

## Why Study Abroad?

### Academic/Intellectual Goals:

- Develop skills and abilities applicable for use in global contexts
- Enhance second language proficiency
- Expand understanding of global issues
- Grow academically in a new educational system

### Identity/Personal Goals:

- Build confidence and improve self-efficacy
- Develop flexibility, independence and creativity
- Develop open-mindedness and respect for differences in a way that inspires reflection and can be applied to one's own life
- Examine and challenge personal values and beliefs

### Intercultural Goals:

- Enhance intercultural awareness and competence
- Increase awareness of one's own values (self) and culture and appreciation for cultural differences (others)
- Seek opportunities for authentic interaction and exchange with locals in country or through travel

### Professional Goals:

- Build transferable skills for future career
- Gain exposure to the way professionals in one's field may view or approach subjects differently
- Improve problem-solving (through working, studying and living in an unfamiliar context)
- Professionally network and gain a sense of career direction

## Types of Programs

### University or Departmental Exchange

Carnegie Mellon students participating in these programs continue to pay tuition directly to Carnegie Mellon and receive, in most cases, the same financial aid package. Students are responsible for paying all other fees, such as room and board, directly to the exchange institution.

### 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 (billed at the junior year rate) while receiving the same financial aid package (minus work study) while abroad.

### External Programs

Students participating in External Programs do not pay tuition and fees to Carnegie Mellon for their time abroad. Students cannot use institutional aid from Carnegie Mellon (grants, scholarships, etc. which are administered by Carnegie Mellon) on these programs, but students are eligible for federal and state aid and all loans normally received.

## Important Note

International Relations and Politics (IRP) majors have a lot of flexibility in where they study abroad. Please note, however, that all IRP students are highly encouraged to spend a semester off-campus through the Carnegie Mellon University Washington Semester Program (CMUWSP) and/or through study abroad. IRP students may take IRP electives abroad, as well as language courses, general education requirements, and free elective units for graduation.

## When to Study Abroad

Students can study abroad during their sophomore, junior, or senior years. Most students choose to study abroad in the junior year. It is important to discuss study abroad early on with the academic advisor.

## Financial Aid/Funding

Students should review the types of programs listed above to determine the best program option for their unique financial situation. Scholarships are available through the Dietrich Dean's Office for majors in the Dietrich College and from the Department of Modern Languages for majors or minors. Visit <https://www.cmu.edu/studyabroad/getting-started/funding> for more information.

## Deadlines

Students planning to study abroad for the fall semester or full academic year should complete their applications by mid February. Students planning to study in spring should complete their applications by October 1.