## Why Study Abroad?

- Develop second language proficiency and also a new way of thinking and perceiving
- Increase interest in other cultures
- Become more culturally sensitive and accepting
- 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
- Gain an appreciation and awareness of life in the U.S.
- Develop confidence, a strengthened sense of personal identity, flexibility, and creativity

## When to Study Abroad

Many students study abroad during the junior year, however it is possible to study abroad during the sophomore and senior years. Students also may choose to study abroad during any summer and even over winter and spring breaks. Students may study abroad more than once while 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. All first-year Dietrich College 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 the fall semester, summer, or academic year in February or March.

## Credit Transfer & Grades

When studying abroad, students are always currently 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.

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 QPA. The QPA is frozen while abroad.

## 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 conduct 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: [http://www.cmu.edu/studyabroad](http://www.cmu.edu/studyabroad).
Types of Programs

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 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 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.html for information on other sources of funding.

Scholarships are also available through the Dietrich College Dean’s Office for majors in the college and from the Modern Languages Department for majors or minors in Modern Languages.

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 academic advisor to discuss when is best for you to study abroad and what classes you should take while abroad. Many departments have created Major Specific Advising sheets that list recommended study abroad programs and universities.

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

Ema Woodward, DC ’13, France: “Studying abroad is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to live like a student in another amazing country! For me it was life-changing, and I don't know a single person who regretted doing it. If you're thinking about it- DO IT!”

Maggie Rehberg, DC ’12, Tanzania: “What I've learned about facts and issues on which I'm interested has come from CMU, but what I've learned about the world and myself has come from studying abroad.”

Yasmin Venema, DC ’13, China: “Studying abroad in Shanghai for the summer was one of the best decisions I have ever made. Experiencing a new culture as well as witnessing the modern integration of different cultures is something that I will always cherish.”

Sarah Peko-Spicer, DC ’13, France: “If I could only give one tip, it would be to do a home stay. Host families are great resources for language acquisition and love sharing their culture with you. I don't think my experience would have been the same if it weren't for my host mother.”

Juan Acosta, DC ’15, Cuba: “Studying abroad is the best way to experience any country so that you can connect to the culture and the people. Going to Cuba was one of the best decisions I have ever made and it was because I studied abroad there. Anything else would have been much more superficial.”

Updated 8/2/2012