Northeastern Brazil is one of the most beautiful regions in the Americas – and one of the poorest. What is day-to-day life along the Amazon really like? Is it possible to grow the economy without endangering the ecology? Those are exactly the kinds of questions you’ll tackle during January Term at Saint Mary’s. And here’s the best part: You’ll tackle them in Santarém, Brazil, working closely with locals on community development projects and ecological studies.

Saint Mary’s operates on a 4-1-4 calendar schedule, which means that during January you’ll dive headfirst into one intensive, highly specialized course of study. Some classes take place on campus, some include service and many incorporate travel. Typically, students choose from more than 120 different course offerings.

Jan Term on campus…and off.
On campus, courses run the gamut from social and political issues to food and culture to intensive language immersion. You could find yourself learning Mandarin or charting the rise of the locally grown food movement in the Bay Area in the ’70s. Then again, you might also be spending your days surveying area wetlands— and creating an environmental education curriculum for local elementary school kids.

And if you’re really ready to explore uncharted territory, consider one of the travel courses. Recently, Saint Mary’s students have traveled to India to study entrepreneurship among the less affluent; gone deep-sea diving in Micronesia to investigate the coral reefs and culture of Yap and the Philippines; and followed in the footsteps of Saint Paul, from Israel to Rome.

Find the complete list of study abroad opportunities at stmarys-ca.edu/janterm.

RECENT JAN TERM COURSES:

On Campus
- Global Verses
- Elementary Portuguese Through Culture
- Darwin’s Gift to Religion
- Creating Theatre for Young Adults
- Against the Grain: Food Activism and Social Justice
- Elementary Mandarin
- Shakespeare, Bollywood and Kurosawa
- Ancient Mesoamerican Spirituality and Wisdom
- Everything but the Burden: Exploring the Impact of Hip-Hop on the American Middle Class
- Social Entrepreneurship
- The Woman Detective
- Crime, Courts & Government in Renaissance Italy
- Mind of Winter: The Poetry of Wallace Stevens
- Resistance in New Orleans
- What is Buddhism?
- Global Public Health: Issues, Perspectives and Analysis
- The Sixties Through Film
- In B Sharp: The Jazz Poem
- Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque: Christian Art in Italy and France

Travel
- Guatemala: Building Businesses, Not Walls! Helping Orphanages Move from Charity to Self-Sustainability
- Coral Reefs and Culture in Yap and the Philippines
- South Africa: The Life and Land
- Traveling with St. Paul (Urbani, Palestine and Italy)
- Sundance Film Festival (Park City, Utah)
- Argentine Tango in Buenos Aires
- Helping Entrepreneurs in India
- Gothic, Renaissance and Baroque: Christian Art in Italy and France
- Poverty and Promises in Northeastern Brazil

Community Engagement
- Precious Water & Wetlands
- Poverty, Policy and Preschool in Urban America
- Christian Service Internships

Study abroad.
We offer semester-long study abroad programs at universities in Australia, China, England, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Spain and South America. Saint Mary’s is also a member of the Council on International Education and Exchange, which offers dozens of programs, including many in non-traditional destinations such as Botswana, Czech Republic, Ghana, Jordan, Nicaragua, Thailand and Vietnam. Some programs offer a particular academic focus or include fieldwork (tropical biology in Costa Rica, for example, or language and culture in Spain). Some programs also offer scholarships, employment or volunteer opportunities.

SAINT MARY’S STUDENTS ARE STUDYING ABROAD IN:

Australia  France  Morocco
Brazil  Germany  South Africa
China  Ireland  Spain
Costa Rica  Italy  Spain
England  Mexico  Spain

Recently, Saint Mary’s students have traveled to:
- Brazil
- China
- Costa Rica
- England
- France
- Germany
- Ireland
- Italy
- Mexico
- Morocco
- South Africa
- Spain
Riding Camels in Morocco.
Analyzing Energy in Texas.
Living the Big Picture.

It’s an attitude.
Chris Campbell, student, business major

For my Jan Term trip, I was looking at Rome, Morocco or the Sundance Film Festival. I chose Morocco because I knew it was a once-in-a-lifetime thing. You can always go to Italy on your own and Sundance is cool, but Morocco is different. It’s completely exotic.

The whole trip started with a photography class. The goal was to create a portfolio, but we did so much more. We visited 12 cities and really got into the history, the culture, the landscape. We spent a few nights in the desert, sleeping in tents that were straight out of Aladdin. We even rode camels across the sand dunes!

By far, my favorite part was the homestay. We lived with a Moroccan family for a week and shared everything with them — meals, family life, even 5 a.m. prayers, since it’s a Muslim country. I really got to see what it’s like to live in the medina, one of the world’s oldest walled cities.

Back on this side of the planet, I’ve had some pretty cool experiences as a business major. Saint Mary’s introduced me to an organization called Management Leadership of Tomorrow and last month a group of us went to Texas to work on Obama’s energy plan. We worked side-by-side with professionals from McKinsey Consulting, doing analysis and case studies. I met oil representatives from Venezuela and Singapore. And hopefully, our ideas will be presented to Obama’s team. Where else could you do something like that?

Only at Saint Mary’s. It’s hard to describe, but there are three words that sum it up for me: Inclusive. Engaging. Ideal.

“You can always go to Italy on your own and Sundance is cool, but Morocco is different. It’s completely exotic.”