UW Study Abroad

GETTING STARTED!
What are the benefits of studying abroad?

- Internationalization
- Improved language skills
- Becoming more competitive in the job market
- Building your résumé
- Competing for graduate school positions
- Getting a well-rounded education
- The list goes on and on!
Is studying abroad safe?

Your safety anywhere depends largely upon the decisions you make, but UW is very careful not to send students to parts of the world that the U.S. Department of State does not consider safe.

- We recommend that all students register their itineraries with the U.S. Department of State’s Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP), and with the U.S. Embassy in their host country.
  - Travel to a region listed under a State Department travel warning is subject to additional review and approval by a university committee.

- We have [Emergency Communication](#) protocols listed on our website.
Who is eligible to study abroad?

To be eligible, you must:

- Have at least sophomore standing (completion of 30 or more college credits)
  - Don’t know? Go to View Student Information under Student Records in your WyoWeb account
  - One exception: The London Semester! This program is the only one that welcomes second semester Freshmen
- Have a minimum GPA of 2.75 (though some programs require a 3.0 or higher)
- Not be on disciplinary probation

- You can go abroad during the summer, for one semester, or for one academic year. The maximum time you can spend abroad is two semesters per degree.
UW sends students abroad in three different ways

1. Exchange
2. Study Abroad
3. Short-term Faculty-Led

More on these to come…
UW sends students abroad in three different ways - Exchange and Study Abroad

- **Exchange and Study Abroad** – These are generally full semester or academic year programs.
  - The difference between study abroad and exchange is who you pay (and sometimes, how much):
    - In an **exchange**, students pay tuition and fees directly to UW
    - In a **study abroad**, students pay tuition and fees to the host university or program provider.
    - To avoid confusion, we will generally refer to both as “study abroad.”
UW sends students abroad in three different ways – Program Providers

- One way to participate in a study abroad is through a Program Provider.
- These are companies or organizations that contract with universities all over the world to provide study abroad opportunities for students.
- Going abroad with a program provider may be more expensive than going on an Exchange, but their prices generally include housing, insurance, and group excursions.
- They also provide 24-hour on-site support, as well as an on-site orientation. The prices vary, depending on the length of the program, where it is, and on the program itself.
- Program providers generally have a broader range of options available than we have through our Exchange agreements. You can find a listing of program providers that we work with on the Study Abroad Web page.
UW sends students abroad in three different ways – Faculty Led

- **Short-Term Faculty-Led Programs**
  - These are UW classes, taught abroad by UW professors, for UW credit.
  - These programs mainly travel during the summer and winter breaks, but we sometimes also have programs during Spring Break.
  - You can find more information about Faculty-Led programs on the Study Abroad web page.
Quick Quiz #1

Who is tuition and fees paid to in an Exchange?
- a. A university abroad
- b. The University of Wyoming
- c. A program provider

Who is tuition and fees paid to on a Study Abroad program?
- a. A university abroad
- b. The University of Wyoming
- c. A program provider
- d. Either A or C
Quick Quiz #1 Answers

Who is tuition and fees paid to in an Exchange?

b. Students in an exchange program pay tuition and fees directly to UW while studying at a partner university abroad!

For in-state students, this is often the most affordable option for a semester or academic year.

Who is tuition and fees paid to on a Study Abroad program?

d. Students participating in a Study Abroad program pay their tuition and fees to either a host university abroad, or to a program provider. When using a program provider, the amount paid often includes tuition, fees, housing, excursions, and insurance.
Planning your time abroad

- Start planning early!
  - Generally, we need to begin working with students early in the semester before they wish to go abroad
  - Be aware that some countries require extra time and planning
  - Avoid making last-minute decisions!
    - Preparing to spend a semester abroad is an intensive endeavor – it is generally a bad idea to decide in mid-October that you want to go abroad for the spring semester!
Application Deadlines

- The earlier you begin planning, the better!
  - Spring Program Deadline: October 15th
  - Fall Program Deadline: March 15th
  - Some programs and universities have earlier deadlines
    - It is your responsibility to know and follow those deadlines
Location, location, location

- Do your research!
  - Look at the websites for the schools and programs we have listed on our web pages, and find the one that is right for you
  - Consider:
    - Language of host country and host university
    - Classes offered at the host university
    - Accreditation (especially for business and engineering students) at the host university
    - Whether a student visa will be required
    - Cost of living in the host country
    - Cost of attending the host university
  - At many universities, it is possible to study in English, even if that is not the primary language of the host country.
Who decides where you go?

- **YOU DO!**
  - We offer resources to students, but the final decision on where you will go is yours (based on your eligibility and the availability of certain locations).
  - It is your responsibility to find the program or university that best suits your academic needs.
    - Just because you’ve always wanted to go to a specific country doesn’t mean it is the best location for you!
    - Be thoughtful in your planning.
    - Work very closely with your academic advisor.
    - Use the resources available to you in making your decision!
True or False: When you meet with a study abroad advisor, he or she will be able to tell you exactly where you should go.

