

FSU - Panama Panama City, Panama

Broad Curriculum Program plus Spanish Language and Latin American Culture

The academic year or semester program, up to 16 credit hours, is offered jointly by Florida State University and Winthrop University. The Panama Campus, located in Panama City, borders the Pacific end of the Panama Canal, with the Bridge of the Americas in view. The campus provides the facilities and services of a small college and is affiliated with Panama's City of Knowledge, an educational/research complex representing universities worldwide. Students enjoy full facilities, including the library (the largest English-language library in Panama), administrative offices, academic counseling (strong mentoring, a hallmark of the program), computer facilities, housing, research site, gymnasium and cafeteria. Sports are popular, as are cookouts, open-air music, and the famous Night of the Arts where faculty and students exhibit/perform their work.

Website link: <http://international.fsu.edu/>

Internships are available in the arts, business, ecology, health care and media. Applicants must have a strong background in both Spanish comprehension and conversation. Total immersion in the language and culture is part of the internship.

Website link: <http://international.fsu.edu/Types/Internships/Panama/Panama.aspx>

Semester Dates

Fall: late August – mid-December
Spring: early January – late April

Application Deadline

Mar 1 for Fall study
Sep 1 for Spring study

Location Facts

The Republic of Panama, Crossroads of the Americas, is known for its intersection of urbanity and pristine jungle, two oceans and bustling multinational life. The Atlantic and the Pacific are an hour apart. Panama City, the capital, lies an hour from tropical forests. Its cosmopolitan atmosphere provides plenty of entertainment, art, theatre, dance, music. The Panamanian environment is perfect for tropical/marine biology and oceanography work. Panama is a natural for business studies with some 125 international banks and many corporations operating in the free trade zone. Panama's natural beauty, unspoiled beaches, historic sites and economic dynamism are available to students and professors, who have created specialized excursions to extend learning beyond the classroom.

Panama City is warm, averaging 80 to 85 degrees Fahrenheit in the day and cooling down in the evenings. There is a "dry season" approximately between the months of December through April when there is little rain. Tropical rains are common the remainder of the year. So be prepared for the 20-minute walk to class by bringing rain boots, a jacket and an umbrella. Pack accordingly – and conservatively. As one student said, "Pack half the clothing you think you will need." You can buy just about everything you will need in Panama. Pack a variety of clothing, however, as buildings in Panama have really cold air-conditioning and the classrooms at FSU-Panama will usually require a sweatshirt.

For **Panama Map** and other information: <http://geology.com/world/panama-satellite-image.shtml>

Academics: FSU-Panama study tracks that include Spanish Language and Latin American/Caribbean Studies, Social Sciences and International Affairs, Environmental Studies, Science Lecture/Lab Courses, Mathematics, Computer Science and Information Technology, Business, and Tropical Medicine and Health Sciences. Spanish language, or Latin American History, is a requirement, enhanced by being in Panama with Latin American classmates.

http://panama.fsu.edu/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=176:fall-2014-course-listing&catid=19&Itemid=139

Language of Instruction: English, except for Spanish classes taught in Spanish

Eligibility:

- * Sophomore standing and above (open to graduate students on request)
- * Winthrop students annual enrollment limit of 10 students
- * Minimum 2.5 GPA
- * Language requirement = SPAN 101 recommended

Housing and Meals: Program participants are offered furnished duplex apartments directly across the street from the campus. The La Boca area of Balboa is nicely landscaped, and students will also enjoy the restaurants and small markets within walking distance. Each apartment has three or four bedrooms, living-dining area, fully equipped kitchen, and at least two baths. Amenities also included are bed linens and towels, a washer and dryer, flat screen televisions, and a study nook in each duplex. Some have patios or an extra bedroom. Students may choose single- or double-occupancy bedrooms. A safe is included in every residential room, each big enough to fit a 17 inch laptop computer. There is no meal plan. Students can opt to prepare their own meals or eat at area restaurants.

The location of the housing area next to the university enables the student to enjoy more fully on-campus amenities such as the library, computer laboratories, gymnasium and other sports facilities. The quiet residential neighborhood provides a heaven for studying, yet is a few minutes away from the urban activities of Panama City.

Excursions: Several planned tours and day trips show Panama's historic sites, dynamic business environment and unspoiled terrain to extend learning beyond the classroom. Examples of excursions include the museum of the Panama Canal, multinational banks, sea turtle expeditions, The Gold Road Tour, and the San Blas Islands.

Currency & Expenses: Panama's medium of exchange is the US Dollar. Major debit/credit cards are readily accepted at most establishments. Notify your bank of your travel plans so they do not freeze your account. Also be sure to check on ATM fees if your bank does not have branches in Panama.

Cash is the most readily accepted method of transaction. Bills larger than \$20 are rarely accepted (singles and fives are advised). The safest method is to have the money deposited into an account that you can access with an ATM card.

Visa Requirements, U.S. Citizens: Current immigration policies for Panama indicate that visa applicants must submit a criminal background check, properly notarized, a copy of every page of your passport (including the blank pages), your parents' full names, and six (6) passport photos. This criminal background check should be completed before your departure. You will receive a visa packet with specific information regarding the criminal background check a couple of months before the beginning of your program.

Please be aware that you may not receive your actual student visa before your departure from Panama at the end of the term. However, the fact that you have applied for the visa allows you to stay in the country legally as a student until the end of the term.

Costs: Amounts in US dollars. Checked (✓) items included in Winthrop tuition and board fees.

200	Study Abroad Application Fee
325	Study Abroad Participation Fee
✓	Tuition
✓	Housing
750	Meals
✓	On-site Orientation Fee
✓	Host institution Student Union Fee
✓	FSU Study Abroad Health Insurance
300	Books/Academic Supplies
1000	Personal Spending Money
750	R/T Transportation to Location
135	Passport
\$160	Student Visa (apply in Panama)

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