Study Abroad

*Often I feel I go to some distant region of the world to be reminded of who I really am. There is no mystery about why this should be so. Stripped of your ordinary surroundings, your friends, your daily routines, your refrigerator full of food, your closet full of clothes—with all of this taken away, you are forced into direct experience. Such direct experience inevitably makes you aware of who it is that is having the experience. It is not always comfortable, but it is always invigorating.*—Michael Crichton, *Travels*

Naropa University values active engagement in a global context. We want our graduates to understand the differences and interdependencies that characterize our world. Study abroad is a powerful tool to expand students’ worldviews and awaken education. Most students who go abroad report meaningful shifts in connection to self and others, as well as a heightened sense of commitment to improving global inequities.

At Naropa University, there are a few paths toward studying abroad. You may choose the Study Abroad in Bhutan program, *Where There Be Dragons* Naropa-sponsored programs, or you can choose one of Naropa’s affiliated programs (LEAP or the School for International Training). In special circumstances, a student may choose unaffiliated programs, but limitations to financial aid and transferability of credit may apply.


Study Abroad in Bhutan Program

All students participating in Naropa’s Bhutan study abroad program will take BSA325, BSA335, and BSA350, taught by Naropa’s in-country faculty member and a faculty member from the Royal University of Bhutan. These courses will begin during the 3-week in-country orientation. Students will work independently on these courses after moving to the RUB campus of their choice. For Naropa students, all three courses are considered "in–residence."

In addition to the three courses taught by Naropa’s in-country faculty member, students will choose two elective courses from the RUB campus at which they are residing. Note that students can choose from any RUB course offered during their time abroad, with instructor approval. For Naropa students, these will be considered non-resident courses. Course offerings change each year. A sampling of courses that have been offered in the past can be found here: [https://www.naropa.edu/academics/bachelors/study-abroad/bhutan/bhutan-course-descriptions.php](https://www.naropa.edu/academics/bachelors/study-abroad/bhutan/bhutan-course-descriptions.php)

Course Listings

**ANTH325**

Independent Study Project: Methods and Application (4.0)

This course is focused on providing students with a basic understanding of ethnographic research methods and skills, while also giving students the opportunity to develop specialized knowledge in a topic of study. During the first half of the course, a series of thematic seminars focus on research methodologies, the importance of ethics in research, best practices in working in cross-cultural partnerships in the host country, and skills training related to designing a study proposal. Students develop an understanding of how to refine research question(s), determine appropriate research and learning methods, and address ethical issues related to their projects. During the second half of this course, students use the plan outlined in their approved study proposal to carry out an individualized and in-depth study on a subject of their choice using primary sources. With the support of an academic advisor and/or a local mentor, students select a topic which relates to the program’s scope, design an approach to study this subject, and conduct an individual project. The chosen topic of independent study may involve either an academic inquiry or the learning of a traditional skill through an apprenticeship.

**ASIA310**

Regional Seminar: China in Transition (4.0)

This course provides students with a background in modern Chinese history, setting the stage for a grounded understanding of the myriad social issues that China faces today. Students begin their study in this course through an overview of the country’s cultural, social, and political background. Using lectures, readings, and discussion, this course then surveys modern social issues and vulnerable populations in China such as education, public health, environment, civil society, economic development, gender, ethnic minorities, human rights, and popular culture. Opportunities are also provided for students to engage local experts in discussion through guest lecturers and field trips. Throughout the course, students analyze historical and current systems in modern China and develop a nuanced understanding of the multiple perspectives found throughout the country. In addition, program travels in China take students to communities which are engaged in addressing these issues, providing experiential opportunities for learning and growth. For Asian Studies students only.

**ASIA320**

Regional Seminar: Culture and Traditions in Modern India (4.0)

This course provides students with an in-depth introduction to the cultures and traditions in contemporary India. Students begin their study in this course through an overview of the country’s cultural, social, and political background. Using lectures, readings, and discussion, this course then surveys social issues and vulnerable populations in India such as the role of women, economic issues of the caste system, environment, public health, education, and spiritual traditions for Hindus, Muslims, and Buddhists. Opportunities are also provided for students to engage local experts in discussion through guest lecturers and field trips. This course helps students deepen their understanding of the traditions, religious practices, history, and contemporary lifestyles of the people who call the cities and villages of modern-day India home. In addition, program travels in India take students to communities which are engaged in addressing these issues, providing experiential opportunities for learning and growth. For Asian Studies students only.
ASIA330
Regional Seminar: Diversity in the Himalayas (4.0)
This course explores the myriad ethnicities and religious traditions that constitute Nepal and the surrounding region, which is one of the most ethnically diverse regions of the world. Students begin their study in this course through an overview of the country’s cultural, social, and political background. Using lectures, readings, and discussion this course surveys social issues and vulnerable populations in Nepal such as development issues, environment, public health, education, human rights, caste, and the status of women. Students also receive an extensive introduction to Hinduism and to Mahayana Buddhism, in particular to the Tibetan tradition. Opportunities are also provided for students to engage local experts in discussion through guest lecturers and field trips. In addition, program travels in Nepal take students to communities which are engaged in addressing these issues, providing experiential opportunities for learning and growth. For Asian Studies students only.

