Why Study Abroad?

- Develop multiple language proficiency and also new ways of thinking and perceiving
- Increase interest in other cultures
- 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
- Make professional contacts
- Gain a sense of career direction
- Develop confidence, a strengthened sense of personal identity, flexibility, and creativity

When to Study Abroad

Many students study abroad during their junior year, however, it is possible to study abroad during the sophomore year. Students also may choose to study abroad during the summer and even over winter and spring breaks. Students may study abroad more than once while at Carnegie Mellon University.

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. All first-year BXA students are encouraged to talk to their advisors about how to fit study abroad into their curriculum.

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.
University & Departmental Exchanges
Carnegie Mellon has partner universities around the world. When we send a student to one of our partners, a student attends Carnegie Mellon in his/her place. Students may also choose to study at Carnegie Mellon’s Qatar campus as exchange students. Carnegie Mellon students participating in exchange 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 (junior year) Carnegie Mellon tuition, room, and board for the semester abroad. Students attending sponsored programs will continue to receive their full financial aid packages from Carnegie Mellon. Carnegie Mellon will, in turn, pay the sponsored program provider or university abroad.

External Programs during the Academic Year
External programs allow students to pay the study abroad program directly, while still maintaining full-time enrollment status at Carnegie Mellon. Students participating in external programs do not pay tuition and fees to Carnegie Mellon for the 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. Students may inquire about loans through the HUB and apply for scholarships listed on the study abroad website.

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.studentaffairs.cmu.edu/oie/sab/gettingstarted/funding/index.html for information on other sources of funding.

Cost
Studying abroad during the academic year does not need to cost more than a semester at Carnegie Mellon. If you attend a sponsored or exchange program, your cost will be the same as a regular (junior year) 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.

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.

Tips from Returned Students
Madeleine Barnes (BHA ’12 Creative Writing and Art) “Pack lightly so you can explore! It’s amazing how many things you can see and do when you aren’t weighed down by luggage. Even your toothpaste can feel heavy. If you keep your bag small and rent bikes or buy a rail pass, you will instantly have freedom. See as much of the world as you can while you are abroad!”

Francesca Fenzi (BHA ’12 Creative Writing and Art) “Do one thing, every day, that scares you. Talk to someone in another language. Take a bus going somewhere unknown. Learn to dance the salsa. Just get outside your comfort zone and try everything!”

Alia Poonawala (BSA ’11 Biological Sciences and Drama) “Being abroad is you having the opportunity to live another existence! If you wouldn’t normally do it in Pittsburgh that means you should try it on foreign land. Taste, try, love, learn and do all that you can because you want to. Pretend like you are a character in a daring adventure novel. Give yourself a pseudonym. And live the life of that! See where it takes you!”

Nicole Rappin (BHA ’11 Cross-Cultural Communication and Music History & Culture) “Be fearless, try everything, don’t hold yourself back from any experiences.”