

**AUIP<sup>+</sup>**  
Study Abroad

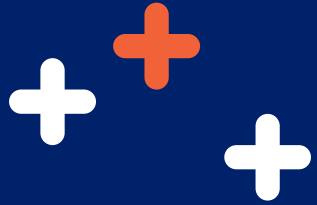
[auiip.com](http://auiip.com)

## Antarctica: Human Impacts on a Fragile Environment

**🕒 Duration**    Fall Semester: 14 weeks  
                          Field component: 2 weeks

**📍 Locations**    Ushuaia, Argentina (the typical voyage departure point)  
                          Antarctic Peninsula

This program provides a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for students to learn about the southern-most continent on location. Bringing together our participating university partners in a consortium-style academic collaboration, we provide students from across the US the opportunity to study and travel to Antarctica aboard an ice-strengthened vessel, alongside their faculty leaders, public enthusiasts, and a team of experts (biologists, historians, conservationists, photographers, researchers and writers). The academic aim of the program is to provide a broad overview of the continent's natural and ecological characteristics, with an emphasis on the changes it is experiencing at this environmentally volatile period of history. Special attention is given to human interactions with the continent, both in the past and in the contemporary context. The interdisciplinary focus of the program makes it suitable for students of all majors, and the research projects conducted by students have demonstrated diverse interests: students keep field journals and produce a multimedia product detailing their journey, and they conduct research projects on seabirds, iceberg observation and Antarctic ecotourism. Students are well-prepared for the field component of the course by a fall semester consisting of 14 weeks of online lectures by Antarctic experts and by accompanying readings and independent research assignments.



### **Day trip to Estancia Haberton (Ushuaia)**

Estancia Haberton is the oldest estancia (farm) in the Argentine sector of Tierra del Fuego and is a site through which to understand the beginnings of the City of Ushuaia. The estancia is reached by sailing the Beagle Channel by catamaran.

### **Guided tour of Ushuaia, gateway city to Antarctica**

A local tourism expert leads the group by bus to key sites that show the expansion of Ushuaia and the impacts of tourism on the town's infrastructure.

### **Sailing the Drake Passage**

While traveling south, the students begin collecting data on icebergs and seabirds for their group field project and hear presentations from expert guides about Antarctic wildlife, history, environment and possible landing sites.

### **On the ice!**

From the ship base, groups take excursions by Zodiac to whale watch, view icebergs and make landings at coves, inlets and bays on the continent. Activities at these sites include guided hikes, sighting wildlife colonies, and visiting historic huts and research stations. There may also be the opportunity to camp under the midnight sun. Exact activities are finalized on the day depending on weather conditions.

### **Landfall on the Shetland Islands**

The ship will sail into the flooded volcanic caldera of Deception Island. Landing spots include various islands and harbours, and an old whaling station.

### **Sailing past Cape Horn**

Weather permitting, the ship will travel around Cape Horn, the rocky headland on Hornos Island in southern Chile's Tierra del Fuego archipelago. Cape Horn marks the northern boundary of the Drake Passage where the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans meet.