

# Study Abroad FAQ's

## *1. What is Education Abroad?*

Education abroad encompasses educational experiences pursued in an international setting, which can include study abroad, international internships, service-learning, and even independent study opportunities.

## *2. Why should I study abroad?*

Studying abroad provides many opportunities, including access to unique classes, practice in a foreign language, getting out of your comfort zone, enhancing your intercultural communication skills and therefore, your résumé, and more.

## *3. Where can I study abroad?*

Anywhere! If there is a place a student really wants to go, there are many possible ways to go there! If CSU doesn't have an option you're interested in this year, our programs change annually. Check back each September to see what new programs we are actively recruiting for! Also, research programs offered at other USG institutions or CISabroad for more options.

## *4. How can I search for education abroad opportunities?*

You can use the Program Search feature of our website to search for education abroad programs.

You can look for information in office (located in the Schuster Student Success Center), which has comprehensive information on CSU Faculty-led programs, Exchanges, as well as non-CSU programs.

To search for non-CSU programs, the websites CISabroad.com, goabroad.com, studyabroad.com, and iiepassport.org are good resources.

## *5. What types of study abroad programs are offered through CSU?*

CSU offers the following types of programs:

- CSU Faculty-Led Programs
- CSU Exchanges or Direct Enrollment for a semester or academic year
  - Exchange = CSU tuition/fees VS Direct Enrollment = flat rate (could be higher/lower than CSU tuition/fees)
- Non-CSU Programs
  - European Council, CISabroad, or another USG institution as a transient student

## 6. What are the differences between the three types of programs?

### CSU Faculty-Led Programs

- Study with CSU faculty and students
- Offered during j-Term, spring, maymester/summer for faculty-led programs, but semester options are available.
- Study abroad course registration through MyCSU.
- Earn CSU credit
- Structured programs with planned class schedule and activities
- Group-oriented
- Various housing types
- Participants pay CSU tuition/fees.
- Usually best for students who need more structure and support

### CSU Exchange and Direct Enrollment for a semester or academic year

- Attend an CSU exchange partner university overseas
- Semester or academic year
- Wide variety of classes to choose from
- Housing often set up through the host institution; in some cases, students may live in off-campus apartments or in homestays
- Earn transfer credit through the transfer credit approval process
- Participants pay CSU tuition/fees at in-state rate and living costs abroad
- Best for students who are seeking an immersive cultural and academic experience

### Non-CSU Programs (European Council, CISabroad, or Transient through USG)

- Coordinated through an education abroad provider or another institution
- Many options available in terms of location, courses to choose from and duration
- Year-long, semester, winter break, summer and maymester
- Providers act as the middle man between CSU and the school the student will be attending
- Earn transfer credit through the transfer credit approval process
- Program price usually includes instruction, housing, some meals, and cultural programming
- Give students independence to plan their own activities upon arrival in host country
- Internships, service-learning, and teaching abroad are best found through external programs

## 7. How do I know if my credits will fit into my degree program?

You should meet with your academic advisor to discuss which credits you could earn while abroad, and how they would fit in with your degree requirements. You should also meet with

an education abroad advisor to help you find program that matches your academic needs after speaking with your academic adviser.

*8. Can I go on a study abroad program through another university?*

Yes, you can. In order to receive credit, transcripts must be issued by an accredited college or university. Students will need to complete the Course Equivalency Form to receive transfer credit. Students should speak with an education abroad advisor to ensure their program is accredited several months before planning to go abroad. The spring deadline is October 1 and the fall semester deadline is March 1.

*9. Are there options for graduate students?*

Yes, many CSU study abroad and exchange programs are open to graduate, as well as undergraduate students. You should discuss your need for graduate-level credit with the CSU program of interest. In addition, external study abroad programs are also an option. You can learn more about transferring graduate-level credit from an external study abroad program by meeting with CSU's Study Abroad Coordinator.

*10. I'm a transfer student, can I study abroad?*

Yes, transfer students can participate in education abroad programs as well. You should discuss your specific situation and credit needs with your academic advisor, as well as CSU's Study Abroad Coordinator.

*11. What do I want to achieve through education abroad?*

In order to determine which program is right for you, you need to determine your goals and what you are looking to get out of your experience. Based on your goals, schedule, budget, and other factors, you can figure out which type of program is right for you.

*12. How do I choose a study abroad program?*

Our recommended steps are to first look through our Program Search menu on the Study Abroad homepage. Once you have narrowed down your options, you can make an appointment with one of our student staff or Study Abroad Coordinator, who can continue to guide you in the process of selecting the most appropriate program for you. The most important thing about an education abroad program is that it fits your needs.

*13. How soon should I start planning my study abroad experience?*

It is typically recommended to start researching programs as soon as possible, but especially one semester before a student's education abroad experience. Applications, payment, the Course Equivalency Form, and scholarship essays if applicable, should be completed the semester prior to your study abroad experience in order to put you in the best position for success.

*14. What are the most important things to consider before studying abroad?*

You should consider these eight important factors: location, duration, academics, language, classes, housing, cost, and eligibility.