What do you need to consider when choosing the right school abroad?

a. “I’ve always wanted to go there!”
b. Language of host university, language of host country
c. Classes offered at the host university
d. Cost of living in the host country
e. Whether a student visa will be required
f. Deadlines
g. All of the above, except a
Quick Quiz #2 Answers

**True or False:** When you meet with a study abroad advisor, he or she will be able to tell you exactly where you should go.

*False!* Your study abroad advisor will be able to assist you, but you need to do the necessary research to choose the university or program that will best fit your academic needs.

What do you need to consider when choosing the right school abroad?

*All of the above, except “I’ve always wanted to go there!”* While it is natural to want to live in certain parts of the world, there are many other things to consider. Make sure you are choosing a certain location for the right reasons. For example, if you cannot take classes at that university that will apply to your degree at UW, it is probably not the best choice.
The price for a Study Abroad or Exchange depends a lot on which program you choose.

**Exchange**
- Students pay tuition and fees (12 credit hours) to UW
- Additional costs include:
  - Travel to the host country
  - Living expenses (food, rent, public transportation)
    - These expenses can vary widely depending on the host country
  - Study Abroad fee of $215
  - Insurance ($150 per semester or $300 per academic year)
  - Visa expenses (varies based on country and requirements)
How much does it cost?

- **Study Abroad**
  - Tuition and fees are paid to the host university or program provider
    - Price depends widely on which program or host university you choose
  - Students pay tuition and fees (12 credit hours) to host university or program
  - Additional costs include:
    - Travel to the host country
    - Living expenses (food, rent, public transportation)
      - These expenses depend on the host country you choose
      - Program providers often include housing in the program cost
    - Study Abroad fee of $215
    - Insurance ($150 per semester or $300 per academic year)
      - Program providers often include insurance in the price
    - Visa expenses (varies based on country and requirements)
Quick Quiz #3

**True or False:** For an in-state student, a Study Abroad program is generally less expensive than an Exchange.

**In addition to tuition, what other expenses may a student have?**

- a. Insurance
- b. Study abroad fee
- c. Living Expenses
- d. Airfare
- e. Personal travel
- f. All of the above
Quick Quiz #3 Answers

**True or False:** For an in-state student, a Study Abroad program is generally less expensive than an Exchange.

**FALSE!** In most cases, Exchange programs are more affordable for in-state students, because you pay UW tuition and fees (which are very low!)

**In addition to tuition, what other expenses may a student have?**

**f. All of the above** – You need to plan your budget to include all of these things!
Academics

- We can send students in just about any major abroad for a semester or academic year, but some are more difficult than others.

- No matter what your major is, you must work very closely with your academic advisor as you choose the host university and your classes!
  - Not every major can go to every location
  - Do your research so you know which schools or programs offer what you need!
When working with your Academic Advisor, you will need to find as much information as you can about the classes you would like to take. This includes:

- Class descriptions
- A syllabus for each class
- Assessment (what your grade will be based on)
Will the credit transfer?

The better question is “How will the credit transfer?”

The faculty in your major department will evaluate the classes to determine how the credit will be applied toward your degree at UW.

Options for credit include:

- Applying the credit toward a specific degree requirement
- Receiving general elective credit
  - This can be upper or lower division, depending on the class
Quick Quiz #4

True or False: We can easily place students in any major at a university abroad.

True or False: Your academic advisor does not need you to provide information about the classes you want to take abroad.
True or False: We can easily place students in any major at a university abroad.

False! Some majors are much more difficult to place. This is because universities abroad do not always offer the classes we require here. Students may also be required to take certain classes at UW in order to receive the proper licensing for their degree (e.g. nursing, teaching).

True or False: Your academic advisor does not need you to provide information about the classes you want to take abroad.

False! Your academic advisor does not already have all of the information about the classes you want to take, or about the university you want to attend. It is your responsibility to provide this information so that your advisor can make an accurate assessment. Do your research!
Transferring Credits Back to UW

- The grades you earn abroad count!
  - You are required to transfer back the equivalent of full-time credit
  - Failing grades do not count toward full-time credit
  - If you do not take your studies abroad seriously, you could jeopardize your future financial aid and scholarships

- Did you know...
  - If you retake a class, the grade you earn the second time will replace the grade you earned the first time. Be very careful about retaking classes abroad
Transferring Credits Back to UW

- UW (Institutional) GPA vs. Transfer GPA
  - Institutional GPA = classes taken only through UW
  - Transfer GPA = from classes taken at any other college or university
    - The credits and grades you earn abroad will be applied to your Transfer GPA
    - This will not have any impact, good or bad, on your Hathaway Scholarship (for Wyoming students), but it may have an impact on other scholarships you may receive
    - Check with the Office of Financial Aid to verify how your scholarships and financial aid might be affected!
  - Cumulative GPA = from classes taken at all colleges and universities you attend
Transferring Credits Back to UW

- **Transcripts**
  - After you complete your term abroad, your host university will send your transcript directly to UW.
    - The Registrar’s Office will work with UW faculty to determine how the credits will transfer.
  - It is your responsibility to provide documentation about the classes you took abroad (within one year):
    - Syllabus for each class
    - Course descriptions
    - Exams
    - Papers
Quick Quiz #5

True or False: You can be a part-time study abroad or exchange student on a semester program.

