



Jacks Start Abroad

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Jacks Start Abroad program?

This exciting program will take a group of new SDSU freshman, together with outstanding SDSU instructors, to begin their academic journey with this class before the semester starts. Once back in the U.S., students and faculty meet weekly to unpack the important learning outcomes in a course called EXPL 292: Jacks Start Abroad from August -November.

Traveling, exploring historical events/contemporary issues, learning skills and themes in the UK, France, Ireland and Netherlands/Belgium which will provide a rich context to explore the nature of our [Jacks Start Abroad program](#). In these programs, students and faculty leaders will begin on the SDSU campus and then travel to destinations to confront ideas and subjects that will excite, challenge, and dismay. A variety of experiences will permit comparing and contrasting cultural, political, social, business and identity issues both abroad and in the U.S.

What are the dates of the Jacks Start Abroad programs?

For this year, all students arrive on campus on Saturday, August 3, 2024. All programs will fly to their destinations on Monday, August 5, 2022 and return to campus on August 15, 2024.

Do I have to participate in the on-campus Jacks Start Abroad program orientation?

Yes, all students must participate in the on-campus orientation for the [Jacks Start Abroad program](#).

This orientation will include the introduction to the academic course content and final preparation details.

Is it possible to align SDSU's New Student Orientation program with the Jacks Start orientation?

It may be possible. If you have questions about timing and scheduling, please contact the Admissions Office and they may be able to accommodate your needs, so that you can accomplish both New Student Orientation and the Jacks Start Abroad program orientation at the same time.

How much does the program package cost?

The package cost for each program will be \$4900.00 for 2024. The package includes early arrival campus housing, early arrival meals, airport transportation, airfare, housing abroad, many meals, all ground transportation, excursions/entrance fees, data/risk management and medical/security evacuation insurance.

Are there scholarships and financial aid?

Please contact the Financial Aid Office to learn about how you can use aid. Students can contact Bryce Johnson or Beth Vollan in the Financial Aid Office at 605-688-4702 to determine what aid is available to them for the program.

Do I need to book my own plane tickets?

No. The airfare is included in the program package. The airline itinerary will be shared when it is finalized.

Can I book alternative flights for my student?

Not on this program. All students must leave SDSU and travel as a group to the program site, and the SDSU group flight will return students the SDSU campus after the program returns.

Can parents attend Jacks Start Abroad orientation?

Although not a requirement or expectation for parents to attend the Welcome Weekend, a portion of the orientation is designed for parents and families to learn about the program with their student.

Can my student stay longer in Europe?

No. For the Jacks Start Abroad programs, we do not permit students to stay longer. Students will return to campus just in time for classes to begin.

Where do students stay while abroad?

All students stay as a group in close proximity to the faculty and staff. Lodging style depends on the program. Generally students will stay in hostels, hotels or in campus housing during these programs. All programs will have internet access.

How are meals handled while abroad?

All programs provide at least one meal a day, plus a few additional meals throughout the program. Each program will have daily breakfast, an occasional lunch and usually 2 group dinners. The number of meals provided depends on the program. Students will need funds for additional meals on site and in airports.

Can you handle special dietary needs?

The program faculty and staff will always seek to provide students with a range of food options that can accommodate diverse diets and tastes; however, the specific program location—and factors such as housing and host culture—will determine aspects of the foods available. If you have specific dietary requirements—including food allergies—please inform the staff in the Education Abroad Office as soon as you can.

Can students have guests while on the program?

Non-program individuals are not permitted to participate on an academic program.

If we have family or friends near the program location, can the student visit them while abroad?

Some of the main goals for the program are to help students to create a new network, make new friends, interact with SDSU faculty and staff, and learn important skills in order to be more independent in preparation for their university experience. As such, we ask that friends and family consider limiting their interaction with the students while abroad to provide them with the room to focus on the academic experience.

Where can I apply?

To learn more and to sign up go to: <https://sdstate-sa.terradata.com/> to see all the programs for 2024. Students will follow the directions on the landing page to enroll in the program of their choice.

