



INTEGRATING STUDY ABROAD INTO CURRICULUM

Duke University Global Education Office for Undergraduates

<http://global.duke.edu/geo>



INTRODUCTION

The Duke University Global Education Office for Undergraduates has made a strong commitment to integrate students' study abroad experiences with the curriculum back at Duke. We have taken a number of initiatives, including course development, research sponsorship, and media development.

COLLABORATION

Involving a variety of colleagues from throughout the university is crucial to integrating study abroad into curriculum. Some initiatives we have taken in this area are:

- Meetings with departments
- Meetings with Academic Advisors
- Establishment of departmental liaisons
- Partially subsidize faculty on site visits and conferences related to study abroad
- A faculty site visit which the Global Education Office sponsored resulted in the addition of a month-long intensive German for Engineers course to our spring semester program in Berlin.

CAMPUS OUTREACH

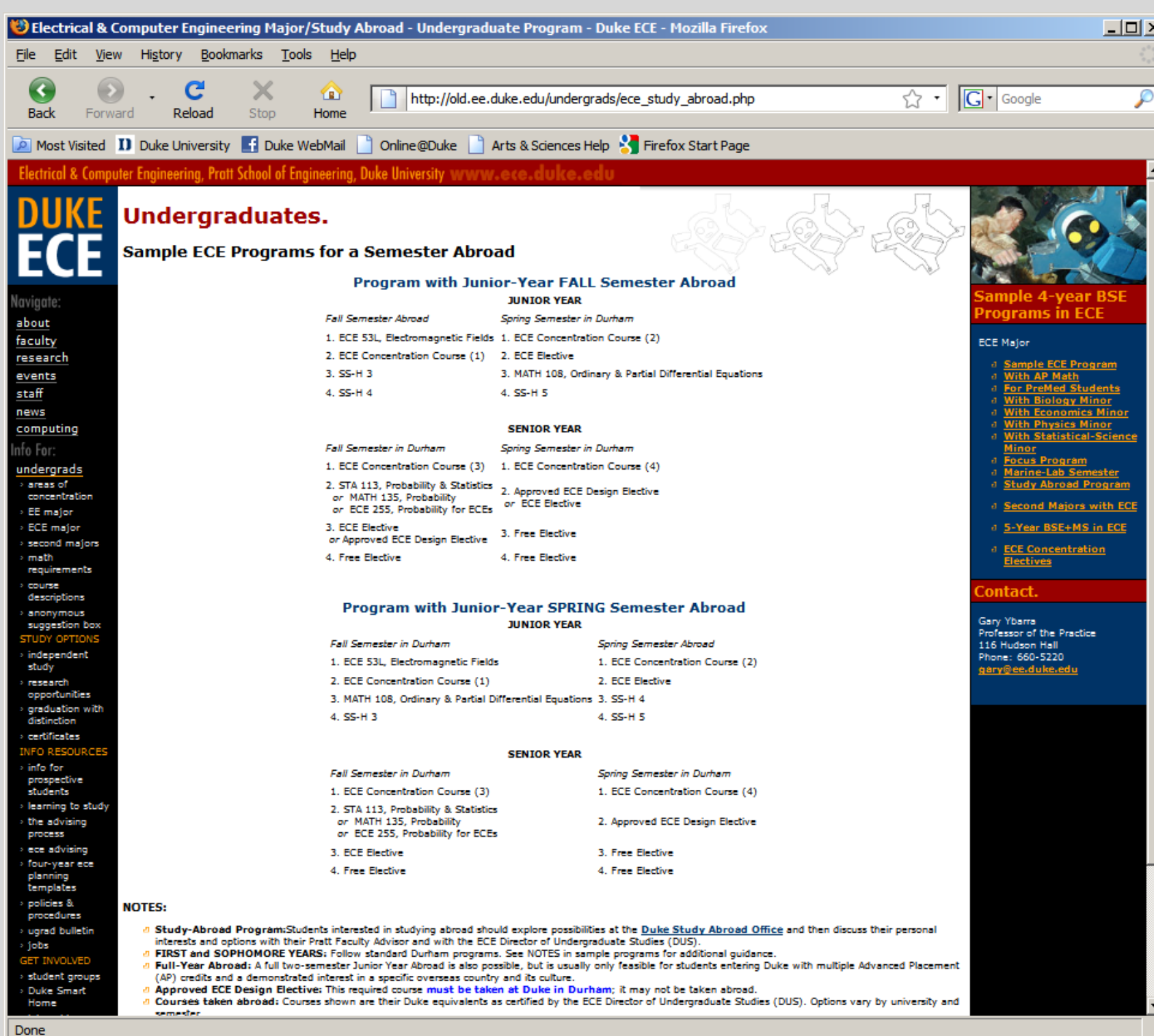
- Special advising hours for engineering students, to encourage this underrepresented group to study abroad
- Incorporate discussion of curriculum integration into presentations to prospective Duke students during "Blue Devil Days"
- Study abroad info table at the yearly campus "Majors Fair"

