Georgia Institute of Technology
Barcelona Science Study Abroad Program
Fall Semester 2022

Frequently Asked Questions

1.   How can I apply to this program? Is there a deadline? Are there any restrictions? Applications are accepted via the Georgia Tech Office of International Education. February 1 is the program deadline. Students are encouraged to apply early since the program size is limited to 40 participants.   Students must have satisfactorily completed course prerequisite requirements (unless waived) by the end of summer semester. Students must also be in good academic and disciplinary standing. The program is open to ALL undergraduate majors. To apply see:www.oie.gatech.edu (Barcelona Fall Study Abroad Program; please do not confuse with summer Barcelona program offered by the College of Computing). Applicants to the program are typically notified within 2 weeks of submitting a completed application starting in early November.

2. What are the dates of the program? The program is tentatively scheduled for Monday, August 29- Wednesday, November 22, 2022 (~ 12 weeks). Students are expected to depart the US on Monday, August 29, 2022 arrive in Barcelona, Spain and check in to housing on Tuesday, August 30, 2022. Housing checkout and departure are Wednesday, November 23, 2022.

3.   Where is the program held? Participants will reside and complete GT coursework using facilities at Universitat Autonoma de Barcelona (UAB) located just 20 miles north of Barcelona, Spain. UAB has over sixty departments and offers over 80 bachelor's degree programs in wide range of fields of knowledge (departments in health sciences, biosciences, science, arts/humanities, social sciences/law, engineering, and technological services). UAB also offers 130 master's degree programs and 65 doctoral degree programs.   UAB has an enrollment of approximately 34,000 students. Having experienced positive rapid growth over the past 50 years, it is currently ranked number #2 among best global universities in Spain and #160 among all global university rankings by U.S. News and World Report.

4. What credits may I earn by participating in this program? This program allows participants to complete 12-14 credits in a 12-week program in the fall semester at the Universitat Autonoma de Barcelona (UAB) in Barcelona, Spain. Participants will place coursework in context by interacting with local science students and faculty and visits to scientific and cultural venues. . **Students are not permitted to drop any courses.**

5. What courses are slated to be offered in the fall of 2022?
Please review the listing on www.barcelonafall.gatech.edu . The detailed program and class schedule will be posted on the Barcelona Fall canvas site in March.

5.   What are the program costs? Are scholarships available? An estimate of program costs can be found at: http://oie.gatech.edu/study-abroad-programs. Program fees cover housing, site visits, cultural activities, instructional costs, CISI insurance (for the program dates) and some lunches/dinners. ***This fee does not include airfare to Spain (approximately $1300-1800), local transportation, books, tuition, Institute fees, passport/visa fees, and most meals.***   Students should consult with the GT Office of Financial Aid (or www.finaid.gatech.edu) regarding financial assistance and using HOPE or Zell (if applicable).   Scholarships are available for study abroad, see: http://oie.gatech.edu/oie-administered-scholarships .

After you have made your deposit with the application ($500), remaining program payments are made through to Bursar's Office via your oscar account. Additional deadlines for the remaining program fee (in 1/3 installments): May 15, June 15, and July 15. Please check with the program director if you are need additional time to pay the program deposit. The application deposit may be fully refunded if the applicant is declined for the program; the program is full; or if the applicant wishes to withdraw his/her application by April 1, 2022. **All other program fee payments/deposits are non-refundable.**

6. What cultural and scientific excursions planned for the program?

a. Course-related Activities: Planned scientific excursions include the following venues in Barcelona: the Cosmo Caixa Science museum, the Alba synchrotron, local science companies near campus (i.e. Parc de Recerca companies), and research centers on the UAB campus (e.g. Institute for Biotechnology and Biomedicine, Institute for Neuroscience, Institute for High Energy Physics, Environmental Institute).

b. Cross cultural experiences will include the following activities:
(i) GT students will share their housing assignments with local UAB undergraduates in the Vila Universitaria residence suites. These suites are similar to the GT Undergraduate Living Center apartment style rooms.
(ii) GT students will participate in a brown-bag lunch seminars series with UAB science and engineering faculty and students.
(iii) GT students will visit Parc Gruell to gain an appreciation of Antoni Gaudi's artistic influences on Barcelona and dine at a local Catalan restaurant
(iv) Students will share a few meals with UAB students and faculty.
(v) Students will attend an FCB soccer match, visit Montserrat, the Dali Museum in Figueres, and the home of Catalan culture, the city of Girona.
(vi) Students will travel to Madrid for a weekend to visit a local scientific and visit cultural sites
The program director and UAB faculty/students will be accompanying the students on these visits.

7. What language preparation will I need? Excluding SPAN classes, all courses will be taught in English. Prior to arrival at Barcelona, participants will receive resources to learn basic Spanish vocabulary/communication in order to conduct daily functions (greetings, order food, ask for help, etc). **Students are encouraged to these materials prior to departure.**

8. What housing will be used while in residence at UAB? Participants will reside in the Vila Universitaria complex on the UAB campus (http://www.uab.cat/web/vila-universitaria-home-1241074134636.html).Vila Universitària is the residential complex which has 812 apartments with a total accommodation capacity for 2193 persons (including housing options for visiting faculty). Rooms will be shared with local UAB students and 2-3 program participants (see link above for three or four person rooms).

The apartments at Vila Universitària enjoy a beautiful landscape. The apartments are located between the campus and the Vallès forest and have beautiful views, good train and bus connections and are only 25 minutes from the center of Barcelona. Vila offers student support center, newsstand, book and stationery store, driving school, supermarket, cash dispenser, dry cleaners, and two bar-cafeterias. Vila also offers the following complementary services: maintenance of the facilities, selective waste collection, gardening services, mail pick-up and delivery, swimming pool with lifeguard service, permanent security service, health care unit, grass football field, beach volleyball field, etc.

