

Narrative Studies Major (NARS) and Study Abroad

Narrative Studies is perfect for study abroad. You can choose unusual courses from many countries, programs, and languages (see <http://dornsife.usc.edu/narrative-overseas>). But before you leave you want to know which courses will count for your major, and we will need to see why an unusual course is appropriate to NARS. Before you talk with your NARS adviser you need to do your homework.

First, look at the course categories for the NARS major, available at <http://dornsife.usc.edu/engl/narrative-studies-major/> and determine which requirements you would like to fulfill while abroad. Conversely, you can look at the overseas courses and see which NARS requirements they might fulfill.

Second, see which course currently listed in the NARS requirements most closely matches the course you want to study overseas. You will need the course identifiers (such as COLT-101) and the title (such as “Masterpieces and Masterminds: Literature and Thought of the West”), both for the USC course and for the matching overseas course. In most cases the titles alone will NOT tell us enough, so you will need to provide a catalogue description for both courses.

Third, if the connection between the NARS course and the overseas course is not obvious, you may need to provide an explanation of why the overseas course is appropriate as a substitute for the NARS course, or for the NARS category you want to fulfill. Discuss your pairings with your NARS adviser during this process of discovery. We will make every reasonable academic effort to see things in a manner most favorable to you.

Fourth, bring all this information to your NARS adviser. If we are all in agreement, SAVE the signed agreement of substitution. This is your guarantee that NARS will give you credit when you return. Get your paperwork in early, since we may have to consult with other USC academic departments, with the deans, or with the Registrar.

Fifth, things can change while you are abroad. Courses can be canceled, programs can change, and everything you had planned with NARS may change. Contact your NARS adviser immediately with the new information in steps 1-4 above. We will stand by our reply when you return to USC, so save that email! Be sure to save all your syllabi and academic papers from overseas in the event we need to review them. If you study courses overseas that we have not approved in advance, you definitely will need your syllabi and submitted work.

NARS is an unusual major. We believe deeply in the value of study abroad, just as we believe in the broad study of narrative across the university, and we will do whatever makes good academic sense to help you along the way.

For further information see <http://dornsife.usc.edu/overseas-studies>.