EXPLORING

Central Europe

BUDAPEST, BRATISLAVA, VIENNA, PRAGUE, WROCLAW, BERLIN, KRAKOW, WARSAW

Syracuse Abroad
History, memory, and identity across borders

**BELONG** to a learning community based in Wroclaw, Poland, in the heart of Central Europe.

**TRAVEL** to Prague, Budapest, Berlin, Krakow, Bratislava, Vienna, and Warsaw.

**INVESTIGATE** sites tied to WWII, the Holocaust, and Soviet totalitarian rule.

**EXPLORE** the big questions of the 21st century—how people from different national and ethnic identities, with different languages, cultures, and traditions, are able to live together after wars and other kinds of violence and trauma.

**LEARN** about the complexity of issues related to history and social justice in comparative ways.

You’ll join a close cohort of students, learn from dynamic faculty, and design your own individual research project. You’ll also write for Urban Labs (urbanlabsce.eu), a publicly accessible website that gives you a voice in the deliberations about Europe’s past, present, and future. And many students choose to pursue exciting internships in the areas of civic engagement, human rights, culture, politics, and the environment.
“As I immersed myself in my studies and traveled throughout Central Europe, I began to fall in love with the study of political science and international relations. I learned to question everything and to think critically about any and all information presented to me. I am forever grateful to this program for opening my eyes to the world and the opportunities available to me.”

Katelyn Olsen
Biology and political science major, Syracuse University
Traveling learning community

**Negotiating Identities Across Europe’s Borders**

PSC 433, ANT/GEO/HST/IRP/WRT/CRS 300.1 (3 credits)

This award-winning* course begins with two weeks of intensive travel, then continues to offer opportunities to interact with different cultures and places on Europe's frontiers. In cities and in remote villages, you will encounter the dilemmas of European identities that have been built on the memories and current challenges of changing historical and sociopolitical conditions. You’ll also complete hands-on ethnographic assignments that culminate in an action research project (see Urban Labs, below) as well as final research papers. During the course, you’ll explore and compare:

- **Wroclaw, Poland**
- **Krakow, Poland**
- **Prague, Czech Republic**
- **Vienna, Austria**
- **Budapest, Hungary**
- **Bratislava, Slovakia**
- **Berlin, Germany**
- **Warsaw, Poland**

**Urban Labs**

While traveling and studying in Europe, you will be an action researcher contributing to a publicly accessible website called Urban Labs. Using the cities and sites you visit as laboratories, you will creatively reflect on your travels, interviews, site visits, observations, and exchanges, and then share your experiences, photographs, and research with the world. As an Urban Labs contributor, you will collaborate with others and inspire action too. This way, you will have a voice in deliberations about Europe’s history and also its future. Visit [www.urbanlabsce.eu](http://www.urbanlabsce.eu) to read the contributions of recent students:

- The Hidden Truth Inside East Berlin
- Message From Wroclaw: Solidarity With Mizzou
- The Creation of a National Identity Through Militarization
- My Big Fat Gypsy Wedding or My Big Fat False Portrayal

**PROGRAM QUESTIONS**

- How does a region with a complex, divided, and violence-ridden past come to terms with its past while also moving forward?
- How can political and legal frameworks be set not only to launch, but also to ensure lasting reconciliation efforts?
- What role can students and teachers play in local processes to help to build a more just future?
- How has membership in the European Union promoted reconciliation in Central Europe?
- How do internal migrations and the refugee crisis pose challenges for future integration?

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*Award for Excellence in Education Abroad Curriculum Design, Forum on Education Abroad, 2016*
Living in Wroclaw

GOOD TO KNOW

Wroclaw is pronounced VRAHTS-wahv.

At times in its long history, Wroclaw has been a part of the kingdoms of Poland, Bohemia, Hungary, the Austrian Empire, Prussia, and Germany.

Living in Poland is inexpensive! Food and goods are much cheaper than in the U.S.

A local produce market is located close to your housing, which allows you to purchase healthy, fresh food without spending much money.