The address is: Vila Universitària, Campus de la Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, 08193 - Bellaterra (Cerdanyola del Vallès).   Contact information is Tel. +34 93 581 70 04 (telephone), + 34 93 580 91 86 (fax), vila@vilauniversitaria.com (email). Customer service is from 8 am to 8 pm, from Monday to Friday. For emergencies (weekend), one may contact the security staff (at reception front-desk or calling +34 93 581 73 13.

Coin-operated washing (laundry) facilities are present at the residence. Students will have a shared kitchen in the room. Common kitchen appliances will be located in each room.

9. How do I make flight plans? Students are required to purchase their own roundtrip ticket. Websites such as www.bing.com, www.kayak.com, www.expedia.com, www.travelocity.com, www.skyscanner.com or others can provide comparisons on different ticket prices. Students are encouraged to monitor fares prices to find the best deal (usually on Tuesdays or Wednesdays at least 1 month prior to departure).   Be sure to signup for the airline's frequent flyer program. . Students may look for program travel partners via the group contact list or group Facebook page (to be distributed in February).

10. What are the exchange rates? How do I get cash? Can I use my credit card or bank card? For exchange rates, please see http://www.x-rates.com/

You should notify your credit card company of your location so that it does not get "locked" when first used outside the US. ATM credit cards and bank debit cards may be used in many locations in Spain. Thus, it is recommended that you have cash (Euros) or a bankcard ATM so that you can withdraw any Euros if needed. Be sure to check your bank or credit card's fee policy prior to using internationally.

11. When am I in class? Are the weekends open? Classes are expected to be held Mondays-Thursdays (program schedule to be posted in May). Fridays may be used for program excursions or study days. Weekends (i.e. Saturdays and Sundays) are expected to be open. Students do often travel in small groups to neighboring countries/cities for the weekends.

12. Will I need a laptop? Will I have access to the internet? Will I need an electrical adapter? Yes, you should bring a laptop with wireless capability. You will have access to the internet while at UAB. The majority of coursework material will be posted on the web (via canvas LMS system).

Most of modern electronics use dual voltage/dual frequency adapters. There is a big possibility that your gadgets might work on European grid. If you take small plastic adapter (on your power supply cable) where S/N is located, there should say something like: 100-240V, 50-60Hz then you're set. If it's just 110V and 60Hz then you really need power adapter. In case it is dual, then you only need adapter plug. Be sure to get a few (~2) outlet adapters before leaving the US (it is cheaper here…check Amazon, Walmart, Target, etc). European outlet adapters have two metal prongs.

13. What about cellphones, phone cards, skype? Check with your local phone carrier. Calling internationally can be expensive, however, texting can be reasonable. In regards to a SIM card, check the internet for possible vendors prior to leaving for Europe, you may be able to get a cheap card if you have an unlocked phone. Otherwise, you can get an international SIM card with you arrive in Europe (assuming you have an unlocked phone). I encourage you to use skype or similar web-based program to communicate with family and friends.

14. I am a US citizen. How do obtain a passport? You may apply for a passport at http://travel.state.gov/passport/ . Students are highly encouraged to apply at least 3 months prior to departure.

15. Is a visa required to participate in this program? Am I restricted to Spain or can I travel to other countries? US citizens are only required to have a valid passport since the program is less than 90 days and Spain does not require a visa. Your passport must be less than 10 years old and valid for at least 90 days after your date of departure from the Schengen territory.. *** Note: The program is 86 days (arriving in BCN on Tuesday, August 30, 2022-departing on Wednesday, November 23, 2022). U.S. citizens can stay**

==ONLY 90 days within a 180-day period in a Schengen country without a visa. Thus, US citizens expected to exceed 90 days in <u>any</u> 180 day period are required to have a visa.== **Note:** For information on short stay Spanish visas (3-6months), please see: https://www.spainvisa.eu/visa-types/student-visa-spain/ .

==**Before you travel abroad: Please make sure that you have at least 6 months beyond the return date on your passport. Otherwise, the airline may not book your return ticket or you may encounter problems with immigration control.**==

US citizens are allowed to travel to other countries in the Schengen area (25 other EU countries).

Non-residents and US permanent resident (green card holders) should check to see if they are required to obtain a visa. If a visa is required, the student should visit the Spanish consulate within 3 months prior to departure (but not less than 3 weeks prior to departure). In case you do need a visa, it must have at least two blank `visas` pages available. To apply for visa, please see: : https://www.spainvisa.eu/visa-types/student-visa-spain/. In case you do need a visa, it must have at least two blank `visas` pages available. Non-residents should also consult with a GT International Education Advisor prior to departure. Travel for non-residents should carefully review the number of allowed entries on the short-term visa (if applicable).If nonresidents and green-card holders wish to travel to the UK, a UK-approved visa from that country is also likely required.

16. Is insurance required? All students in the program must have health insurance prior to departure. Via your program fee deposits, GT Office of International Education will purchase insurance on your behalf with provider, CISI, that corresponds to the program departure and return dates.

If you wish to purchase insurance coverage outside the dates of the program, information will be provided at the mandatory student orientation meetings. It is highly encouraged that you have insurance coverage for any additional dates outside the program.

17. Will there be predeparture meetings with participants and faculty prior to the start of the program?
Yes, there will be a meeting in February and April to discuss preparing for the program and answer questions. This meeting will be for accepted program participants and faculty only.

18. Could the program be canceled as a result of the COVID pandemic? Georgia Tech continues to monitor the covid-19 pandemic and its impact on study abroad programs. The program is slated to be offered for the fall of 2022.

19. Who may I contact if I have additional questions? The Program Director is Dr. Cameron Tyson, cam.tyson(at)cos.gatech.edu.