

Proposal for International Science Opportunities at Smith College

This proposal stems from the realization that the current JYA structure may still reflect a conception of JYA as an opportunity for Smith humanities students to experience the Continent. This perspective, clearly outmoded, translates into the perception among students that they must choose between a Science/Engineering degree and JYA. In order to address this partial misconception, we propose:

1) The establishment of more formal and explicit ties between JYA sites and science/engineering opportunities in the host cities.

These links would include:

- The identification of relevant courses offered by universities in the host cities,
- The establishment of standing research links with laboratories in the host cities,
- The streamlining of administrative mechanisms for granting equivalency and credit for science/engineering courses taken abroad.

2) The creation of a scholar exchange program that would bring some number of talented students from universities in host cities to study for one to two semesters at Smith, and would include a research internship in a Smith laboratory.

3) The teaching of one or more courses meant to prepare students for the experience of doing and learning science/engineering abroad. This course would include the learning of relevant language skills (including technical vocabulary), but would also educate students about the nature of the research establishment in the host country, and about the intellectual traditions that the students would be joining.

4) The creation of a half-year opportunity for overseas study available specifically to Div 3 students, to be coupled with a required course offered upon their return that would extend the work and experience of doing science/engineering overseas.

5) The creation of a set of capstone courses meant to integrate the intellectual experience of JYA with the academic activities undertaken senior year. Such capstone course(s) would be explicitly comparative and international in their outlook, and might focus on a particular intellectual area every year (e.g. "International Health", "World Perspectives on the Environment", "Population and Progress", etc...).

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