At Vassar, a global learning experience is considered an integral academic component of the undergraduate degree in many disciplines – particularly as it will comprise anywhere from one eighth to one fourth of a student's total coursework. As a result, plans for education abroad should be considered early. An exciting variety of education abroad programs are available to you as a Vassar student; it is important to research your opportunities and plan ahead to ensure that you meet the Vassar requirements for the program that is the best fit for you. Coursework completed while studying abroad should be well integrated into your overarching learning goals and path to graduation.

Students have the opportunity to study abroad during their junior year, and in some cases the fall of your senior year. Interested students must submit an application for permission to the Committee on Leaves and Privileges at the end of the fall semester of their sophomore year. In this application, you need to demonstrate that your plans promote sustained intellectual interests that you have pursued prior to this leave and will continue to pursue after your return to campus. Thus, students who begin academic planning for their education abroad experience as early as the freshman year will be at an advantage when the time to apply arrives.

**Language Preparation**
While study abroad normally occurs during the junior year, preparation should begin as early as first semester freshman year. If Vassar offers coursework in the relevant foreign language, consistent study of that language will be required for permission to be granted. In general, the Committee on Leaves and Privileges expects that students going to countries where Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Russian or Spanish is spoken will have completed at least four semesters of college-level language study, through the intermediate level or beyond, (a minimum of two 200 level courses) prior to study abroad. Students who wish to study abroad should begin taking language courses as early as the first semester of the freshman year. Moreover, the Committee expects that all students demonstrate sustained interest in foreign language acquisition when applying for study abroad. Thus, it is strongly suggested that students capable of taking upper level language courses during the freshman year pursue appropriate language coursework every semester prior to study abroad. This will more adequately ensure that you are prepared to study in a foreign language.
Students who wish to study in Brazil, Israel, Korea, Portugal, Sweden, or in some cases India are expected to complete at least the first year of the necessary language, though additional language preparation will strengthen the application for study abroad. Hindi, Korean, Portuguese, Irish, Swahili, Swedish and Turkish are offered through the Self-Instructional Language Program (SILP). Arabic is taught under the auspices of the Africana Studies Department and Hebrew is under the auspices of the Religion Department.

**Area Studies Coursework**
Students must demonstrate to the faculty and the Committee on Leaves and Privileges that their overall academic program is better served by education abroad than by continued study on campus and, furthermore, that they have acquired sufficient area studies coursework to support their academic proposals. The Committee expects that students will have completed at least one or, depending upon the student's purpose, even several courses directly relevant to the academic program and its geographic location, preferably at the intermediate level. In addition, students are required to complete their Quantitative requirement before going abroad.

**Finances**
Financial aid, both federal loans and Vassar scholarship, can be applied to study abroad, though some restrictions apply. National and program specific scholarships are also available to eligible students. More details on this topic are found on our website at http://internationalprograms.vassar.edu/financing/financial aid.html.
When studying abroad, students pay Vassar tuition and receive Vassar credit. Vassar considers charges for expenses that are required as part of the academic program (i.e. cultural events or excursions that the program considers necessary to the academic component) as part of tuition. Program tuition is billed to Vassar, not to the student. Students are responsible for room and board fees and any other unique program charges.

**Further Information**
For additional information, please contact the Office of International Programs:

Website and appointment scheduling: https://internationalprograms.vassar.edu/
Email: internationalprograms@vassar.edu

We look forward to supporting your integration of meaningful global learning experiences into your studies at Vassar.