

Arnold School of Public Health
Information about Independent Study (I.S.) Credit

1) You need a faculty (a faculty member is selected based on his or her expertise in the area you want to study) who will work with you to develop an Independent Study contract. The contract must have learning objectives, meeting times, assignments, readings, evaluation criteria, deadlines, etc. just as a 3 credit class would. The contact hours (often you meet, interact and have “contact with” the faculty member) and class work must be equal (for study abroad the number of hours is usually over, but you still have to have assignments to demonstrate your learning) to any other 3 credit course.

2) Each academic department has UG Independent Study course numbers assigned to specific faculty, but you can't see them or get the code to register until the contract (#1) is developed & approved. The faculty member will have to give you permission to register under their course code once the contract has been signed by all persons.

3) Then, you register for the I.S. and complete the requirements. You can register for the I.S. in any term just as long as your supervising faculty member agrees to it.

As you can see, an I.S. takes time & planning with the faculty member and in getting the contract through the USC system before you can register for credit.