

PROPOSAL FOR NEW STUDY ABROAD or EXCHANGE PROGRAM
New USAC programs adding as a part of new affiliation agreement

RATIONALE:

In January 2019, UW-Eau Claire became the 34th affiliate member campus of the University Studies Abroad Consortium (USAC). As a part of the affiliate agreement, the Center for International Education has agreed to open up more of USAC's program offerings to students at UW-Eau Claire.

After discussion with the Spanish faculty, we have identified two programs that we would like to add at this time:

Bilbao, Spain
Valencia, Spain

These programs will relieve some of the pressure on the spring Spanish Language and Culture program at the University of Valladolid, where we have been sending groups of 40-55. They also expand academic discipline options for students in Spanish-speaking countries: Bilbao offers business courses taught in English offer business courses, while Valencia offers STEM courses in English.

We currently use USAC for our Spanish programs in Heredia & San Ramon, Costa Rica and appreciate the very good support and structure in their programs.

ENROLLMENT LIMITS:

USAC has enrollment limits on both of these programs. While UWEC's expected application rate is unknown, due to our earlier deadlines, we have not had issues with any of the other USAC programs and don't foresee this to be an issue with the programs being added.

ACADEMIC LOGISTICS:

- **Can UW-Eau Claire accept credit from this program? What other UW System colleges/universities or U.S. universities are accepting credit from the host institution?** Yes, we currently accept USAC grade reports for Heredia & San Ramon, Costa Rica, Pau & Lyon, France, China, Thailand and Ghana.
- **How are grades reported?** Grades are reported on an official USAC Grade Report. Grade reports from summer will be received by UWEC in late August. Semester grade reports will be received about one month after the program ends.
- **What language is used on the above document? If not English, what resources are required for an English translation?** All grade reports will be in English.

- **What credit system is used and how does it translate into U.S. credits?** All students earn U.S. credit while on a USAC specialty program.
- **How is course level determined?** Course levels are the same as UW-Eau Claire: 100, 200, 300, and 400. Currently 100 & 200 level courses are considered lower division courses and 300 and 400 level courses are considered upper division
- **What grade scale is used and what is the conversion to UWEC grades?** Grades are reported using the standard A-F scale with plus and minus designations.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- GPA: 2.5 for either program
- Good academic, conduct and financial standing
- May apply as first year student, but must have sophomore standing by program start
- Students who wish to complete an academic internship must have a 3.0 GPA and junior standing by program start

CURRICULUM

Both sites offer Spanish language and culture from beginning to advanced levels, with the option for advanced semester students to audit a class (no credit) at the local university. Bilbao offers several business and cultural studies courses in English, while Valencia offers some math, chemistry and physics in English. Students in Valencia for the full academic year have the option of taking a regular university course.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Both homestays and apartments are available in both locations. Spanish majors and minors who wish to fulfill the Spanish immersion requirement must live in homestays. Homestays include three meals/day. Apartments have equipped kitchens. In Valencia, students walk (up to an hour), bus (up to 25-30 minutes) or bike (10-15 minutes) to the university. Bilbao students typically live in the small neighboring community of Getxo and take the metro to downtown Bilbao (20 minutes).

CALENDAR

Fall semester runs late August to mid-December in both locations; spring runs early January through mid-May. The first summer term in Bilbao currently conflicts with our spring semester; students could participate in the 2nd summer session, which runs for three weeks in June/July. The first summer term in Valencia does not begin until the end of May, so students could participate in either or both summer terms.

FOREIGN CULTURE REQUIREMENT:

If we have a student who is in the 2015 catalog year or earlier, we will work with them to determine if a study abroad program will fulfill their foreign culture or not. (Students earning a B.A., B.F.A., or B.M. degree in the College of Arts and Sciences cannot use

study abroad to fulfill their foreign language/foreign culture requirements. See the university catalog for details.).

LIBERAL EDUCATION CORE:

For students in catalog year 2016 and later, this program can fulfill an integrated learning (I1) requirement upon completion of the integrated learning assignments.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The first opportunity that UWEC student would have to participate in the program would be summer 2020 and fall 2020.