economic realities of this strategic, populous, and extremely influential nation. Students choose between completing a broad Chines Studies Concentration or a Business Concentration, which includes an internship at a Chines-owned and operated business in China. Students also study standard Chinese language with a goal of attaining the ability to handle everyday transactions in Mandarin. The program begins the semester in Hong Kong and introduces students to the diversity of China, including the capital city of Beijing, legendary Shanghai, ancient Xi’an and beautiful seaside Xiamen. This interdisciplinary, cross-cultural program enables students to communicate and understand the unique culture and people of China with an informed, Christ-centered perspective. CSP students earn 15-18 semester hours of credit.

**Contemporary Music Center (CCCU)**

The Contemporary Music Center provides students with the opportunity to live and work in the refining context of community while seeking to understand how God will have them integrate music, faith and business. The CMC offers three tracks: Artist, Business and Technical. The Artist Track is tailored to students considering careers as vocalists, musicians, songwriters, recording artists, performers and producers. The Business Track is designed for business, arts management, marketing, communications and related majors interested in possible careers as artist managers, agents, record company executives, music publishers, concert promoters and entertainment industry entrepreneurs. The Technical Track prepares students for careers in live sound, concert lighting and studio recording. Students within each of the tracks receive instruction, experience and a uniquely Christ-centered perspective on creativity and the marketplace, while working together to create and market a recording of original music. Each track includes coursework, labs, directed study and a practicum. CMC students earn 16 semester hours of credit.

**India Studies Program (CCCU)**

“Unity in Diversity” is the hallmark of the nation of India. The India Studies Program is structured to provide
students with both immersion in a local community and broad exposure to a variety of peoples, places and customs in India, including an extensive two-week travel portion of the program to provide students a close up look at India’s diversity. Students will participate in two core courses designed to provide a broad overview of the historical, religious, geographical and economic landscape of India. Building on their basic understanding of India’s past and contemporary realities students will have opportunities to explore a variety of issues—poverty, social justice, rapid social change, religious pluralism—through the eyes and experience of Indian Christians. Rounding out the semester experience, students will also have the opportunity to take courses in their major areas with Indian students and professors. At its heart, the India Studies Program strives to encourage and equip students to effectively relate to India and its people in an informed, constructive and Christ-centered manner. ISP students earn 16 semester hours of credit.

Jerusalem University College
Northwest University is affiliated with the Jerusalem University College (JUC) (formerly the Institute of Holy Land Studies) in Jerusalem. This institution offers specialized training in the fields of geography, archaeology, the history of the Holy Land, and Judeo-Christian studies. Credits earned at JUC are accepted at Northwest University, where applicable. Details may be secured from the Provost’s Office.

Latin American Studies Program (CCCU)
Based in San José, Costa Rica, the Latin American Studies Program introduces students to a wide range of experiences through the study of the language, literature, culture, politics, history, economics, ecology and religion of the region. Through living with local families, students become a part of the day-to-day lives of Latin American. Students also take part in a practicum/internship and travel to nearby Central American nations. Students participate in one of four concentrations: Latin American studies (offered both fall and spring terms); advanced language and literature (designed for Spanish majors and offered both fall and spring terms); international business (offered only in fall terms); and environmental science (offered only during spring terms). Depending on their concentration, students travel to nearby Central American nations. LASP students earn 16-18 semester hours of credit.

Los Angeles Film Studies Center (CCCU)
Founded in 1991, the Los Angeles Film Studies Center trains students to serve in various aspects of the film industry with professional skill and Christian integrity. Each semester, students live, learn and work in L.A. The curriculum consists of two required seminars: Hollywood Production Workshop, a film production course, and Faith & Artistic Development in Film, focusing on the role of film in culture and the relationship of faith to work in this very influential industry. In addition, students choose one elective course: screenwriting, acting, film production or independent study. Internships in various segments of the film industry provide students with hands-on experience. The combination of the internship and seminars allows students to explore the film industry within a Christian context and from a liberal arts perspective. LAFSC students earn 16 semester hours of credit.

Middle East Studies Program (CCCU)
Based in Jerusalem, Israel, this program offers students a unique opportunity to explore and interact with the complex and strategically important world of the modern Middle East. Students explore diverse religious, social, cultural and political traditions of Middle Eastern peoples through interdisciplinary seminars. They also study the Arabic language and volunteer with various organizations. Through travel in the region (recently Israel, Palestinian areas, Jordan, Tunisia and Turkey), students are exposed to the diversity and dynamism of the local culture. At a time of tensions and change in the Middle East, MESP encourages and equips students to relate to the Muslim, Eastern Christian and Jewish worlds in an informed, constructive and Christ-centered manner. MESP students earn 16 semester hours of credit.