PUBLICATIONS AND MEDIA



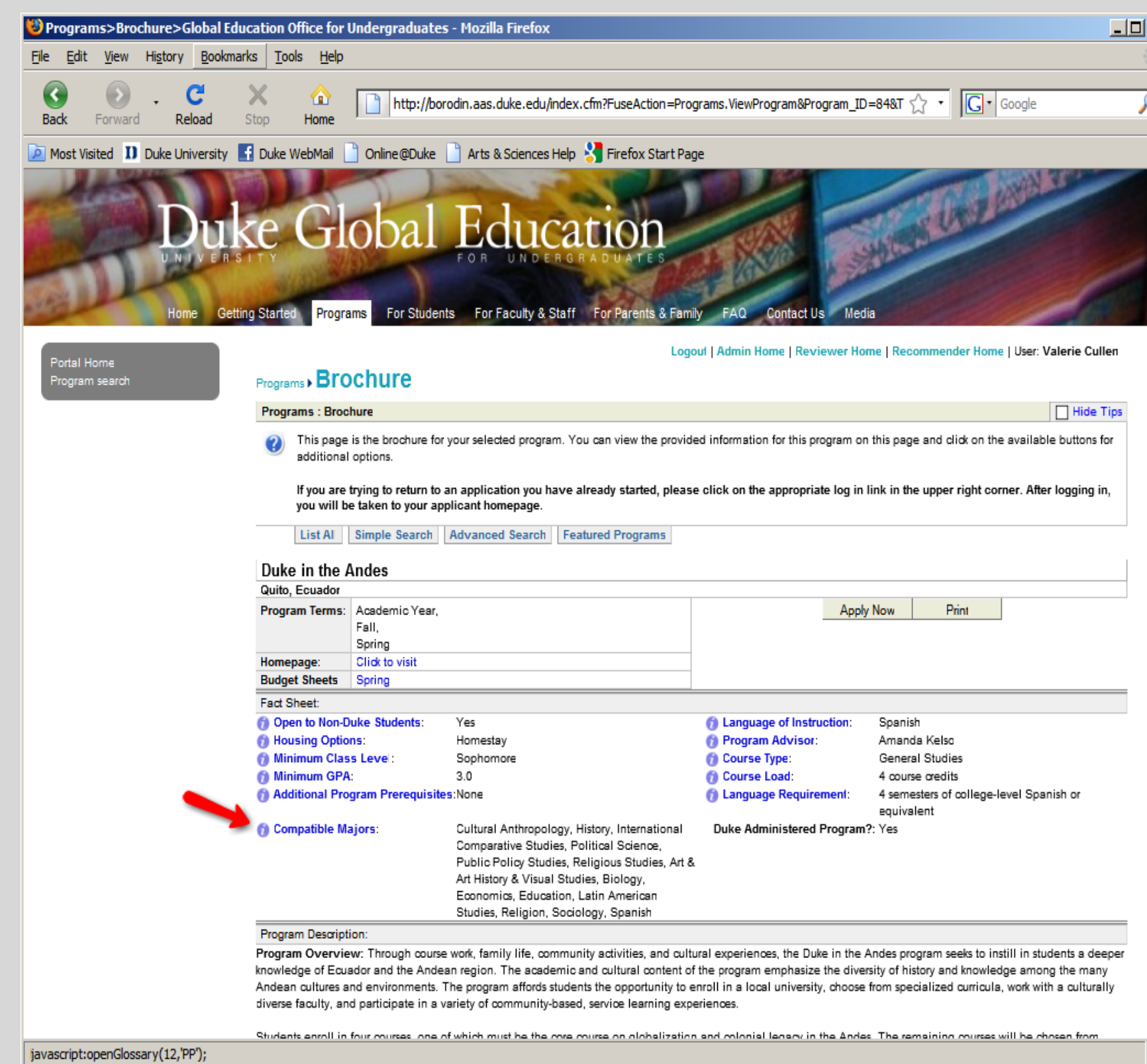
At the applicant stage, we have incorporated a searchable field called "Compatible Majors" on our brochure pages. Students can search for a study abroad program by major.

In addition, we have hard copy sheets for each major highlighting programs that are particularly suited for students in that major. We make these available at the Global Education Fair, the "Majors Fair", and information sessions throughout the year.



We have designed a page on our website for each major and certificate program. These pages highlight programs that may be of interest to these students, as well as any restrictions or requirements the student should keep in mind.

These pages also often include virtual "postcards" and/or video commentary from study abroad students, highlighting their experiences.



University departments have been encouraged to highlight study abroad on their websites and demonstrate how it can relate to their field and studies at Duke. In this example, you can see a page from the Electrical and Computer Engineering major website.

ACADEMICS

It is valuable for students to direct attention before and after their time abroad to processing the experience, its significance, and its relationship to the student's curriculum and goals. With this in mind, the Global Education Office sponsored the development of two courses within the International Comparative Studies Department:

ICS 195 - At Home Abroad? (pre-departure)

This course examines how assumptions and expectations can both support and undermine the experience and looks at ways that students can better prepare to move across cultural boundaries. It also explores the relationship between the personal and the academic, with the particular goal of assisting students to be alert to the research possibilities of their time abroad without undermining the human contact that is so central to the experience.

ICS 196 - Coming Home (re-entry)

This course provides students with the opportunity to reflect on their study abroad experiences from a number of perspectives. In particular the course focuses on the challenges of cross-cultural communication and what it means to bring those experiences home.

RESEARCH

The Global Education Office contributes \$25,000 per year to undergraduate research to support summer research abroad.

Some examples from the 2009 Summer Research projects were:

- European Union Migration Policy, Italy and the Chinese Migration to Prato, Italy
- Nationalism and Identity Promotion: Language Reforms in China and Turkey
- Examining the Impact of Entrepreneurship and Leadership Education on South African Youth

ASSESSMENT

The Duke Global Education Office has taken the following initiatives regarding assessment:

- Incorporated discussion of curriculum integration into our Mission, Outcomes, and Assessment for SACS review
- Established an Assessment Working Group to implement and monitor our assessment plan
- Created online pre and post study abroad evaluation forms which will be used to help us measure how successful we are in achieving our outcomes.