



Software Engineering Trip to Silicon Valley 2024: Global Engineering Experience

Dates: February 18 – 24, 2024

Day 1: Arrival in San Francisco

Day 2: Introduction to Silicon Valley

Travel to Silicon Valley. Visit the Computer History Museum to learn about the history of computing and Silicon Valley's origins. Guided tour of Stanford University, including the Computer Science Department. Group discussion on Silicon Valley's impact on the tech industry.

Day 3: Tech Company Visits

Visit a renowned tech company's headquarters (e.g., Apple, Google, Facebook or Tesla). Explore the NASA Ames Research Center or other research facilities in the area. Networking event with local software engineers and professionals.

Day 4: Startup Ecosystem

Visit a startup accelerator or co-working space to learn about the startup culture and innovation in Silicon Valley. Tour the offices of a promising startup and hear from its founders about their experiences. Explore downtown Palo Alto or Mountain View.

Day 5: Technical Workshops

Attend technical workshops or coding bootcamps at a local educational institution or coding academy. Visit a maker space or hardware incubator, such as Y Combinator or the Hacker Dojo. Discussions on emerging technologies and trends.

Day 6: Venture Capital and Investment

Meet with a venture capital firm to understand the investment landscape in Silicon Valley. Visit a technology-focused investment bank or startup funding platform. Group discussion and reflection on the trip's insights.

Day 7: Departure



More information:

Participants: Open to a maximum of **20 undergraduates** in **Software Engineering major**. Students are required to complete the Global Engineering Experience application form. They must participate in all pre-departure education, meetings, and preparation activities.

Eligibility: Students who have a minimum GPA of 2.0, **have not previously participated in the Global Experience** program and in all years of their Electrical Engineering major are welcome to apply. Students must be currently eligible and have valid visas for travel to the **Silicon Valley**, as well as all supporting travel documentation required for their destination. Please note, **passport must be valid at the time of application**.

Cost: Students eligible for this program will be required to pay out of pocket **\$2,000**. This includes round-trip airfare, field trips, local transportation, emergency medical insurance, and accommodations. Some meals will be provided (program dependent), but students should budget for food and snack purchases.

Funding: Due to the significant existing financial contribution from SSE, students will not be eligible to receive Schulich Student Activities Funding (SSAF) or UCalgary International Funding for these experiences.

Pre-departure: The Engineering Student Centre and Chaperone(s) will host a mandatory pre-departure session for students. Topics covered will include student rules of conduct, customs/norms of the destination countries, attendance expectations, and a full overview of the agenda. Students will also be expected to complete online study abroad module in D2L.

Student conduct: Students will be bound by university non-academic misconduct policies and will be required to sign the SSE Rules of Engagement for Group travel document. If misconduct occurs, the faculty chaperones, in consultation with the Dean's Office, reserve the right to send the student(s) home. Students will be required to sign risk and student conduct waivers at the pre-departure session.

Additional student expenses: Managed directly by program participants:

- Meals (breakfast may be provided)
- Additional baggage fees (if required)
- Passport & Photos (If required)
- EU Visa (if required) or ETIAS (https://travel-europe.europa.eu/etias_en)
- Immunizations: based on recommendations from travel clinic, cost varies depending on individual circumstances and destination countries
- Travel insurance (emergency response will be included)