BSA325
Traditional Culture and Contemporary Issues of Bhutan (3.0)
This course is designed to introduce students to historical and contemporary Bhutanese culture, including geography, history, politics, ethnography, religions, and cultural values, both ancient and modern. This course seeks to locate students’ understanding within the Bhutanese view of their world through the lens of Gross National Happiness. Students will feel competent and prepared in regard to essential aspects of daily life in Bhutan.

BSA335
Contemplative Intercultural Studies (3.0)
This course is an introduction to contemplative practice, exploring the interface between meditation practice and cross-cultural experience, and how they can creatively inform each other. We explore and train in a variety of contemplative practices, including methods drawn from Bhutan’s rich spiritual tradition. In the context of cross-cultural experience, we explore ways in which fixed beliefs and schemas create suffering and confusion in our lives. Students are challenged to go beyond habitual responses and generalizations and cultivate deeper levels of compassion and global understanding.

BSA350
Guided Independent Research: Bhutan (3.0)
This course invites students to explore and research a topic about Bhutan’s people, environment, culture, and current issues. Students will carry out their independent study project during their semester at the Royal University of Bhutan (RUB), under the guidance of the NU faculty and the designated RUB faculty mentor at their respective campuses. Following the guidelines specified in the syllabus, students select a topic, have it approved, and carry it to completion in the form of a final paper and formal presentation. Topics may be related to the student’s area of focus or academic discipline in their BA studies.

CHIN150
Mandarin I (4.0)
This course introduces students to standard Mandarin Chinese language and is designed for students with no or minimal previous background in spoken or written Mandarin. Students in this course focus on learning essential vocabulary, practicing pronunciation, and understanding simple grammatical structures. This knowledge prepares students to effectively communicate in Mandarin on a limited range of topics related to everyday situations. Students practice listening and speaking in real-life situations, learn to read and write Chinese characters, and examine how culture and language interact in China. In-class activities and course assignments aim to assist students as they develop the oral proficiency and confidence necessary to initiate simple conversations. Out-of-classroom experiences such as field trips and guided interactions with native speakers supplement formal classroom instruction and provide ample opportunities for practical engagement. In addition, language skills gained in this course support students to deepen participation in other program and academic activities such as homestays and the Independent Study Project.

CHIN250
Mandarin II (4.0)
This course introduces students to more challenging standard Mandarin Chinese language material in order to establish a solid foundation for the use of the language. Students in this course focus on building on past language exposure to improve speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. Students expand their oral expression abilities by increasing vocabulary, improving understanding of grammar concepts, strengthening pronunciation abilities, focusing on listening comprehension, and building on previously studied Chinese characters. This course introduces new language concepts to allow students to speak about topics pertaining to their daily lives and also focuses on deepening knowledge of Chinese culture and customs. By the end of the semester, students are expected to be able to engage in basic daily conversations, read simple texts, and write for daily needs. In-class activities and course assignments aim to assist students as they develop the ability to appropriately use language and improve proficiency. Out-of-classroom experiences such as field trips and guided interactions with native speakers supplement formal classroom instruction and provide ample opportunities for practical engagement. In addition, language skills gained in this course support students to deepen participation in other program and academic activities such as homestays and the Independent Study Project.

CHIN350
Mandarin III (4.0)
This course is designed to develop advanced skills in standard Mandarin Chinese language and is intended for students with extensive prior exposure to the language. This course focuses on consolidating linguistic knowledge and development of speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. Students in this course will develop advanced comprehension of and competence in using
spoken Mandarin in a wide variety of experiences. Grammatical functions will be reviewed and incorporated as they relate to particular communication needs. A mix of communicative and interactive methods are used to develop advanced proficiency and materials are drawn from a variety of media sources and texts. In addition, students develop their understanding of the relationship between the Chinese language and culture. By the end of the semester, students are expected to be able to express sophisticated and nuanced ideas both orally and in writing. Out-of-classroom experiences such as field trips and guided interactions with native speakers supplement formal classroom instruction and provide ample opportunities for practical engagement. In addition, language skills gained in this course support students to deepen participation in other program and academic activities such as homestays and the Independent Study Project.

