

Assisting Students Considering Study Abroad

As faculty advisors you can have a great impact on inspiring students to study abroad and connecting them with the information and resources to integrate study abroad into their academic plans. Our students that return from study abroad consistently tell us that it was a life-changing experience that enhanced their academic and personal development. They see themselves and the world in new ways with greater appreciation for international issues, cultures, and the role of the United States in a global community. Research on study abroad nationally connects study abroad with academic performance and transnational competence, increased ability to appreciate and operate in diverse settings, and greater personal confidence and self-awareness.

This FAQ is designed to be a quick resource for you when working with your students interested in studying abroad. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the International Programs Office or refer students to the office for additional help.

When Can Students Study Abroad?

Freshman and sophomores are eligible to study abroad for winter intersession, summer session, or other short-term programs immediately. If planning on studying for a full semester or year, students should be a second semester sophomore, junior or senior.

When Should Students Start Planning for Study Abroad?

Now! Even though most students that study abroad for a semester do so later in their academic career, it's best to start planning and researching programs as early as possible. This allows the student to save certain requirements for their study abroad semester or year. Some general education classes, electives, language, and courses with broader requirements may be easiest to satisfy abroad.

Which Majors Can Study Abroad?

Study abroad can be worked into any academic major with careful planning. GEs, electives, language and other courses may be taken abroad when major specific coursework is not possible. For example, education majors subject to block scheduling may choose to study abroad their second semester sophomore year. Summer or winter may also be an option for students where the major class requirements are already fulfilled or cannot be taken abroad. Advisors should be cognizant of class offerings within their department when assisting students.

Where Can Students Study Abroad?

SUNY Cortland offers over 50 programs on six continents; however, if our programs do not fit the student's personal, professional, or academic goals, they may participate in any program offered through the SUNY International Education Consortium. There are over 600 study abroad programs offered through the consortium all around the world.

What Types of Programs are there?

There are many types of program models available to students. Students may study abroad for a traditional semester or academic year or a short-term summer or winter intersession. Other opportunities include faculty-led group programs or courses that embed a study abroad experience such as a spring break trip or include study abroad as a culminating experience. International internship opportunities are also a great option and some education majors can satisfy their student teaching abroad.

Do Students Need to Speak Another Language?

Language immersion is an amazing experience, but not a requirement for study abroad. There are many programs that offer courses taught in English, even if that is not the primary language of the location abroad and, of course, there are many countries where English is the principal language.

What Courses Can Students Take Abroad?

Students should seek out programs and courses that will satisfy their degree requirements, whether they are major specific, GEs, language, electives or general liberal arts and sciences (LAS) classes. ALL classes taken abroad are approved for LAS credits.

Are Grades Earned Abroad Factored into the Student's GPA?

YES! Students need to be aware that credits earned abroad on any SUNY program are treated as institutional credit and grades WILL BE factored into the student's cumulative grade point average.

Can Transfer Students that come to SUNY Cortland with the Maximum Allowable Transfer Credits Study Abroad?

YES! Since credits earned abroad are treated as institutional credits, transfer students with the maximum amount of transfer credits can still study abroad on *any SUNY program*.

How Much Does it Cost to Study Abroad?

Costs vary by location, program, credits taken, and options chosen by students. Tuition paid to SUNY Cortland for a regular semester is applied to any SUNY study abroad program cost. Some programs are more expensive than a semester at SUNY Cortland and some programs are less expensive. There are select Cortland programs that allow for student exchange, which greatly reduces the overall cost.

Financial aid may be available for students based on their eligibility for semester and summer programs. Be sure to direct your student to visit with their Financial Aid advisor to discuss eligibility. SUNY Cortland awards over \$25,000 in scholarships annually to SUNY Cortland students for study abroad. Information and applications are available online at cortland.edu/studyabroad. National scholarships are also available.

How Do I Assist My Advisees with the Course Approval Form?

Students should come prepared to the meeting with their advisor to get their courses approved with course descriptions and/or syllabi of the courses abroad. Students should have the left side of the form completed with a list of two to three times the amount of classes required.

Faculty advisors are trusted to complete the right side of the form as experts in the field and most knowledgeable about course content. Advisors are encouraged to be flexible. For example; International Marketing = MGT 3XX. Associate deans are available for support, and they will review and approve all equivalencies assigned. A list of previously awarded course equivalencies is available on the 'Faculty Resources' tab of the International Programs website; however, please note that course equivalencies are NOT limited to the ones listed. For example, the Belize: History, Art, and Culture program can have an equivalency assigned in history (if appropriate), although this is currently not listed on the chart. The charts are representative of the past few years of approvals only and are updated each year

How Can I Support My Advisee While Abroad?

Occasionally a student will need to change their courses while abroad. They are instructed to communicate with their advisor, and their associate dean by e-mail to assign and approve new equivalencies. Please be sure to copy the International Programs Office on the approval e-mail.

Academic planning for the semester after the student's semester abroad should take place at the advising session prior to the study abroad semester. Since the student will need to register for the next semester's classes while abroad, the student should contact you via e-mail for their registration pin. Advisors are encouraged to stay connected while their advisee is abroad to follow their experience and transformation by e-mail communication, reading student blogs, and/or journals.

How Can I Support and Encourage Students to Study Abroad?

Start the conversation with students during the first advising session. Also, consider allowing 10 minutes of your class time for a return study abroad student to promote study abroad. Contact the International Programs Office to schedule a CSAP (Cortland Study Abroad Promoter) presentation.

Where Should I Direct the Student Next?

All students interested in studying abroad should be referred to the International Programs Office. All students are required to attend a 'Study Abroad 101' Information session to learn about the study abroad planning and application process. Sessions are offered twice per week throughout the semester. Information is available on the International Programs website at cortland.edu/studyabroad

What Resources are Available for the Faculty Advisor?

The International Programs Office website offers a variety of resources on the Faculty Resource tab. Department International Advocates, Associate Deans, and International Programs Office staff are also available to help.