Wroclaw, Poland, will be your base in Central Europe. With 640,000 people, Wroclaw is the fourth-largest city in Poland, located very close to the borders of Germany and the Czech Republic. You will live in a beautifully renovated building in the historic center of the city, which has excellent access to the city’s public transportation network. Wroclaw is famous for its dynamic cultural life (concerts, operas, music clubs, galleries, museums, theaters, and alternative art scenes), for which it earned recognition as the European Cultural Capital of 2016. You will live in a historic neighborhood filled with cafes, galleries, and small restaurants, where you can immerse yourself in city life.

There are a variety of sports facilities in proximity to the student residence, including health clubs, gyms, and swimming pools. Wroclaw has an inexpensive and efficient system of public bicycle rentals, which you can use to get around the city or to enjoy free time in one of Wroclaw’s many public parks.
Choosing your curriculum

**Required courses**

Negotiating Identities Across Europe’s Borders  
PSC 433, ANT/GEO/HST/IRP/WRT/CRS 300.1 (3 credits)

East Central Europe in the 20th Century  
PSC 481/HST 300.2 (3 credits)

All students are also required to enroll in a third course, which can be either:

Exploring Culture and Society in Transition: Gender, Sexuality, Class, and Race in Poland  
ANT/QSX/WGS 300.2 (3 credits)

or

 Discord and Unity: Engaging the Contemporary World through Ethics and Philosophy  
PHI/PSC 300.3 (3 credits)

You may enroll in both courses if you wish.

**Electives**

Economic Development in Western and Eastern Transition Countries in Europe  
ECN 300 (3 credits)

Personality, Identity, and Self-Preservation  
PSY 380 (3 credits)

Civil Society East and West  
PSC/SOC 380 (3 credits)

**Language study**

Polish  
POL 101 (4 credits) optional

Survival Polish  
POL 180 (1 credit) optional

**Other courses**

You may be able to take courses related to psychology, history, political science, sociology, and anthropology, among others, at Polish universities. If you wish to take an additional course, you will need to have it approved prior to your arrival in Wroclaw.

**Independent research**

Highly individualized independent study projects are available for students to fulfill a major or minor degree requirement. Typically worth 3 credits, past examples include:

- A comparative study of mental health services in Poland and the United States
- A comparison and assessment of environmental policies in Germany and Great Britain
- The history of women’s resistance during the Holocaust

**Internships**

While abroad, you may wish to undertake an internship for professional development as well as to remain engaged in causes and issues of importance to you. Syracuse Abroad staff will assist you in finding the right internship or volunteer site.

**Representative Internships**

- NOMADA  
  A prominent human rights NGO working with Roma
- The Ferdinand Lassalle Centre for Social Thought  
  A progressive think tank
- The Polski Theatre Wroclaw
- Szalom Alejchem  
  The Jewish elementary school in Wroclaw
- ATUT Bilingual Primary and Secondary School
- The International Institute for the Study of Culture and Education at the University of Lower Silesia
- European Commission in Wroclaw
- House of Peace  
  NGO focused on urban revitalization and community projects
- Museum of Architecture in Wroclaw

*For credit or not for credit*
Feeling safe and supported

In Central Europe
Program director Hana Cervinkova is a professor of cultural anthropology and the founding director of the International Institute for the Study of Culture and Education, a center for practice and scholarship at the University of Lower Silesia in Wroclaw. A long-time Syracuse University partner, Dr. Cervinkova co-teaches Negotiating Identities Across Europe’s Borders with Poland-based U.S. journalist Dr. Juliet Golden, a specialist in Central European history and international education.

You will meet and work with other experts during field trips and guest lectures as well as in independent study, internship, and volunteer settings.

In Syracuse
Syracuse Abroad is committed to providing a safe, caring, and enriching experience abroad. Bridget Demorest, assistant director for student services, works diligently and compassionately to provide you and your parents with the resources you may need to thrive abroad—from health and wellness preparation to adjustment questions, and from academic accommodations to safety or cultural concerns.

Apply online suabroad.syr.edu