**COMM301**
*Intercultural Communication (4.0)*
This course is designed to provide study abroad students with an in-depth understanding of essential intercultural communication theories, as well as the key skills needed to apply theories in interactions with host country nationals. Throughout the course, students learn relevant concepts and terminology in order to develop skills to interpret and analyze their intercultural interactions. The first half of the course focuses on positivistic and interpretive frameworks of intercultural communication as well as self-reflexivity. The second half of the course focuses on critical intercultural communication scholarship and applications, challenging the student to question default thinking patterns and recognize nuances of human interaction. Course assignments, reflection, structured activities, and direct experience emphasize the development of further intercultural competence among students. Foundational courses in communication theory are recommended, but not required.

**GLOS211**
*Intercultural Development and Global Citizenship (4.0)*
Drawing from culturally diverse models of leadership and epistemology, this course examines topics such as intercultural and interpersonal communication skills, various leadership styles, and the roles and responsibilities of global citizenship. Through a variety of instructional methods and assignments, students explore the factors which influence human relationships to self, communities, and the natural world.

**GLOS310**
*Regional Seminar: China in Transition (4.0)*
This course provides students with a background in modern Chinese history, setting the stage for a grounded understanding of the myriad social issues that China faces today. Students begin their study in this course through an overview of the country’s cultural, social, and political background. Using lectures, readings, and discussion, this course then surveys modern social issues and vulnerable populations in China such as education, public health, environment, civil society, economic development, gender, ethnic minorities, human rights, and popular culture. Opportunities are also provided for students to engage local experts in discussion through guest lecturers and field trips. Throughout the course, students analyze historical and current systems in modern China and develop a nuanced understanding of the multiple perspectives found throughout the country. In addition, program travels in China take students to communities which are engaged in addressing these issues, providing experiential opportunities for learning and growth. For Global Studies students.

**GLOS320**
*Regional Seminar: Culture and Traditions in Modern India (4.0)*
This course provides students with an in-depth introduction to the cultures and traditions in contemporary India. Students begin their study in this course through an overview of the country’s cultural, social, and political background. Using lectures, readings, and discussion, this course then surveys social issues and vulnerable populations in India such as the role of women, economic issues of the caste system, environment, public health, education, and spiritual traditions for Hindus, Muslims, and Buddhists. Opportunities are also provided for students to engage local experts in discussion through guest lecturers and field trips. This course helps students deepen their understanding of the traditions, religious practices, history, and contemporary lifestyles of the people who call the cities and villages of modern-day India home. In addition, program travels in India take students to communities that are engaged in addressing these issues, providing experiential opportunities for learning and growth. For Global Studies students only.

**GLOS330**
*Regional Seminar: Diversity in the Himalayas (4.0)*
This course explores the myriad ethnicities and religious traditions that constitute Nepal and the surrounding region, which is one of the most ethnically diverse regions of the world. Students begin their study in this course through an overview of the country’s cultural, social, and political background. Using lectures, readings, and discussion, this course surveys social issues and vulnerable populations in Nepal such as development issues, environment, public health, education, human rights, caste, and the status of women. Students also receive an extensive introduction to Hinduism and to Mahayana Buddhism, in particular to the Tibetan tradition. Opportunities are also provided for students to engage local experts in discussion through guest lecturers and field trips. In addition, program travels in Nepal take students to communities that are engaged in addressing these issues, providing experiential opportunities for learning and growth. For Global Studies students only.

**GLOS340**
*Regional Seminar: Tradition, Change, and Cultural Resilience (4.0)*
This course is designed to facilitate the development of an in-depth understanding of the cultures of the Andes and Amazon and their relationship to the land. Students begin their study in this course through an overview of the country’s cultural, social, and political background, including South America’s colonial history.
and the role the region played in the Spanish empire and then the liberation of the region from Spanish rule. Using lectures, readings, and discussion, this course surveys social issues and vulnerable populations in Bolivia and Peru, such as racial and social conflicts, sustainable development, human rights, globalization, and the impact of colonialism on indigenous cultures. This course also examines political, racial, and social conflicts that Bolivia and Peru have experienced. Opportunities are also provided for students to engage local experts in discussion through guest lecturers and field trips. In addition, program travels in South America take students to communities that are engaged in addressing these issues, providing experiential opportunities for learning and growth. For Global Studies students only.