New Zealand: Creation Care Study Program
From New Zealand’s snowcapped mountains to its topaz coastline, students explore a wonderland of unique ecosystems. Home to about twelve percent (12%) of all the earth’s endangered species and a world leading innovator in conservation and environmental management, New Zealand is an ideal place for studying care of creation. A rigorous academic semester comprised of ecology, theology, environmental literature, and sustainable community development is enhanced by a community living experience from the first day students move into CCSP’s Old Convent campus, to homestays with locals. The schedule also allows for independent travel during a week-long mid-semester break and during free weekends.

Oxford Summer Programme (CCCU)
The Oxford Summer Programme allows students, as affiliate members of Wycliffe Hall, University of Oxford, to do intensive scholarship in the oldest university in the English speaking world. During the five-week programme, students hone their research and writing skills and delve into the areas that interest them the most while exploring the relationship between Christianity and the development of the British Isles. Seminars and tutorials are given on specialized topics under expert Oxford academics in the areas of English language and literature, history, including the history of art and history of science, philosophy, and theology and the study of religion. The programme is structured for rising college sophomores, juniors, and seniors, graduate and seminary

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students, non-traditional students, teachers, and those enrolled in continuing education programs. **OSP students earn 6 semester hours of credit.**

**Scholar's Semester in Oxford (CCCU)**

The Scholar’s Semester in Oxford is designed for students who want to study intensively and to a high standard. Students develop their academic writing and research skills and explore the disciplines and interests of their choice. As Visiting Students of Oxford University and members of Wycliffe Hall, students study in the oldest university in the English speaking world. SSO students enroll in a primary and secondary tutorial, an integrative seminar and the British landscape course. Second term students write a thesis on a topic of their choice. Students group their work in a concentration so that all elements of their programme work together. SSO is designed for students interested in art history, classics, English language and literature, history, modern languages (French, German, Italian, Portuguese and Russian), musicology, philosophy, psychology and theology, though all majors may apply. SSO also offers 18 thematic or integrative concentrations such as history and philosophy of science and social sciences. Applicants are generally honors and other very high-achieving students and must have at minimum a 3.5 GPA to be considered for the programme. SSO students earn 17 semester hours of credit for a semester and may complete two semesters of the programme.

**Thailand: Bangkok**

The greater Bangkok region has some 15 million people and only around 40,000 Protestant Christians. This semester abroad opportunity allows students to participate in the ministry of a local Thai church as they reach out to the urban neighbors, including slum dwellers, while doing academic reflection in the heart of this Asian megacity among Buddhist and Muslim communities. This experience will help you to build filters for understanding your part in God's mission to increase the impact of your cross-cultural ministry in the future.

**Thailand: GoED. Mekong**

Students spend 16 weeks in the Greater Mekong Sub region in the highlands of northern Thailand to study the root causes of exclusion and exploitation of marginalized people groups. Study in the heart of continental Southeast Asia helps students gain perspective about the complexities of the issues, state and NGO responses, and efforts towards greater empowerment and justice in these communities. Opportunities to interact with local communities, particularly those of the hill tribes, enhance understanding of the relationship between exploitation and its root causes: poverty, discrimination, exclusion and violence. Historically, Chiang Mai was the hub of the La Na kingdom, a dynasty going back to the 1200s. The local peoples are very proud of their northern roots, and the region is home to distinctly different food, music, arts, way of life and even language. Chiang Mai can be thought of as a melting pot of hill tribes and their own unique cultures. Further information and application requirements may be found at the GoED website: [www.go-ed.org](http://www.go-ed.org)

**Uganda Studies Program (CCCU)**

The Uganda Studies Program provides students with both immersion in a local community and broad exposure to a variety of people and places in Uganda. USP is offered in partnership with Uganda Christian University (UCU) an international affiliate member of the CCU located 15 miles east of the capital city of Kampala. Students either live on campus at UCU or with host families within walking distance of the university. All students will also participate in one or two short homestay experiences. As a result, a spectrum of Ugandan relationships give USP students a firsthand perspective as they explore issues such as poverty, cultural expressions of Christianity and missions, and as they seek to reconcile the realities of East Africa with their Christian faith. Students also spend time in Rwanda and rural Uganda. The experience-based and practicum courses are taught by CCCU faculty while the African Context courses and courses from the UCU curriculum are taught by UCU faculty. In addition to the core experiential course, students will choose additional elective and/or African Context courses. USP offers a Social Work Emphasis for declared social work majors at the practicum level. **USP students earn up to 16 semester hours of credit.**

**Washington Journalism Center (CCCU)**

The Washington Journalism Center is a semester-long study program in Washington, D.C., created for students interested in the field of journalism. While in Washington students take classes focusing on their reporting and writing skills and on the history and future of the news media. These classes–Foundations for Media Involvement; Reporting in Washington; and Washington, News and Public Discourse–combined with an internship at a top news publication help students learn to integrate their faith in a journalism career. Students also participate in service learning opportunities as part of the WJC experience. **WJC students earn 16 semester hours of credit.**