As approved by Faculty Council, February 7, 2012:

Red Catalog Copy

From Page 75 of the 2011-2012 Catalog

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Brochures on all programs are available in the Global Education Office in Room 115, Student Life Center. GEO also maintains a website, www.vanderbilt.edu/geo. The study abroad programs are described in more detail in the chapter on Special Programs for Undergraduates in the front section of this catalog.

When choosing programs in a city for study abroad, College of Arts and Science students may only apply to the Vanderbilt-approved overseas program(s) in that city.
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Study Abroad Committee  
Joseph L. Rife (Classics), chair

Recommendation to CEP: Our committee recommends that, when students choose programs in a city for study abroad, they may only apply to the VU-approved overseas program(s) in that city.

Date of meeting: 28 September 2011

Committee members present: Konstantin V. Kustanovich, Joseph L. Rife, Martin Rapisarda (ex officio), Virginia M. Scott, Gerald Stubbs, George Sweeney (ex officio), Andrés Zamora.

Guests: Frâncille Bergquist, Tom Bogenschild, Jonathan Bremer, Karen Campbell.

Vote: 5 in favor (Stubbs by proxy)

Rationale:

This recommendation addresses an existing challenge in the placement of VU students in overseas programs. An increasing number of students request transfer credit for semester work taken outside VU-approved programs abroad. In certain locations, such as Florence and Barcelona, which are favorite destinations for students seeking an overseas experience, this trend means that some non-VU approved are hosting a disproportionately high number of VU students. This development has several negative consequences:

- VU cannot control the academic rigor of non-VU-approved programs and therefore ensure the quality of the educational experience offered to our students by such programs.
- VU-approved programs in which we make a considerable investment do not always enroll an optimal number of students.
- The perceived attractions of certain non-VU-approved programs can draw so many students as to create a “Vandy bubble” in one community, which can be detrimental to the students’ educational and cultural experience.
- In preferring certain non-VU-approved programs that have grown popular (e.g. in Florence, London or Barcelona), students are overlooking excellent programs in alternative but not dissimilar locations (e.g. in Siena and Madrid).
- For Barcelona, in AY 2009-10, two students were granted exceptions to attend non-VU-approved programs there; in AY 2010-11, seven students were granted exceptions to attend non-VU-approved programs; and, already this fall alone, nine students were granted exceptions there.
- London had five students in AY 2009-10 and five in AY 2010-11 granted exceptions to study in non-VU-approved programs. Only two students thus far this AY have applied for exceptions there.

A new policy based on our recommendation would ameliorate the situation by distributing students more broadly across a range of excellent programs in different cities overseas, thus reducing the clusters of students around certain programs (particularly the less rigorous ones) in single cities. It would also enhance enrollment in VU-approved programs.
In our discussion of this proposal, we noted that, even under the recommended policy, students would have numerous excellent options for study abroad; the policy, in other words, would not be adversely restrictive. One suggestion, in order to grant students the greatest flexibility in choosing a study abroad experience, was that students could attend any non-VU-approved program in a city where an approved program already exists after submitting a special petition giving an academic justification for the choice. We decided that such a loophole would open the door to numerous requests for special considerations and create too much administrative and reviewing burden. Again, we noted that students already have numerous excellent options for study abroad.

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**Additional Options**
Students interested in receiving transfer credit for Vanderbilt-approved study abroad programs through other universities should apply to the Committee on Individual Programs. They must meet the same academic standards required for participation in Vanderbilt’s study abroad programs. Information is available from the Office of the Dean.
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Dear Jonathan and Timothy,

Please see below the notes from today’s CEP meeting related to the Study Abroad Proposal.

The proposal was approved by a vote of 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstaining. Please see the proposal attached.

My best,

Leonard,

CEP Chair

Leonard Folgarait  
Professor of History of Art  
Vanderbilt University  
Box 0274 GPC  
230 Appleton Place  
Nashville, TN 37203

From: Muise, Michael R  
Sent: Friday, February 03, 2012 9:56 AM  
To: Folgarait, Leonard  
Subject: Study abroad notes from CEP meeting today

Dear Leonard,

Please find below the minutes regarding the Study Abroad proposal from the CEP meeting today. I will send the word copy of the full minutes with CEPL shortly.

Sincerely,

Michael

CEP Meeting
February 3rd 2012
Attendees:
Leonard Folgarait – Chair
Calvin Miller – Member
Prasad Polavarapu – Member
Nancy Reisman – Member
Karen Campbell – ex officio – Senior Associate Dean
Martin Rapisarda – ex officio – Associate Dean
Jonathan Bremer – ex officio – SACS
Michael Muise – Committee Secretary – Assistant Registrar
Summary:

* Study Abroad – Approved 5-0 with one abstention

Study Abroad

New proposal contains catalog copy and addresses previous questions.

New questions:
Is there an issue in the price difference between VU and non-VU programs?

Rapisarda – work is being done to minimize costs of all programs. The administrative costs in VU programs cover credit evaluation and other administrative processes that the student will have to do themselves in non-VU programs. More importantly, the issue with non-VU programs is one of quality. The credits may not be evaluated as transferrable.

Reisman – what about the multiple programs in Spain?

Rapisarda – the non-VU programs in Spain pull students from the VU faculty programs.

Campbell – and this rule only applies when a VU and non-VU program are in the same city.

Bremer – isn’t there a provost scholarship to help students in need?

Rapisarda – Yes, but for summer only. Students must show how the program is relevant to their studies and write an essay. About 190 apply, and about 30-35 get scholarships.

Folgarait – that rationale is satisfactory, but should be put in rationale (or in CEP memo to council)

Vote 4-0 in favor
Professor David Zald sent his email vote, making the tally 5-0 with one abstention.

Michael Muise
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