

## Study Abroad in BXA Intercollege Degree Programs

### Why Study Abroad?

- ❖ Develop multiple language proficiency and also new ways of thinking and perceiving
- ❖ Become more culturally sensitive and inclusive
- ❖ Understand how to work with people, companies, and organizations from other countries/cultures
- ❖ Practice problem-solving through working, studying, and living in an unfamiliar context
- ❖ Gain exposure to the way professionals in your field may view subjects differently, allowing for a more creative and flexible view of work and study in your field
- ❖ Gain a sense of career direction and make contacts
- ❖ Develop confidence, a strengthened sense of personal identity, flexibility, and creativity

### When to Study Abroad

Studying abroad is not only possible, but encouraged to broaden your interdisciplinary experience. In the last five years, over 1/3 of BXA graduating seniors have studied abroad! This is greater proportion than many other colleges and programs at CMU. The timing and length of program are important considerations while planning.

Many students study abroad during the fall semester of their junior year, however it is possible to study abroad during the sophomore year. Studying abroad during any summer and over winter and spring breaks are also great opportunities for travel.

Due to required BXA coursework, students should not study abroad in their last three semesters (junior spring, senior fall/spring). Spending an entire year abroad is not typically possible for students without intending to take an additional semester at Carnegie Mellon.

It is important to talk to your academic advisor as soon as possible to identify the best time for you to study abroad. It is never too early to start thinking about studying abroad.

### Deadlines

While deadlines vary depending on the program, plan to apply for the spring semester in early October, and for the fall semester, summer, or academic year in February or March.

### Credit Transfer & Grades

When studying abroad, students are enrolled at Carnegie Mellon. A student never takes a leave of absence to study abroad. Prior to studying abroad, all students must attend a required pre-departure orientation offered by the Office of International Education (OIE).

Students must also complete a Study Abroad Transfer Credit (SATC) form prior to departure for study abroad. The SATC will guarantee transfer credit for courses taken abroad. Unlike regular transfer credit, there is no limit to the number of courses transferable from study abroad.

Students will receive credit for courses for which they receive a grade of "C" or better. However, grades received abroad do not count toward a student's Carnegie Mellon University QPA. The QPA is frozen while abroad.

### Courses

Courses taken while studying abroad may count toward your BXA concentration requirements, your general education requirements, or your free electives. Studying abroad will not delay your graduation, as long as you work with your study abroad advisor and your BXA advisor to plan the most appropriate courses.

### Work, Volunteer, Research & Study

Study abroad is an international experience integrated into a student's academic career that may include study, work, research, internship, and/or volunteer opportunities. Many students choose to integrate traditional and non-traditional study abroad. Some examples include: a student may do a for-credit

internship abroad; a student might study abroad and volunteer in the local community; or a student might do research for a faculty member while studying abroad. The opportunities are endless and the Office of International Education has many resources to help explore options. Check out our their website at <http://www.cmu.edu/studyabroad>.

## Types of Programs

### University Exchanges

Carnegie Mellon students participating in these programs continue to pay tuition directly to Carnegie Mellon and receive the same financial aid package. Students are responsible for room, board, travel, and miscellaneous expenses.

### University Sponsored Programs

Study abroad programs that have been approved as University Sponsored Programs allow students to pay regular Carnegie Mellon tuition, plus room and board, and receive the same financial aid package.

### External Programs During the Academic Year

Students participating in External Programs do not pay tuition and fees to Carnegie Mellon for their time abroad. Institutional aid from Carnegie Mellon is not applicable for these programs, but federal and state aid may still be used.

### Summer Programs

Students may study abroad during the summer by applying and paying directly to a study abroad program or to one of Carnegie Mellon's departmental summer opportunities.

### Short-Term Organized International Travel

Many student organizations and some academic departments on campus organize alternative break experiences over winter break, spring break, and summer break.

## Financial Aid & Scholarships

Review the section above for specific information regarding the use of financial aid abroad. Check out <http://www.cmu.edu/oie/sab/gettingstarted/Scholarships%20and%20Awards/index.html> for information on other sources of funding.

## Cost

Studying abroad during the academic year never needs to cost more than a semester at Carnegie Mellon. If you attend a sponsored or exchange program, then your cost will be the same as a regular semester at Carnegie Mellon and you will be eligible to receive your regular financial aid package, including institutional grants and

scholarships. If you directly enroll in an external program, your cost will often be much less than a semester at Carnegie Mellon and you may still use your federal and state financial aid. Studying abroad is a great deal!

## Next Steps

Meet with your BXA academic advisor to discuss when is best for you to study abroad and what classes you should take while abroad. Begin planning at least a year before you intend to go, in order to be sure you and your advisors understand how studying abroad will fit into your curriculum and the sequence of your coursework. This is particularly important for BXA students, who often have complex paths and semester-and-year-specific requirements.

Meet with your study abroad advisor in the Office of International Education to discuss your particular interests and needs. Call 412-268-5231 to schedule an appointment as soon as possible.

## Where to Study

Studying anywhere is possible! BXA does not have specific exchanges or make endorsements of particular programs, so students are encouraged to talk with the OIE staff to explore options, types of programs, and funding opportunities.

Studying anything is possible! BXA students can even work abroad through internship and apprenticeship programs, like Liza Otto (BHA 2016 Architecture and Psychology) who interned at a Spanish architecture firm. Students can elect to pursue programs where they take studio courses in their artistic concentration—including innovative creative pursuits such as fashion or game design. Students can instead pursue programs to fulfill general education requirements or their academic concentration requirements—even computer science courses.

Although far fewer programs offer both studio and academic opportunities at the same time, there are definitely programs available. Work with your BXA and CFA concentration advisors, along with assistance from OIE staff, to find the right program fit for you. Examples include the Bard Abroad programs in Berlin or St. Petersburg <http://www.bard.edu/bardabroad/> and IES Abroad Auckland <https://www.iesabroad.org/programs/auckland-direct-enrollment-university-auckland>.

For more program information visit: [www.cmu.edu/studyabroad](http://www.cmu.edu/studyabroad), [www.iiepassport.org](http://www.iiepassport.org), or [www.studyabroad.com](http://www.studyabroad.com).