



Learning Abroad Center

department logo here

“A quotation here from someone in the department who has something interesting, enticing, and relevant to say about why (major) students should consider study abroad.”

Chair, Professor, or Dir. of Undergrad Studies (Major)

Departments are welcome to come up with bullet points that best reflect their perspective. Otherwise, we will be happy to fill in this section.

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Study Abroad in (major)

Departments can customize the introduction and conclusion, but we'll keep the general flow of the planning process intact.

Standard text: Specific college or department-level scholarship information can be added here (2-4 lines).

Many study abroad programs are open to you. Imagine *(Departmental content here...limited to about five lines of text.)*

Study abroad can help you...

- Find great (*major*) coursework and curriculum
- Understand the field of (*major*) from an international perspective
- Expand your cross-cultural communication and problem-solving skills
- Prepare you to work in an increasingly diverse and international workplace
- Broaden your academic horizons
- Globalize your world view
- Improve your language skills

By its nature, (*major*) takes place in a cultural context. There is much to be gained from understanding the history and traditions of cultures outside your own. Study abroad is one very exciting way to begin to discover new approaches and build your professional skills.

Set goals and plan for results

(*major*) students can study abroad (*when*) during their four years. The process of selecting a study abroad program is similar to selecting your major or minor.

- Begin planning right away. It is never too early to start planning.
- Set some goals. There is not one program best suited for (*major*) students. There are many good study abroad programs, and the best one for you depends on **what you want**.
- Prioritize your goals. Consider your long-term academic and professional goals, as well as your on-campus degree requirements.
- Consider short-term and long-term programs.
- Prepare academically. You may need to take language or other prerequisite courses for your chosen program.
- Give yourself time to research and talk to advisers and students who have studied abroad.

With proper planning study abroad can help you prepare for your professional life in today's global context.

Can I afford to study abroad?

YES! Early planning for study abroad helps you make cost-effective program decisions, and it also helps you prepare your finances through savings, scholarships, and financial aid. Financial aid applies to study abroad and, in some cases, your eligibility will increase to cover additional expenses.

The University of Minnesota offers more than \$500,000 in scholarships for study abroad. And the College of (*college here*) offers (*your specific scholarships here*)....

The Learning Abroad Center provides resources on these and a variety of other scholarships available to undergraduate students. Stop by the Learning Abroad Center to research all your options.

What are my next steps?

Attend a First-Step Meeting

Learn about study abroad resources and advising by attending a First Step Meeting at the Learning Abroad Center. See www.UMabroad.umn.edu or call 612.626.9000 for the latest schedule.

Investigate Programs

Use the Learning Abroad Center catalog, resource center, website, and advisers to find a program that fits your goals.

Talk to your adviser

Use an Academic Planning for Study Abroad form to get approval from your academic adviser for major-specific courses. More than 1,800 study abroad courses have been approved for Liberal Education Requirements. The database of approved courses is easily accessible on the web.

Your college or department may have additional customized steps such as a college/departmental advising meeting. Otherwise, this is standard text.

Academic Considerations for (Major) Students

Academic Planning

Seek cultural immersion

Look for program that provides insights into another society

Work on your X major or minor

Develop or improve second language skills

Fulfill liberal education requirements

What are the best times to study abroad

Senior major project

*This section must fit on one page.
The format is standard, but content is developed by the department. See other advising sheets for examples. Suggested headings provided.*

Study Abroad Programs

Introductory text. The following sections are organized by region or program type. Countries are listed alphabetically. Program sponsors are included in parenthesis after descriptive text.

Region or Program Type #1

Optional introductory text, especially helpful for program types. See other advising sheets for examples.

Country

University or Program name

This descriptive paragraph gives an introduction to the program and may highlight specific departments at a university or relevant courses or prerequisites. (sponsor)

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University or Program name

This descriptive paragraph gives an introduction to the program and may highlight specific departments at a university or relevant courses or prerequisites. (sponsor)

For example:
“Americas” OR
“Study at a Host
Country University”

Region or Program Type #2

Optional introductory text, especially helpful for program types. See other advising sheets for examples.

Country

University or Program name

This descriptive paragraph gives an introduction to the program and may highlight specific departments at a university or relevant courses or prerequisites. (sponsor)

Country

University or Program name

This descriptive paragraph gives an introduction to the program and may highlight specific departments at a university or relevant courses or prerequisites. (sponsor)

Region or Program Type #3

Optional introductory text, especially helpful for program types. See other advising sheets for examples.

Country

University or Program name

This descriptive paragraph gives an introduction to the program and may highlight specific departments at a university or relevant courses or prerequisites. (sponsor)

The length of each section is variable, based on variety of programs included.

