

Policy for Allowing Non-St. Olaf abroad programs – May 2023

The Registrar's office approves transfer credit from non-St. Olaf abroad programs only after the student request has been reviewed by the Smith Center for Global Engagement staff and found to NOT conflict with any St. Olaf programs.

There are reasons for going on an official St. Olaf program that has Smith Center for Global Engagement. Here are some examples of support provided:

- Quality assurance of each program
- Access to St. Olaf financial aid & scholarships
- Pre-departure Orientation
- Application and visa processing assistance
- Health/medical advice
- Trouble-shooting during the program, such as assistance with safety and security issues, academic issues, etc.
- Registration as a full-time St. Olaf student
- Credit earned can be counted for OLE Core requirements
- Transcript processing (Credit and grade conversions to St. Olaf credit)

If a student goes on a **non-St. Olaf program** they must take a leave of absence from the college for the semester. The services listed above are not available to that student except that the Smith Center would welcome you to attend one of their general orientation meetings and could help you locate information about health and medical issues that would pertain to the country in which you plan to study.

The Smith Center reviews each non-St. Olaf program before allowing it to proceed to the Registrar's office:

1. A non-St. Olaf program will not be approved if there is a similar program already offered through the Smith Center. This means that the program cannot be in the same city in the same country if the program is similar in scope to what is already offered.
2. If the student wants to go to a city in a country where St. Olaf offers a program, the student must provide a written statement/rationale as to the significant differences between the program St. Olaf offers and what the student wants to do.
3. Students can earn credit, upper-levels, and sometimes (if pre-approved) major credit on non-St. Olaf abroad programs.
4. No OLE Core (or general education) requirements can be fulfilled through non-St. Olaf programs. No January term requirements can be fulfilled through non-St. Olaf programs. No graded course reduction will be allowed. There are no exceptions to this rule.
5. Students cannot earn more than 4.00 St. Olaf credits on a non-St. Olaf study abroad program. This number may be limited even more if the student is a transfer student or has already had some transfer credit allowed or due to the senior residency requirement, which stipulates that 9 of the last 12 credits must be taken in residence at St. Olaf.
6. If a program is approved to proceed to the Registrar's office, the student will be provided with some basic information about health and safety issues regarding travel in the country, **BUT** the student must be aware that there is **no other support**. Students on non-St. Olaf programs must take a leave of absence from the college; they are not considered St. Olaf students during their time on a non-St. Olaf program. They have to plan their own itineraries, get their own visas, arrange their own housing, get their own insurance, etc. *These students are, however, covered by the College's travel insurance policy if transfer credit has been pre-approved in advance.*