

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA - 2008/2009 UNDERGRADUATE CATALOG

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

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International Affairs provides leadership, advocacy, development, and support for all central and college-based international activities. International Affairs works in collaboration with the colleges and regional campuses to promote international education, research, outreach, and service programs. International Affairs is comprised of International Admissions, International Student and Scholar Services, Study Abroad and the Institute for the Study of Latin America and the Caribbean. International Affairs leads the development of academic program offerings (area studies) and services, international exchanges, partnerships with business, industry, and government both in the U.S. and overseas, the development of the international activities, and the development of enhancement of faculty, student, and staff training and development.

Institute for the Study of Latin America and the Caribbean (ISLAC)

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The mission of ISLAC is to promote the study of Latin America and the Caribbean, to further USF's strategic plan for internationalization. ISLAC is an academic unit devoted to interdisciplinary research and teaching focused on economic, social, political and cultural formations in Latin America and the Caribbean and among the Hispanic/Latino populations in North America, framing these issues in the broader context of human security in the Americas. ISLAC has 72 affiliate faculty members who are drawn from a number of social science, humanities, arts, and human service fields, including, but not limited to, History, Languages and Literature, Humanities, Anthropology, Political Science, Sociology, Economics, Business, Geography, Public Administration, Fine Arts, Public Health, Education and Mental Health.

With the College of Arts and Sciences, ISLAC offers a Certificate in Latin America and Caribbean Studies, open to undergraduate students enrolled in any USF major and a Graduate Certificate in LACS, as well as USF students and non-degree seeking students who have already obtained a BA. ISLAC also offers a Graduate Certificate in Cuban Studies and a Masters of Arts (M.A.) in Latin America and Caribbean Studies. All ISLAC academic programs are interdisciplinary, flexible and applied.

The Institute fosters greater knowledge of Latin America and the Caribbean, and Latino issues, through partnerships with community organizations and USF departments to sponsor lectures and cultural events that are open to the public throughout the year. ISLAC faculty and staff are engaged with USF administration to strengthen community ties and to advance the internationalization of USF programs, research, curricula, faculty and students.

Office of International Services

Location/Phone: CPR 469, (813) 974-5102

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The University of South Florida welcomes qualified students from all over the world to our campus community. The resulting international educational exchange leads to the enrichment of our common life, the intellectual development of our students, the research endeavors of the University, and mutual understanding between the peoples of the world represented at USF. The ensuing exchange of life stories exposes all USF students,

faculty, and staff to the likenesses and differences that exist between cultures, worldviews, experiences, and ideas.

International Services is the main administrative and advising office for over 1,400 international students and 150 visiting faculty members and researchers at USF. International Services has many administrative duties, including the issuance and maintenance of all visa documentation for foreign nationals at the University. International Services staff persons are experienced in cross-cultural counseling and crisis management in a cross-cultural setting. Services offered by International Services include advising related to immigration matters, adjustment to life in the United States, culture shock, and other personal and academic issues. International Services also offers programming such as employment workshops, international student orientations, town meetings and culture shock presentations. International Services staff advises a number of international organizations on campus including the InterCultural Organization and the American Mentors Program. These organizations help foster cultural awareness on campus and assist international students in adjusting to a new culture. For more information about International Services, please call (813) 974-5102.

Education Abroad Office

Location/Phone: CPR 468, (813) 974-4314

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Web Site: <http://global.usf.edu/studyabroad/>

USF offers students the world as their classroom through its programs abroad. Whether a student chooses a short-term summer program, a semester or year at a university overseas, an internship or service learning, there is a program for nearly every student need. Studying abroad provides a unique learning environment, which extends and enhances courses taken on the home campus. Students can study abroad at any time in their academic careers, and have a wide range of study options.

USF overseas programs are designed to appeal to a wide audience. Students in most disciplines can find a program of study to complement their undergraduate degrees. Courses provide USF credit and thus students can be assured that if they plan carefully, they will continue to make steady progress towards graduation while they are abroad. Students seeking to round out their resumes with experiences abroad, which include internships and service learning, will find options for them also. Several programs of overseas study lead to dual degrees, certificates, or double majors.

Many programs include organized cultural excursions, visits to important sites, and opportunities to interact with local people. All include unparalleled opportunities for cultural immersion and in-depth insight into the host country.

USF study abroad programs range in length from one week (over spring break) to a year. A large number of faculty-led summer programs of 2-6 weeks provide the opportunity to concentrate study abroad in a summer session and help students fulfill the 9-hour summer graduation requirement. All programs are developed as cost-effectively as possible, recognizing the financial concerns of today's students. Federal and state financial aid can be applied to USF programs abroad, and some additional scholarship assistance is available through the Education Abroad Office.

For additional information or for individual program brochures, please visit the Education Abroad Office, or access the