Your Transfer GPA is made up of:

a. Classes taken at UW
b. Classes taken at any college or university other than UW
c. A combination of classes taken at UW and those taken at another college or university.

True or False: Once you finish your semester or year abroad, you don’t need to do anything in order to receive UW credit for the classes.
Quick Quiz #5 Answers

**True or False:** You can be a part-time study abroad or exchange student on a semester program.

*False!* You must be enrolled in full-time credit, both here at UW and at your host university. In some cases, this is required in order to maintain your student status abroad.

**Your Transfer GPA is made up of:**

*b. Classes taken at any college or university other than UW.* Transfer GPA is not factored into your UW GPA, but it may have an impact on your financial aid and scholarships.

**True or False:** Once you finish your semester or year abroad, you don’t need to do anything in order to receive UW credit for the classes.

*False!* When you return, you are responsible for submitting course materials to the Office of the Registrar so that UW faculty can evaluate the classes and determine how they will transfer back. You have only one year to get this done!
Study Abroad and Graduation

- How will spending a semester or academic year abroad affect your graduation?
  - When set up carefully, you should graduate right on time
  - We work very hard to place you at universities where you can earn credits to transfer back directly toward your degree
  - Much of this depends on:
    - The school you choose
    - The classes you take
    - The grades you earn
  - Because it may take several months for your transcript to be received and processed, we do not recommend that students go abroad during their last semester. If you do, your graduation will most likely be delayed by at least one semester.
Paying for a Study Abroad or Exchange Program

- **Financial Aid**
  - All of our semester and academic year programs are eligible for financial aid.
  - Be sure to talk to the Financial Aid Office to determine your eligibility!

- **Scholarships**
  - Most scholarships can be used to help pay for your semester or academic year program
  - Be sure to talk to the Financial Aid Office to determine eligibility!
The Cheney Grant for Study Abroad

- Thanks to a generous endowment from the Cheney family, we are able to award a large number of study abroad scholarships every year.
  - Did you know?… UW has the largest endowment for study abroad scholarships of any public university in the U.S.!

- Eligibility:
  - At least sophomore standing at time of travel
  - A minimum 3.0 GPA at the time of application

- Generally, semester and academic year amounts range between $1250 and $2000

- These scholarships are competitive, so make sure you write thoughtful essays!
Finding Scholarships

- Available scholarships are listed on Academic Works
  - Pay attention to deadlines!
- Check multiple sources!
  - Local and national organizations such as Rotary
  - Academic honorary societies
  - Scholarship listings on GoAbroad.com
  - If you choose to work with a program provider, check with them to see if they offer scholarships
  - Try to Google “study abroad scholarships”
- Apply for everything you’re eligible for – and apply well!
Other ways to raise money

- Start planning early and save up
- Ask family members for cash instead of gifts
- Set up a crowd funding account
  - Fundmytravel.org, for example
Travel Documents and Visas

- A passport will be required for you to study in any country outside the U.S.
  - If you do not already have a passport and are considering a study abroad program, you should start that process right away.
  - On average, passport processing times are 4-6 weeks, but these times can be longer just before high travel seasons. Plan accordingly to avoid extra costs!

- A visa is a document that allows you to live and study in another country
  - Not all countries require U.S. citizens to obtain a student visa, but many do
  - The cost for a visa may be anywhere from $0 - $550
  - In some cases, travel to a country’s consulate in the U.S. is required, so this may need to be considered as an additional expense
So, what are the steps to get started?

1. Read through these slides (almost done!)
2. Do your research to find the right program
3. Meet with your academic advisor to discuss your plans
   Your advisor will need to approve everything, so provide as much information as possible
4. Apply for your passport if you don’t already have one
5. Make an appointment with a study abroad advisor
   (More on this later)
6. Complete and submit the UW Study Abroad Application
   You will get this from your study abroad advisor
7. Complete the host university or host programs application
   (After you have been told to do so by your study abroad advisor)
Make an Appointment with a Study Abroad Advisor

- Send an email to the appropriate Study Abroad Advisor (on the next slide)
  - Include:
    - Your name
    - Your major
    - Where you would like to study abroad
      - Be sure to have this narrowed down, based on your research
    - When you would like to study abroad
      - Remember to consider deadlines and start early
    - When you are available to meet (M-F between 9:00 am and 5:00 pm)
      - Please be sure to provide multiple times. We’ll choose one that works for both of us
Study Abroad Advisors

Ruth Shepherd
- Australia
- France
- Central America
- China, Japan, SE Asia
- Cuba
- Israel
- London Semester
- Mexico

studyabd@uwyo.edu

Sara Robinson
- Morocco
- New Zealand
- South America
- The Netherlands
- Turkey
- Austria
- Belgium
- Denmark
- England, Ireland, Scotland, Wales
- Germany
- Iceland
- Italy
- Kazakhstan
- Russia
- Spain
- Sub-Saharan Africa
- Sweden
- Midwestern State University Summer Program

sarar@uwyo.edu
Resources

- Exchange Options
- Study Abroad Partner Universities
- Study Abroad Program Providers
- Short-term Programs in winter and summer