

ADVISING STUDY ABROAD STUDENTS

Cheat Sheet

Studying abroad is hugely beneficial for student's cognitive, social, and personal development. Living independently in another country, interacting with different cultures, and gaining knowledge of the world are integral in their success within and out of college.

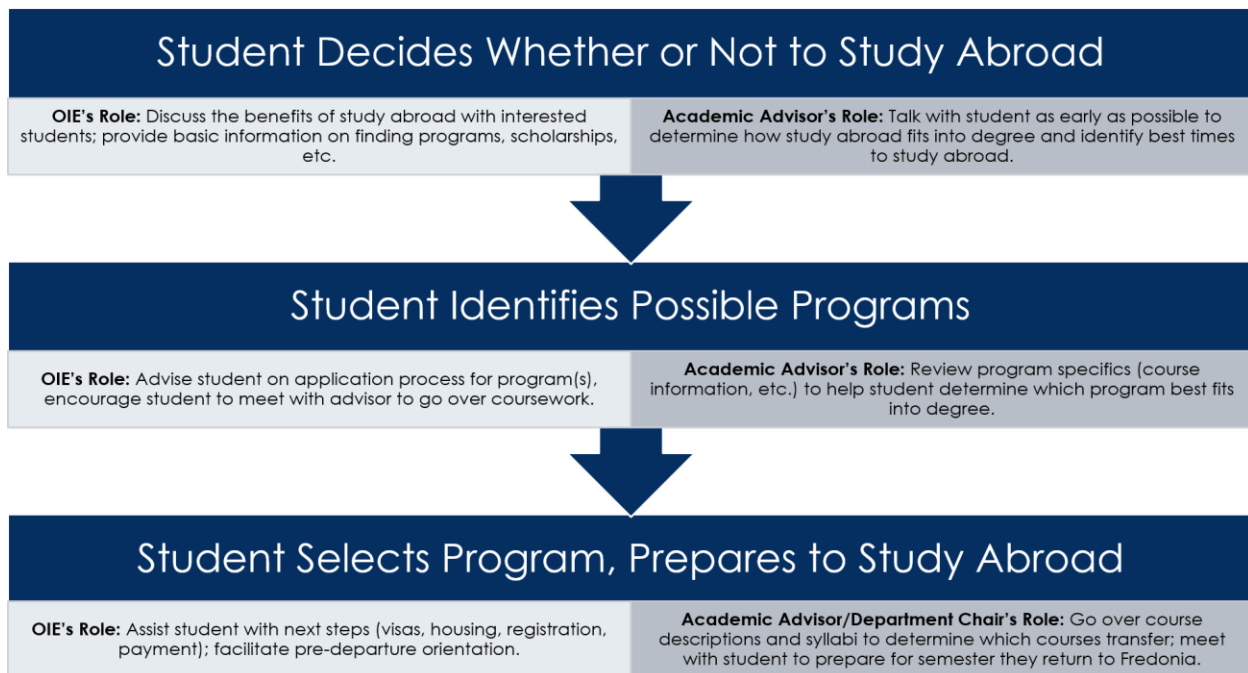
Students that study abroad nationally have higher GPAs, higher retention rates, and earn higher salaries than their peers who do not. While very few students decide to study abroad, it is becoming more and more important for their development and marketability over the long term. Academic Advisors and Department Chairs are crucial to promoting the idea of study abroad and helping students through the process. While the Office of International Education is the best resource for finding programs, funding, and other resources, faculty are critical to helping students plan and succeed.

ADVISOR FAQ's

Where is the Study Abroad Office? What do you do to help students?

The Study Abroad office is a facet of the Office of International Education (OIE) and is located in LoGrasso Hall. The office is a hub of information for students wishing to study overseas for a J-term, summer, semester, or academic year. We advise students on programs that fit their time, budget, or program requirements, and can also help students with questions on housing, student visas, and life abroad. Additionally, we plan a number of programs to help students planning to go abroad, including Study Abroad 101 sessions, scholarship workshops, study abroad fairs, and International Education Week.

What is the process for studying abroad?



What are the benefits to study abroad? Why should students study abroad if it is not a major requirement?

As we have come to know in higher education, college is much more than getting a degree: it is growing and understanding your identity, gaining knowledge of the world outside, and gaining experience that transfers to future careers. Through study abroad, students gain critical knowledge about themselves, their country, and the world at large. Students that study abroad learn from both inside and outside-the-classroom experiences, and these experiences help students develop skills that make them more marketable: multicultural competence, problem solving, adaptability, independence—the list goes on!

What is my role in encouraging students to study abroad?

Many students take the encouragement of faculty very seriously, and advisors are the ones that see a student over the course of their academic career. Having faculty cultivate the idea of study abroad helps students understand that it is important and possible for their degree program.

Why do so few students study abroad?

The main reasons that only about 2% of US college students study abroad are finances and academic planning. With SUNY programs, students are able to use their financial aid for the semester they go abroad, and are also eligible for scholarships from SUNY, Fredonia, the US government, and other organizations. As an academic advisor, you can help students understand how study abroad fits into their degree plan and can benefit them after graduation.

If a student expresses interest in study abroad, what should I tell them?

If you are advising students that have a preliminary interest in study abroad, the best thing to do is refer them to the Office of International Education. As an advisor, it is not your responsibility to help students search for and find study abroad programs. The OIE can help students find programs that work with their interest, academics, budget, and timeline. Academic Advisors can be very helpful in determining the best time to study abroad during their academic career, as well as help them determine what coursework can be taken abroad.

What if an advisee wants to volunteer or intern abroad?

There are many opportunities through SUNY to volunteer or intern for a semester, summer, or J-term. Students can work with OIE and their department to find internship/volunteer programs that work for their interests.

When should students begin planning to study abroad? When should they start applying?

Students that plan for study abroad well in advance are the most successful—this is true for academics, finances, and much more. The sooner that a student can begin to prepare, the better.

Students should apply to their selected study abroad program(s) the semester before they intend to go. If they want to study in the J-Term, they should apply *no later than* Fall; for study in the Fall, they should apply *no later than* Spring. Every program has different application deadlines and requirements, so students should pay attention when they are exploring programs.

How does the course pre-approval process work?

Students that wish to receive major, minor, or CCC credit while abroad are required to fill out the “Overseas Course Approval” form. For major and minor courses, students should meet with their respective Department Chairs with information on the course(s) they intend to take abroad (syllabi, description, etc.). If students wish to receive CCC credit, they should meet with the Department Chair in charge of the CCC requirement/course. If a student wants to take a Social Sciences CCC and finds a relevant Political Science course abroad, they should meet with the chair of the Political Science department to get approval. After CCC approval from the chair, students must also seek approval from the Associate Provost for Curriculum, Assessment, and Academic Support.

What if the curriculum in my department is very stringent?

It is still possible for students to go abroad even if they are not able to take major coursework abroad. It is important that advisors discuss study abroad with students *early* in their academic career so that students can plan accordingly. Students are still able to take CCC and elective classes abroad. In some cases, you may find a course or two that can count for the major. If courses need to be taken in sequence (such as Organic Chemistry I & II), it may be possible to find relevant coursework abroad. You can also encourage students to consider summer/J-term courses to help them keep up with curriculum requirements while still being able to go abroad.

How can I support students while they are abroad?

If students change their course schedule while abroad, they should be in touch with the department chair and OIE to be sure that changes will be approved. Additionally, Advisors are responsible with providing students with their registration PIN so that they may register for the semester that they return to Fredonia.