



Study Abroad Broadens Students' Horizons and Unlocks Passions

The Department of Biochemistry hosts several of its own unique study abroad programs for undergraduate students. Our initiatives span many research opportunities across Europe and India, as well as learning about the intersections of agriculture, health, and nutrition in Uganda. The department works hard to ensure that cost is not prohibitive for students who want to explore science in our world. Experiencing another country and learning there broadens a young person's horizons.

Khorana Program (India)

Founded in 2007 and run by biochemistry professor Aseem Ansari, this program honors Har Gobind Khorana, the Indian-born scientist whose research at the University of Wisconsin–Madison led to the Nobel Prize and ushered in the era of biotechnology and synthetic biology. The program exchanges undergraduate and master's degree students between the two countries for a summer.

"I worked at the Centre for Infectious Disease Research in India on more efficient diagnostic techniques and general research about tuberculosis. I was able to gain skills like problem solving and communication in ways that set it apart from a normal U.S. internship. I wouldn't trade the experience for anything and I will continue to use and pass on what I've learned."

— Callie Mataczynski, 2017 participant



2016 Indian Khorana Students at Camp Randall, UW–Madison

S.N. Bose Scholars (India)

To nurture future innovators and thought leaders, the University of Wisconsin–Madison, the Government of India, and the Indo-U.S. Science and Technology Forum partnered to develop a dynamic and transformative student exchange program between premier scientific institutions in India and the United States. It is also run by biochemistry professor Aseem Ansari and focuses on the physical sciences.



UW–Madison students Hannah Lider, Daniel Howard, Tenzin Paljor in India.

SUPER G (Germany)

Biochemistry professor Marvin Wickens is passionate about offering students opportunities to perform research in laboratories abroad. Each summer, up to three undergraduates spend the summer performing research at the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) in Heidelberg, Germany.

"Going to Germany was another step in my own self-discovery. The people at EMBL are truly inspirational."

—Meng Lou, 2015 participant



Andy Delaitsch brings UW–Madison to the Jungfrau during a break from EMBL.



SCORE Program (England)

This summer program is also run by biochemistry professor Marvin Wickens, sending students to England. Each summer the SCORE Program sends six to eight undergraduates to work in top-notch laboratories at Oxford or Cambridge.

“To say that my two months in the SCORE Program have been a life-changing experience for me would be an understatement. It started out as a cool and impressive research experience to have on paper but proved to add something much more to my heart.”
—Ban Dodin, 2017 participant



From left: Hannah Mast, Alex Koo, Jaffna Mathiaparanam, Tim Krueger, Cai Cimperman and Matt Ritger on the Cambridge “backs” behind King’s College.

Agriculture, Health & Nutrition (Uganda)

A native of Uganda, biochemistry professor James Ntambi travels with students a few times a year for his many programs. In this one, students take a fall seminar on the broader issues that impact health and nutrition in Uganda. Then in late December, students travel to Uganda to visit various health care facilities specializing in nutrition rehabilitation, traditional medicine, and HIV/AIDS.

“Through the seminar this semester, I’ve learned many things about the country. The course was both hands on and reflective, where we thought back on our experience and related it to our futures in an integrated learning experience. I think that’s the benefit of being with someone like James.”
— Caroline Kreitzer, 2017 participant



UW-Madison students in Uganda with James Ntambi (red shirt).
(photo by Mitchell Arnold)

Mobile Clinics & Health Care (Uganda)

On this trip with Professor Ntambi, students get a comprehensive view of health impacts by learning about the influences of agriculture, nutrition, health care, and sanitation, as well as social factors that impact people’s ability to make decisions about their health. The students help Ugandan doctors and nurses run mobile clinics that bring health care to villages.

“I’m pre-med and plan to go to medical school so the focus on global health and the health care system in Uganda was very significant to me. In the medical field in the U.S. it’s very ‘treat, treat, treat’ and no prevention, but you realize that through the efforts of those working in Uganda that it can be an effective approach to health care. That is something I hope to continue. A department gift to help fund my trip made it all possible.”
—Trista Cushman, 2016 participant