HIND150
Introduction to Hindi (4.0)
This course introduces students to the Hindi language and is designed for students with no or minimal previous background in spoken or written Hindi. Students in this course focus on learning essential vocabulary, practicing pronunciation, and understanding simple grammatical structures. This knowledge prepares students to effectively communicate in Hindi on a limited range of topics related to everyday situations. Students practice listening and speaking in real-life situations, learn to read and write Hindi script (Devanagari script), and examine how culture and language interact in India. In-class activities and course assignments aim to assist students as they develop the oral proficiency and confidence necessary to initiate simple conversations. Out-of-classroom experiences such as field trips and guided interactions with native speakers supplement formal classroom instruction and provide ample opportunities for practical engagement. In addition, language skills gained in this course support students to deepen participation in other program and academic activities such as homestays and the Independent Study Project.

HIND250
Hindi II (4.0)
This course introduces students to more challenging linguistic Hindi language material in order to establish a solid foundation for the use of the language. Students in this course focus on building on past language exposure to improve speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. Students expand their oral expression abilities by increasing vocabulary, improving understanding of grammar concepts, strengthening pronunciation abilities, focusing on listening comprehension, and building on previously studied Hindi script (Devanagari script). This course introduces new language concepts to allow students to speak about topics pertaining to their daily lives and also focuses on deepening knowledge of Indian culture and customs. By the end of the semester, students are expected to be able to engage in basic daily conversations, read simple texts, and write for daily needs. In-class activities and course assignments aim to assist students as they develop the ability to appropriately use language and improve proficiency. Out-of-classroom experiences such as field trips and guided interactions with native speakers supplement formal classroom instruction and provide ample opportunities for practical engagement. In addition, language skills gained in this course support students to deepen participation in other program and academic activities such as homestays and the Independent Study Project.

HIND350
Hindi III (4.0)
This course is designed to develop advanced skills in the Hindi language and is intended for students with extensive prior exposure to the language. This course focuses on consolidating linguistic knowledge and development of speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. Students in this course will develop advanced comprehension of and competence in using spoken Hindi in a wide variety of experiences. Grammatical functions will be reviewed and incorporated as they relate to particular communication needs. A mix of communicative and interactive methods are used to develop advanced proficiency and materials are drawn from a variety of media sources and texts. In addition, students develop their understanding of the relationship between the Hindi language and culture. By the end of the semester, students are expected to be able to express sophisticated and nuanced ideas both orally and in writing. Out-of-classroom experiences such as field trips and guided interactions with native speakers supplement formal classroom instruction and provide ample opportunities for practical engagement. In addition, language skills gained in this course support students to deepen participation in other program and academic activities such as homestays and the Independent Study Project.

ISP325
Independent Study Project: Methods and Application (4.0)
This course is focused on providing students with a basic understanding of ethnographic research methods and skills, while also giving students the opportunity to develop specialized knowledge in a topic of study. During the first half of the course, a series of thematic seminars focus on research methodologies, the importance of ethics in research, best practices in working in cross-cultural partnerships in the host country, and skills training related to designing a study proposal. Students develop an understanding of how to refine research question(s), determine appropriate research and learning methods, and address ethical issues related to their projects. During the second half of this course, students use the plan outlined in their approved study proposal to carry out an individualized and in-depth study on a subject of their choice using primary sources. With the support of an academic advisor and/or a local mentor, students select a topic which relates to the program’s scope, design an approach to study this subject, and conduct an individual project. The chosen topic of independent study may involve either an academic inquiry or the learning of a traditional skill through an apprenticeship.

LAS340
Regional Seminar: Tradition, Change, and Cultural Resilience (4.0)
This course is designed to facilitate the development of an in-depth understanding of the cultures of the Andes and Amazon and their relationship to the land. Students begin their study in this
course through an overview of the country’s cultural, social, and political background, including South America’s colonial history and the role the region played in the Spanish empire and then the liberation of the region from Spanish rule. Using lectures, readings, and discussion, this course surveys social issues and vulnerable populations in Bolivia and Peru such as racial and social conflicts, sustainable development, human rights, globalization, and the impact of colonialism on indigenous cultures. This course also examines political racial, and social conflicts that Bolivia and Peru have experienced. Opportunities are also provided for students to engage local experts in discussion through guest lecturers and field trips. In addition, program travels in South America take students to communities which are engaged in addressing these issues, providing experiential opportunities for learning and growth. For Latin American Studies students only.

