

 SIENA



J-TERM 2024

Study Abroad

Why 2 Term?

Francis of Assisi developed a deep respect for the inherent dignity of all as a result of his travels across borders and among peoples of diverse cultures, ethnicities, languages, and religions. Inspired by his example, we challenge students to consider for themselves the questions:

Where would Saint Francis be called to travel today?

What border would he seek to cross?

And, recognizing the interconnectedness of all humanity and creation, what bridges would he seek to build?

With this frame of mind, the Center for International Programs advocates for and promotes learning abroad as an integral component of the overall student experience. Through international partnerships, our programs meet the high academic standards of Siena College and place a strong emphasis on cultural and linguistic immersion through purposeful engagement with the host community.



Brussels, Belgium

THE LOCATION

As the political capital of Europe and home to the European Union, Brussels is one of the most international cities on the continent. In fact, around 27% of the city's residents are not Belgian citizens! Brussels has three official languages, so it is not uncommon to hear French, Dutch, or German spoken on the streets. This multi-cultural city is packed with cafes and some of the best shops for 'frites', waffles, and world-famous Belgian chocolates. The magnificent Grand Palace and iconic Manneken-Pis have become emblems of the city. Located only an hour and a half by train from both Paris and Amsterdam, Brussels truly serves as a European hub.

Operated by SIS Intercultural Study Abroad, the program matches students with a host family during the program, enabling them to fully immerse in the city. All meals will be provided.



THE COURSE

European Perspectives on Drug Policy and Human Rights (3 credits)

This course will outline the protections of fundamental rights in the European Union through organizations like the Council of Europe, whose mission is to promote democracy and human rights. Specific attention will be given to the European Union drugs policy, focusing on the steps countries have taken to address the security and health implications of drug trafficking and drug use. Students will meet with key stakeholders and NGO representatives as part of the course. Several classes will also focus on learning the basics of the French and Dutch languages.

DECEMBER 27, 2023 - JANUARY 13, 2024

Cuernavaca, Mexico

THE LOCATION

Located just south of Mexico City and known as the "City of Eternal Springtime" due to its consistently warm weather (even in January!), Cuernavaca has earned the reputation of being one of the most livable cities in Mexico. Flowers like begonias, marigolds, and poinsettias are in bloom year-round, and there are several pre-Colombian ruins and historical sites to explore. Cuernavaca is also known for its innovative grassroots organizations, alternative health practices, history of struggle for the rights of indigenous people, and environmental sustainability.

Students take coursework and live at the Center for Global Education and Experience. While in Cuernavaca, housing is in shared rooms with meals provided. Students will additionally spend two nights with a host family in Amatlán de Quetzalcoatl, a Nahuatl (Aztec)-speaking rural village, as well as the final nights of the program in a hotel in Mexico City.



THE COURSE

Environmental Justice and Social Change (3 credits)

This course explores the many sources of hope among Mexicans struggling for environmental and social justice. Like the U.S., Mexico faces severe environmental challenges that have unjust impacts on diverse populations related to race, ethnicity, socio-economic class, and gender. This program is highly interactive, incorporating visits to affected communities and engaging with environmental advocates. Agriculture, mining, water, and renewable energy are among the topics explored, with a focus on creative and sustainable solutions offered by indigenous and marginalized groups.

JANUARY 1 - 15, 2024

Prague, Czech Republic

THE LOCATION

Considered by many to be one of the most beautiful cities in Europe and nicknamed "the city of a hundred spires," Prague has a rich medieval history seen in the countless cobblestone streets, looming churches, and regal castles. The medley of architectural styles on display reflects the Czech capital's long history, such as the 9th-century Prague Castle, the Gothic St. Vitus Cathedral, or the striking Deconstructivist Dancing House.

Students live in apartments only three minutes from the campus of the University of New York in Prague, where classes are held. Students will share double rooms in the apartments and cook meals in a shared kitchen, though some meal vouchers will be provided.



THE COURSES

Students take one course during the program, from the options below:

Art and Architecture of Prague (3 credits)

This course provides an introduction to the art styles and their historical relevance in the center of Prague. Through walking tours to historical landmarks, students will recognize and be able to explain changes in art over the ages, and understand how these changes reflect and illuminate wider changes in society.

Czech Brewing Industry: Production, Economics, and Marketing (3 credits)

This course introduces all aspects of the brewing industry, with an emphasis on how it supports local and national economies, most notably through trade, tourism and hospitality. From agriculture to production, branding, promotion, consumption and export, this course will explore the latest trends in the business of brewing and its influence on society.

DECEMBER 27, 2023 - JANUARY 13, 2024

Siena, Italy

THE LOCATION

Located on the southern edge of Tuscany, the city of Siena is the perfect place to embrace Italian life to the fullest. Just a short trip from Florence and Rome, Siena isn't overrun by hoards of tourists - allowing students to be welcomed into the local culture. Climb the Torre del Mangia above Piazza del Campo for spectacular views, enjoy a mid-afternoon snack at a local gelateria, and gawk at the stunning artistry in the Duomo de Siena.

Organized through Siena Italian Studies, students live with a host family during the program, enabling them to engage in cross-cultural conversations about Italian and American lifestyles while practicing their Italian language skills. All meals will be provided.



THE COURSES

Students take one course during the program, from the options below:

Art History: Italian Costume and Fashion (3 credits)

This course is dedicated to exploring the history of costume in Italy over the centuries, with examples from major works of art from the classical Roman world to the Medieval and Renaissance eras, arriving to the Futurist oddities of the 20th century. Museum and gallery visits will be an integral part of the course.

Italian Cuisine: A Historical and Chemical Tour (3 credits)

This course is meant to trace the history of Italian cooking through the analysis of recipes, ingredients, and different ways of eating, over various centuries, up to the current "slow food movement." Attention will be given to the nutritional and metabolic characteristics of the Mediterranean diet. Field trips will include visit to museums, cathedrals, farms, and cooking schools.

DECEMBER 27, 2023 - JANUARY 13, 2024

Application Process

AUGUST 1ST

Applications open. The application consists of short-answer questions in which students detail their program choice, and why they wish to go abroad.

In addition, students must have met with a study abroad advisor in the Center for International Programs to be eligible for J-Term 2024. Students who have not met with an advisor can email international@siena.edu to schedule a meeting.

OCTOBER 1ST

Applications close. Applicants will receive a decision on their application within 2-3 days after this deadline. Decisions will be based on capacity limits for certain program locations and courses.

OCTOBER 10TH

Students must **confirm their participation** by this date. Once confirmed, students will be sent instructions to complete further paperwork for their program.



Fees

PROGRAM COSTS

Below are the program fees for each location, covering tuition, housing, and international insurance. Program costs also include cultural visits and meals, as detailed on each program page.

- Brussels, Belgium - \$2850
- Cuernavaca, Mexico - \$2625
- Prague, Czech Republic - \$2850
- Siena, Italy - \$2850

ADDITIONAL EXPENSES

In addition to the program cost above, students are responsible for roundtrip airfare and all personal expenses (such as souvenirs, independent travel, etc). Suggested flights will be provided to all program participants in mid-October.

BILLING & WITHDRAWAL POLICIES

Program costs will be processed by the Office of Business Services and charged to students' accounts. An initial deposit will be placed on accounts on November 2, 2023, with the remaining fees charged on December 1, 2023.

Accepted students will have until November 1, 2023 to withdraw from the program with no financial penalty. Withdrawals after this date may be subject to non-recoverable deposits and fees.

