

COF Global Education Opportunities

Frequently Asked Questions about Study Abroad

For a Full Summer, Semester or Year



Where can I go?

You can study in almost any country in the world for a summer, semester or academic year. There are hundreds of opportunities available to COF students. COF students have studied abroad in Senegal, Chile, Mexico, Brazil, Australia, Turkey, Scotland and many other countries. Note: Study abroad in countries on the US State Department Warning List at www.travel.state.gov may not be allowed by your college.

Why should I study abroad?

Anyone who has studied abroad will tell you that it is one of the best experiences of her/his life. Studying abroad will expose you to different viewpoints, cultures and languages and help you see your own experience from a new perspective. Students typically return home with more independence and confidence. This will enhance your resume and graduate school applications.

Who can study abroad? When can I go?

Most COF students can study abroad. There are a wide variety of dates and topics you can choose from. You can go away more than once, so it is a good idea to go on a faculty-led travel course in your first year and possibly go for a full summer or semester study abroad experience as a sophomore – though the academic requirements at your home college will dictate when is the best time for you to go. Many students take general education requirements while abroad, and some take electives or courses in their major. GPA requirements vary from 2.5 to 3.0 for semester programs. Do as well as you can in your courses at your home institution so you will be eligible for the study abroad program of your choice.

How do I start the process of studying abroad?

Visit www.colleges-fenway.org/global. Attend the COF Study Abroad Fairs and Info Sessions. There are a number of excellent web sites that provide information to use for selecting a destination and a program to meet your needs, for example www.iiepassport.org or www.studyabroad.com. Discuss your intentions with your academic adviser. All COF students who study abroad must register with their campus contact which is listed at www.colleges-fenway.org/global. After you have decided where you want to go, your campus contact will provide procedural information and guide you in the process of getting your credits pre-approved for transfer back to your home campus.

Is studying abroad more expensive than my normal college costs?

Not necessarily. Depending on the program you choose, costs may actually be lower. Some study abroad programs cost about the same as your home campus, and some are more expensive. Don't let price be the only factor in determining your destination. Academic opportunities and cultural experiences are just as important.

Can I use my financial aid when I study abroad?

Yes. Federal and state financial aid CAN be used if the credits you earn will be applied towards your graduation from your home campus. Federal work-study funds cannot be used for study abroad. Meet with the financial aid adviser on your home campus to discuss your individual needs and financial aid package.

Do I have to speak a foreign language to study abroad?

No. There are English-speaking countries and programs all over the world, including in non-English speaking countries. For example, you can study abroad in Spain, France or Mexico and have all of your courses taught in English. Of course, you may want to take foreign language classes while you are studying away. If you have competency in another language, you may do a study program in which you are in regular classes with local student in places like Quebec, Spain, Venezuela or Brazil.

How many classes can I take while I am on study abroad?

Students typically take 4 to 5 classes per semester, just like you do at your home campus. Students must maintain full-time status at an accredited academic institution abroad.

Will the credits taken during study abroad apply to my program at my home campus?

Yes. There is a process to pre-approve the courses that you plan to take for transfer of credits back to your home campus. That way, you will know exactly how the courses will fit into your academic program and graduation requirements. Your campus study abroad contact and academic adviser can assist you.

When should I start planning for full summer, semester or year study abroad?

Now. Most students participate during either their sophomore or junior year, but it is possible for some students to go during their senior year. Applicants for fall semester and full year programs should be completed by March and for spring semester programs by October. **START PLANNING TODAY!**