**NPL150**
**Introduction to Nepali Language (4.0)**
This course introduces students to the Nepali language and is designed for students with no or minimal previous background in spoken or written Nepali. Students in this course focus on learning essential vocabulary, practicing pronunciation, and understanding simple grammatical structures. This knowledge prepares students to effectively communicate in Nepali on a limited range of topics related to everyday situations. Students practice listening and speaking in real-life situations, learn to read and write Nepali script (Devanagari script), and examine how culture and language interact in Nepal. In-class activities and course assignments aim to assist students as they develop the oral proficiency and confidence necessary to initiate simple conversations. Out-of-classroom experiences such as a field trips and guided interactions with native speakers supplement formal classroom instruction and provide ample opportunities for practical engagement. In addition, language skills gained in this course support students to deepen participation in other program and academic activities such as homestays and the Independent Study Project.

**NPL250**
**Nepali II (4.0)**
This course introduces students to more challenging linguistic Nepali language material in order to establish a solid foundation for the use of the language. Students in this course focus on building on past language exposure to improve speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. Students expand their oral expression abilities by increasing vocabulary, improving understanding of grammar concepts, strengthening pronunciation abilities, focusing on listening comprehension, and building on previously studied Nepali script (Devanagari script). This course introduces new language concepts to allow students to speak about topics pertaining to their daily lives and also focuses on deepening knowledge of Nepali culture and customs. By the end of the semester, students are expected to be able to engage in basic daily conversations, read simple texts, and write for daily needs. In-class activities and course assignments aim to assist students as they develop the ability to appropriately use language and improve proficiency. Out-of-classroom experiences such as field trips and guided interactions with native speakers supplement formal classroom instruction and provide ample opportunities for practical engagement. In addition, language skills gained in this course support students to deepen participation in other program and academic activities such as homestays and the Independent Study Project.

**SPAN150**
**Spanish I (4.0)**
This course introduces students to the Spanish language and is designed for students with no or minimal previous background in spoken or written Spanish. Students in this course focus on learning essential vocabulary, practicing pronunciation, and understanding simple grammatical structures. This knowledge prepares students to effectively communicate in Spanish on a limited range of topics related to everyday situations. Students practice listening and speaking in real-life situations and examine how culture and language interact in South America. In-class activities and course assignments aim to assist students as they develop the oral proficiency and confidence necessary to initiate simple conversations. Out-of-classroom experiences such as field trips and guided interactions with native speakers supplement formal classroom instruction and provide ample opportunities for practical engagement. In addition, language skills gained in this course support students to deepen participation in other program and academic activities such as homestays and the Independent Study Project.

**SPAN250**
**Spanish II (4.0)**
This course introduces students to more challenging linguistic Spanish language material in order to establish a solid foundation for the use of the language. Students in this course focus on building
on past language exposure to improve speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. Students expand their oral expression abilities by increasing vocabulary, improving understanding of grammar concepts, strengthening pronunciation abilities, and focusing on listening comprehension. This course introduces new language concepts to allow students to speak about topics pertaining to their daily lives and also focuses on deepening knowledge of South American culture and customs. By the end of the semester, students are expected to be able to engage in basic daily conversations, read simple texts, and write for daily needs. In-class activities and course assignments aim to assist students as they develop the ability to appropriately use language and improve proficiency. Out-of-classroom experiences such as field trips and guided interactions with native speakers supplement formal classroom instruction and provide ample opportunities for practical engagement. In addition, language skills gained in this course support students to deepen participation in other program and academic activities such as homestays and the Independent Study Project.

SPAN350
Spanish III (4.0)
This course is designed to develop advanced skills in the Spanish language and is intended for students with extensive prior exposure to the language. This course focuses on consolidating linguistic knowledge and development of speaking, listening, reading, and writing skills. Students in this course will develop advanced comprehension of and competence in using spoken Spanish in a wide-variety of experiences. Grammatical functions will be reviewed and incorporated as they relate to particular communication needs. A mix of communicative and interactive methods are used to develop advanced proficiency and materials are drawn from a variety of media sources and texts. In addition, students develop their understanding of the relationship between the Spanish language and culture. By the end of the semester, students are expected to be able to express sophisticated and nuanced ideas both orally and in writing. Out-of-classroom experiences such as field trips and guided interactions with native speakers supplement formal classroom instruction and provide ample opportunities for practical engagement. In addition, language skills gained in this course support students to deepen participation in other program and academic activities such as homestays and the Independent Study Project.