

STEPS TO STUDY ABROAD



Jefferson 
College

Steps to Study Abroad and General Information

Who is it for?

- For anyone interested in exploring a new culture.
- It's a great way to become more fluent in a foreign language
- For someone to gain a global perspective on world issues that would help with future employment.
- To make important contacts – personal and business.
- This could be your one chance to experience being overseas.

What is available?

- There are thousands of programs to choose from.
- Content wise to match any discipline – humanities, health care, business...
- Location wise to match any desire...Asia, Africa, Australia...
- Time wise to match any schedule – year, semester, month, week...

Step 1: Explore

A) Review the different types of study abroad programs available.

- Are you interested in earning credit?
- Do you just want to travel?
- What is your timeframe with family, work and school obligations here at home?
- How long do you want to be away?

**The internet is a good source for information*

B) Talk with faculty/staff and students who have traveled or studied abroad to get their impressions, pros and cons.

C) Discuss ideas with your family and friends.

D) Money: How will you pay for the travel experience?

- Financial aid questions should be referred to the institution transcribing the credits for the study abroad program.
- Traveling abroad costs more than staying in the US.
- There is money out there to help you travel.
- Start saving NOW.

Step 2: Decide

- A) Get a Passport
- Visit your local post office
- B) Select 1 to 3 programs/countries on which to do more in-depth research.
- Obtain all the details – timing, location, costs, accreditation, reputation...
 - A good program will refer you to previous participants for their insights.
- C) Make an appointment with the Director of Financial Aid.
- Can you get student loans?
 - Does Financial Aid cover this?
 - What financial options are there at Jefferson?
 - What other financial options are there?
- D) See the Registrar regarding acceptance of transfer credits by Jefferson College if you are seeking to earn college credits.
- Have the names of the institutions at hand for the Registrar.
 - Have the names of American agencies and institutions that the Registrar can contact regarding transfer issues.
 - Provide specific course information that will be transcribed at each institution.
 - It is not the Registrar's job to research this information – it is your responsibility to make a good case for Jefferson College to fully accept the credits.

Step 3: Act

****Remember application deadlines are usually 6 months to one year before actual travel!**

A) Apply to 1 to 3 of your top study abroad program choices. Be sure to submit all required documentation such as:

- transcripts
- application fee
- financial documents
- contracts
- passport photo
- medical information
- reference letters
- correspondence info.
- deposit
- application

B) Review your application materials with the study abroad advisor before submitting information.

C) Upon your acceptance into one of the programs, read all of the information that was sent with your acceptance letter.

D) Submit all necessary documentation or deposits.

E) Notify the study abroad advisor of your acceptance!

- A quick consultation with the Financial Aid Office and/or Registrar may be necessary

Step 4: Purchase

A) The agency handling your program will assist in most cases with this type of information.

B) You may need to obtain a visa (depending on the country you're traveling to). Usually you need to send your passport to the nearest embassy so that they may stamp your visa into the passport. This takes time!!!!

C) Book your flight. Compare costs, call bucketshops (cheap student travel places), and remember travel agents shouldn't cost you a dime!

D) Purchase an ISIC (International Student Identity Card). This is totally optional however, you can use the card to get:

- Lower airfares
- Access to student discounts at attractions
- Insurance
- Savings on phone calls, rental cars, hotels, hostels, etc.

E) Immunizations - Call or write the CDC (Center for Disease Control) for suggested immunizations for the area you plan to visit or talk to your doctor.

F) Insurance - Your current health insurance may not cover you abroad. You might consider purchasing special short-term insurance, property insurance, etc. for your trip.

Step 5: Take Off

The experience itself.....

Step 6: Return

A) Visit with the study abroad advisor.

- Share your insights with your colleagues and campus.

B) Have official transcript sent to the Registrar.

C) Check with the Registrar to confirm transfer of credit.

D) Check with Career Services to learn how to put your study abroad experience on your resume.

Disclaimer: Jefferson College is not responsible for the accreditation or quality of study abroad programs. Students are responsible for investigating programs and establishing transferability of credit with the cooperation of Jefferson College officers.

Resources:

Where to find info on study abroad?

Jefferson College does not endorse any specific agency or program.

1) Books:

- Academic year Abroad (IIE publication)
- Advisory List of International Educational Travel and Exchange programs

2) Resources:

- International Student Exchange program – www.internationalstudent.com
- www.asse.com
- www.aisec.org
- Institute of International Education – www.iie.org
- Council for International Exchange of Scholars – www.cies.org
- Fulbright Scholars – www.fulbrightweb.org
- Butler Institute for Study Abroad – www.butler.edu/isa
- www.studyabroad.com/csa

3) Local Examples:

- St Louis Community College programs – www.stlcc.edu/oie
- Canterbury program (see stlcc.edu)

What about Money?

Research and check into some of the SOURCES LISTED below - Jefferson College does not endorse any specific agency or program.

1) Books:

- Schlachter/Weber, Financial Aid for Study and Training Abroad, latest edition
- Free Money for Foreign Study
- Financial resources for International Study (Princeton)
- International Scholarship Book (Prentice Hall)

- Financial resources for International Study (IIE)
- Scholarships, Fellowships and Grants for Programs Abroad (American Collegiate Service)
- Lovejoy's Guide to Financial Aid

2) Resources:

- Database: www.iefc.org
- www.iie.org/gilman
- www.iie.org/nsep
- www.iie.org/pgms/Freeman-ASIA
- www.isep.org/scholarship/
- <http://fastweb.monster.com>
- www.studyabroad.com/os/finaid.html
- <http://studentaid.ed.gov> – Federal Student Aid
- www.worldstudy.gov
- www.ciee.org
- www.finaid.org
- www.iefc.com
- American Institute for Foreign Study – www.aifs.org

3) Other Places:

- Pell Grants, Perkins, Stafford loans may apply (you can apply through your college OR sponsoring/host institution)
- Parent loans for students may apply
- Commercial Lending organizations
- National and local companies
- Course or program specific scholarships agencies
- Gender, minority scholarship programs
- Rotary International and other non profit groups
- Honors groups such as Phi Kappa Phi
- Local college funding – home college, college abroad
- Global Studies Program at Jefferson
- Any Jefferson College study abroad monies
- Often your family, friends and neighbors can help raise money for you – making your study abroad a truly community experience.

Bon Voyage!