

Certificate of Global Awareness FAQs

Requirement #3: Must include the equivalent of at least one year of foreign language (two years of high school foreign language).

Must the one year of foreign language be fulfilled by a single foreign language?

No, any combination of a minimum of one year of college-level foreign language fulfills this requirement (e.g., one semester of Chinese and one semester of American Sign Language would fulfill this requirement). International students who have completed a semester of English composition in the United States will have demonstrated competency in more than one language and therefore have fulfilled this requirement.

Requirement #4: Must include at least one study abroad experience.

Does the study abroad experience have to be completed through Fresno State?

No. Any credit-bearing study abroad experience, whether completed at Fresno State or another institution, can fulfill requirement #4. International students studying at Fresno State will have fulfilled this requirement. The academic department may approve an extended experience abroad without credit (such as the Peace Corps) for this requirement.

Requirement #5: Must include at least one course (3 unit minimum) in the student's major (or closely related field) dealing with international aspects of the major. These courses are identified by individual departments and colleges.

What if my major department does not have an approved course listed for requirement #5?

For programs (departments) that do not have an approved international course, the alternative is for the student to find a program that does have one and complete that course. In most cases, the only difference between these certificates is the majors course, so a student could ostensibly earn a certificate in any subject with just one additional course. The student would be well served to choose one in a field somewhat related to their discipline. Advisors can provide their students with insight into similar programs, but can also identify a course in the student's own discipline and have the certificate approved by the Dean of Undergraduate Studies with a modicum of effort. Students may consult with their major advisor for an appropriate course and that advisor can then sign off on the course as fulfillment for requirement #5.