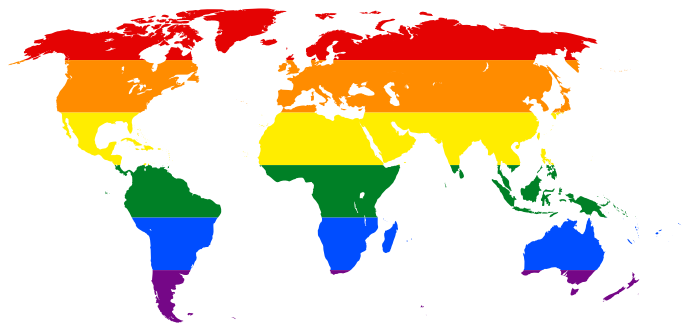


# Why Study Abroad?

Studying abroad offers the opportunity to experience a new culture, develop valuable skills, and gain a broader perspective on the world. For LGBTQ+ students, an international experience can also provide insight into how gender, sexuality, and identity are understood and expressed across different cultures.

Studying abroad may help LGBTQ+ students:

- Build confidence navigating new environments
- Gain new perspectives on their own experiences
- Connect with LGBTQ+ communities around the world
- Learn about global movements that support LGBTQ+ communities
- Develop greater cultural awareness and adaptability



## Quick Facts

- LGBTQ+ experiences vary widely across countries and cultures.
- Many study abroad destinations have active LGBTQ+ communities.
- Gender identity and sexual orientation may be understood differently around the world.
- Your Study Abroad Advisor can help you evaluate program fit and safety considerations.

# Things to Consider

When exploring study abroad programs, it is important to think beyond academics and location. Understanding local laws, cultural norms, and available resources can help you identify programs that align with your needs, preferences, and goals.

## Safety

Understanding local laws, customs, and attitudes can help you make informed decisions about your health, safety, and well-being while abroad.

- What are local attitudes toward LGBTQ+ individuals?
- What laws or legal protections should you know about?
- What healthcare resources are available, including LGBTQ+-affirming care if needed?

## Community & Support

The communities and resources available in your host city can play an important role in your experience abroad. Consider what types of support, connections, and living arrangements are important to you when evaluating programs.

- How open do you want to be about your identity abroad?
- What housing environment will best support you?
- What LGBTQ+ resources are available locally?

## Returning Home

Returning home can bring new perspectives and experiences. Take time to reflect on how your study abroad experience may shape your relationships, personal goals, and sense of identity. Consider what support systems and resources may be helpful as you transition back to life in the United States.

# LGBTQ+ & Gender Studies

Below is a list of UCEAP programs that have offered coursework relating to the LGBTQ+ community:

- [University of West Indies](#)
- [Humboldt University Berlin](#)
- [University of Otago](#)
- [University of Cape Town](#)
- [Lund University](#)
- [University of Sydney](#)
- [International Christian University](#)

Please be aware that even though a program in a certain country may offer courses focusing on gender or LGBTQ+ studies this does not necessarily reflect the attitudes of the local community or laws of the host country.

## Pride Events Around the World

LGBTQ+ communities exist around the world, though their visibility and traditions may differ across cultures. Attending local events can provide insight into how LGBTQ+ identities and communities are celebrated in different parts of the world.

[Barcelona, Spain](#)  
[Berlin, Germany](#)  
[Buenos Aires, Argentina](#)  
[Cape Town, South Africa](#)  
[Copenhagen, Denmark](#)  
[London, United Kingdom](#)  
[Rio de Janeiro, Brazil](#)  
[Seoul, South Korea](#)  
[Sydney, Australia](#)  
[Tokyo, Japan](#)  
[Vancouver, Canada](#)

Additional Pride events found at:  
<http://www.gaypridecalendar.com/>

# Bobcats Out in the World



*“Studying abroad at UNAM in Mexico City, Mexico had a major impact on my life. I was able to attend one of Latin America’s most prestigious universities with students from all over the world, visit numerous prehistoric landmarks and pueblo magicos, eat and drink the best Mexican cuisine, and enjoy the night life in Mexico’s capital. Mexico City also known as DF is a progressive city with an overall friendly LGBTQ+ vibe, there are plenty of bars and anthros in La Zona Rosa but my favorite were located in Centro Historico. Even though those spaces weren’t “LGBTQ+” spaces we were not discriminated because of our sexuality and/or gender identity. I met the most amazing people while studying abroad in Mexico and I now have transnational friendships with queers around the world that I frequently chat with. I highly recommend LGBTQ+ and allies to study abroad, it allows us to get out of our comfort and explore ourselves.*

-Jovita, UCEAP Mexico: 2014-15



If you identify as LGBTQ+ and would like to share your personal experience studying abroad, please email us at: [international@ucmerced.edu](mailto:international@ucmerced.edu).

# Come Visit Us

We can help:

- Discuss destination specific considerations
- Explore housing options
- Connect with campus resources
- Review health and safety concerns
- Identify programs that align with your goals

**Location:** Kolligian Library 101

**Phone:** (209) 228-4722

**Email:** [international@ucmerced.edu](mailto:international@ucmerced.edu)

**Website:** [studyabroad.ucmerced.edu](http://studyabroad.ucmerced.edu)

**Instagram:** [instagram.com/ucmstudyabroad](https://www.instagram.com/ucmstudyabroad)

Visit our website here:



Pride Center  
Kolligian Library 159

**Email:** [pridecenter@ucmerced.edu](mailto:pridecenter@ucmerced.edu)

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LGBTQ+ Initiatives Coordinator

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**Facebook:** [Lambda Alliance at UC Merced](https://www.facebook.com/LambdaAllianceatUCMerced)

Queer and Trans People of Color at UC Merced

**Email:** [ucmqtpoc@gmail.com](mailto:ucmqtpoc@gmail.com)

**Facebook:** [QTPOC](https://www.facebook.com/QTPOC)

# LGBTQ+ Study Abroad



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