

STUDY

ABROAD

Seniors and Graduation



It is possible for students to study abroad in their final year at UNC—perhaps even in their final semester. However, there are certain things to keep in mind, including possible degree deferrals. Please review the information below.

SENIOR UNDERLOAD

Due to the time required to receive final, official transcripts and all necessary approvals for credit transfer, students who study abroad in the term **just prior** to their final semester should be aware that their credits may not be processed by the senior underload deadline. Students should consider how this may impact their plans for underloading and discuss concerns with an academic advisor.

STUDY ABROAD IN THE FINAL SEMESTER

Students studying abroad in their final semester may be eligible to earn a diploma in that semester if they need absolutely no credit (including elective hours towards graduation) from the program, or are enrolled in a UNC faculty-led program.

Students who study abroad in their final semester and need transfer credit from their program will need to defer graduation to a later term. Students studying abroad in the spring term may be eligible for an August graduation; however, a final, official transcript, credit request form, and all necessary approvals, as outlined in the credit transfer process, will be required to finalize credits. If the final, official transcript, credit request form, and/or required approvals are not received by the August graduation deadline in early August, students may need to defer graduation until the December graduation date.

Students studying abroad in their final semester who defer graduation to the term after they study abroad are not required to enroll in UNC courses in the term following their final semester abroad.

Please note: in order to finalize your study abroad credits, the Study Abroad Office needs a final, official transcript from your program, your credit request form, and any necessary approvals as outlined in the credit transfer process.

UNIVERSITY WIDE DEGREE REQUIREMENTS RELEVANT TO STUDY ABROAD:

- A minimum of 45 academic credit hours must be earned from UNC-Chapel Hill courses. These may include credits from UNC faculty-led study abroad programs.
- At least 24 of the last 30 academic credit hours applied to the degree requirements must be earned in UNC-Chapel Hill courses. UNC Study Abroad programs are excluded from this requirement.
- All students, including students transferring from another institution, must take at least half of their major course requirements (courses and credit hours) at UNC-Chapel Hill.
- At least nine hours of the minor must be completed at UNC-Chapel Hill and not at other academic institutions. Certain academic units may require that more than nine hours must be completed at the University.

Find out more about academic advising and graduation requirements [here](#).

If you have questions or concerns about study abroad in your senior year, please speak with your academic advisor as soon as possible. After meeting with an academic advisor, please reach out to your study abroad advisor to discuss possible program options and considerations.

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STUDY ABROAD OFFICE

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