*15. Should I go for a short session (spring or winter break), maymester, summer, a semester, or a year? Why?*

It is entirely up to you! Program duration is an important factor to consider when thinking about studying abroad. It can be more cost-effective to go for a longer period of time, but you need to consider course options and your degree program as well to determine the most appropriate option for you.

*16. If I don't speak a foreign language, can I still study abroad in a non-English speaking country?*

Yes, you can. There are many programs that go to non-English-speaking countries that offer courses in English. However, we encourage that you enroll in a class in the host country language either before departure or while abroad, as it will undoubtedly be useful to you and enhance your ability to succeed (particularly mobility-wise, but also in terms of cultural integration) in your country of study.

*17. How do I know if the study abroad program I have selected is legitimate?*

Programs that are recommended by the CGE will be featured on our website. You should consult with CSU's Study Abroad Coordinator if you have found a program that is not on our website. You should also verify that your program is through an accredited university, or that an accredited university will offer a transcript for your program. Keep in mind that all non-CSU programs need approval of our Study Abroad Coordinator in order for your credits to transfer.

*18. Can I study abroad as a first-year or second-year student?*

Yes, any full-time student that is 18 or older by the time the program departs can study abroad any time after his or her first term on the CSU campus. Incoming freshman can go abroad as early as spring break!

*20. Can I do all of my CSU studies abroad?*

No, probably not--But many CSU students do study abroad for a full academic year or even study abroad multiple times. When determining how long to study abroad, students should consider the type of study abroad program, as well as any remaining resident credit degree requirements. CSU faculty-led and residential study abroad programs offer CSU resident credit. CSU Exchange and external study abroad programs offer transfer credit. Both options can fulfill many degree credit requirements at CSU.

CSU has three primary residency requirements to consider when choosing to pursue transfer credit for education abroad programs. 1) Overall, CSU requires that at least 45 credit hours be earned in residence and a 3.0 GPA. CSU on-campus classes, CSU faculty-led study abroad and

CSU residential center programs abroad all offer resident credit. 2) In addition, the "last 45 of 60" credit hours at CSU should be earned in residence or through an approved CSU Exchange or external study abroad program. 3) Lastly, each major and minor may also require that a certain number of credits be earned in residence, which may still leave room for transfer credit study abroad programs. To avoid confusion, you should discuss your specific credit needs for study abroad with a student staff or Study Abroad Coordinator, as well as your academic advisor.

*21. What are my housing options?*

Housing options vary widely from program to program. Housing can range from living in a residence hall or dormitory to living with a homestay family to living in an apartment. Different options have different benefits as well as advantages and disadvantages. It is largely dependent on you to determine which arrangement you are most comfortable with.

*22. How do I know if I am eligible for a program?*

Different programs have different eligibility requirements. These include, but are not limited to: GPA, language level, pre-requisite coursework, or year status (e.g., must be a third-year student).

*23. I am an LGBTQ student, what do I need to know about studying abroad at CSU?*

Education Abroad is committed to providing all students a meaningful and safe experience abroad. We have Safe Space -trained advisors and staff at the Office of Global Engagement to support students through the entire education abroad experience, from selecting a program, to while abroad, and upon return. CISabroad uses a specific emblem on their programs to mark that they are accommodating and LGBTQ friendly destinations.

*24. Can students with disabilities study abroad?*

The Center for Global Engagement, in consultation with the Center for Accommodations and Access, is committed to promoting equal education opportunities and providing a welcoming academic, physical and social environment for students with disabilities at CSU and abroad. Our Study Abroad Coordinator and student staff are committed to working with students to find the right program based on individual student interests and needs, while at the same time maintaining confidentiality. As students are narrowing down their program options, they should take into consideration academics, housing, access to health care and transportation, among others.

*25. Can I use my current financial aid and/or HOPE/Zell for study abroad?*

Typically, yes you can, including study abroad through other universities. Be sure to make an appointment with a Financial Aid counselor to let them know you are considering studying abroad so they can explain your specific situation better.

*26. Are there specific scholarships available for study abroad?*

Yes, there are scholarships available through Center for Global Engagement as well as external scholarships. Please visit the Study Abroad homepage to see a list of both internal and external scholarships. Certain other departments on CSU's campus can also offer scholarships/funding. EX) Honors College, Classical and Modern Languages, or Servant Leadership

*27. How do I budget for my education abroad experience?*

Budgeting is an essential part of your education abroad experience. Individual programs have different estimated costs of attendance, depending on what is included in the program fee. An important factor is the location as well as the currency exchange rate. You will also need to account for personal spending money. Each education abroad program has its own cost listed on its brochure page. You can view brochure pages by clicking the Programs link at the top of the page.

*28. Can I work while I'm abroad?*

It is not possible for students to work during short-term programs, since you will simply not have the time! Summer programs pack in as much material and activities as they can given their short duration, so it is not really viable for students to try to work during this time as well.

Working abroad would be more appropriate for students on semester programs but it is not recommended or advised. Working in a foreign country usually requires a visa; different countries have different laws regarding foreign student workers. If this is still something you want to consider, please let the Study Abroad Coordinator know as soon as possible, otherwise it might not be an option given the limited time frame.