Regions include:

- Africa & the Middle East
- Asia & Oceania
- Americas
- Europe

Program types include:

- Study at a Host-Country University
- Look into Study Abroad Centers
- Gain Valuable Field Experience
- Accelerate your Language Learning
- Try a Short-Term Introduction

Beyond Study Abroad

Your opportunities for significant overseas learning are not limited to study abroad. Whether as an alternative to study abroad or a complement to it, you might want to consider an overseas work, internship, volunteer, or travel experience. To explore your options, begin by attending a WIV (Work, Internship, Volunteer) First Step meeting (see www.UMabroad.umn.edu for meeting schedule), then stop by the Learning Abroad Center for more information on specific opportunities. These learning abroad programs may be combined with directed study to generate academic credit.

Work abroad

Most countries prohibit students from taking paid employment without a work permit. The Learning Abroad Center is affiliated with programs that arrange jobs in a limited number of fields before you arrive in-country such as **Alliance Abroad** (Australia, France, Costa Rica, Brazil, and China) and **InterExchange** (Australia, Belgium, Costa Rica, France, Germany, Britain, Netherlands, Norway, and Spain). Other programs, including **BUNAC** (Australia, Britain, Canada, Ireland, and New Zealand) and **CEI** (France), provide you with a work visa and offer resources to help you find a job and housing on your own.

Internships abroad

Students sometimes arrange non-credit, free-standing internships either through established programs that connect them with a host company or organization, or through faculty or other connections. You can do an internship while you are still a student or after you graduate. Internships are rarely paid. Many programs will search for placements based on your academic and career interests but cannot guarantee an internship in any particular field. Other programs have pre-arranged placements in specific fields. The Learning Abroad Center is affiliated with a number of internship program providers, including **CDS** (Argentina, Germany, and Spain) and **World Endeavors** (Brazil, Ecuador, Italy, Spain, and Thailand). Students may seek academic credit through a directed study contract with a UMTC faculty member. Internships for credit are also available through a number of study abroad programs; see Internships above (under Gain Valuable Field Experience).

Volunteering abroad

A volunteer abroad opportunity gives you the chance give your time and energy to a community while strengthening your language skills and learning about a new culture. A host of organizations arrange opportunities for you to volunteer abroad in many different areas, from working with children to helping construct a community clinic. A few notable examples include Earthwatch, which offers short-term expeditions all over the world; **Cross-Cultural Solutions**, offering 2-12 week programs (Brazil, China, Costa Rica, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Peru, Russia, Tanzania, and Thailand); and **Alliance Abroad** (Argentina, Brazil, Costa Rica, Ecuador, India, Peru, South Africa, Spain).

Most of this section is standard text

The programs highlighted here are from a list of co-sponsored programs. Within this list of programs, specific opportunities relevant to the major are mentioned. Others are of general interest and may not be specifically related to the major.

International travel

Virtually any travel is educational to one degree or another, and the **Learning Abroad Center** offers a host of resources and services to help your travel preparations, including a large travel library, selected travel guides for sale, passport photos, International Student Identity Cards, rail passes, and travel paraphernalia such as money belts. Although many students travel on their own, you might also wish to explore group educational travel opportunities. For example, consider one of the social justice travel seminars available through such organizations as Augsburg College's Center for Global Education or San Francisco-based Global Exchange.

After graduation

Seek new international experiences

Consider longer-term work or volunteer opportunities abroad after graduation. **CIEE** places graduates in five- or ten- month paid teaching positions in Chile, China, Spain, and Thailand; the **JET Program** offers paid English teaching positions in Japan; and **WorldTeach** offers placements around the world, some of which are fully funded by the host government. **Peace Corps** offers graduates the opportunity to serve a longer-term role in a well-established program by working on education, health, and other projects. Learning Abroad Center resources can help you identify other post-graduation options. See Teach English Abroad information at <http://UMabroad.umn.edu/programs/wiv/teachEnglishAbroad.html>.

Incorporate learning abroad into your résumé

Whatever you decide to do after graduation, you will want to include your learning abroad experience on your résumé or graduate school application. Learning abroad can lead to the beginning of intercultural competence that is appealing to potential employers and graduate schools alike. When including learning abroad in your résumé, highlight the skills you gained and what you learned while abroad. Did you become proficient in a language? Did you gain research experience through conducting an independent study project? Did you develop skills on an international work or internship experience? Have you become knowledgeable in some aspect of your host country's culture? You will want to make the connection to the actual skills you gained through your experience abroad—connections that will not always be obvious to an employer. The Learning Abroad Center has re-entry resources to help you make your learning abroad experience an essential component of your career pathway. You can also sign up for an Education Abroad Career Skills Workshop to identify the skills you learned and how to articulate your experience effectively to potential employers.

Explore these and many more opportunities at www.UMabroad.umn.edu or come in to the Learning Abroad Center.