WELCOME TO THE OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

The Office of International Affairs facilitates international opportunities for our students and faculty and makes educational resources accessible for the campus, our international guests and the community beyond. We celebrate diverse cultures, foster the exchange of ideas and support the growing international dimension of The Ohio State University.

Ohio State provides strong and vibrant education abroad opportunities. We offer more than 200 study abroad programs in more than 70 different countries, and close to 20 percent of undergraduates have an education abroad experience before they graduate. At Ohio State, you have the opportunity to study transportation infrastructure in Taiwan, learn Arabic in Jordan, perform research in Ethiopia, intern in Ireland or volunteer in Honduras.

The global society in which we live has made it increasingly important for students to become familiar with different cultures and have a broad understanding of international issues. Students need to have a global perspective in order to be competitive in their personal and professional lives as our world becomes more interdependent and interconnected, and this perspective can be gained through education abroad.

The Office of International Affairs can help you make this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity a reality. Familiarizing yourself with the many international experiences available is the first step in the process. We offer a wide range of support for students who want to study abroad, including advice on selecting the study abroad program that’s right for you, as well as financial planning and logistical support throughout your planning process.
PASSPORT INFORMATION

Having a passport in hand will open doors to countless international opportunities. After gathering each item listed below, visit a U.S. Post Office to process your passport application.

1. **Complete the DS-11 form**
   Go online to the U.S. Department of State website to fill out the form at travel.state.gov.

2. **Provide a passport photograph**
   You will need one 2 x 2-inch color photograph for use in your passport. Photographs must be taken in street attire within the last six months, with a plain white background. Passport photographs can be taken at these campus locations:
   - FedEx Office, 18 E. 15th Ave.
   - CVS, 1634 Neil Ave.
   - CVS, 2160 N. High St.

3. **Prove you are a citizen**
   You will need to have valid identification, such as a certified birth certificate or certificate of citizenship, to prove that you are a U.S. citizen.

4. **Identify yourself**
   You must also provide a form of identification to prove your identity. Acceptable forms of identification include a valid driver’s license, government or military ID, naturalization certificate or a previously issued passport.

5. **Visit a U.S. Post Office for processing**
   The standard fee for applicants is $110, plus a processing fee that brings the total cost of a passport to $135. There is a $60 expedition fee for passport processing to take less than four to six weeks. A representative at the post office will verify all materials before submitting completed applications. For more information about local passport processing facilities, visit iafdb.travel.state.gov.
WHAT IS EDUCATION ABROAD?

Education abroad provides students the opportunity to study abroad with other Ohio State students and professors, take classes through a foreign university or an exchange program, complete an independent study or service learning project, conduct research or participate in an internship program.

Studying abroad is a life-changing experience. Living and learning in a foreign country provides an extraordinary opportunity for you to explore another culture firsthand. You will visit new places, make new friends, learn a new language and experience life in a new environment. Studying in another country offers you a different perspective on global events and prepares you for a lifetime of learning. At the same time, you can impact the lives of those you meet and build lifelong ties and friendships. We encourage you to meet this challenge and gain the experience of a lifetime.
The Office of International Affairs is committed to making education abroad accessible to every Ohio State student who seeks the experience. Students at all levels of study, undergraduate or graduate, and in any major can study abroad. Programs range from 10 days to a full academic year in many countries around the world. You can participate in different types of programs – international exchange programs, or programs taught by Ohio State faculty – or you can study overseas with students from other colleges and universities. An international experience can also take the form of an internship, research or field work abroad. You will earn academic credit that can fulfill major or minor requirements, or earn general education, language or elective credits.
WHY SHOULD YOU STUDY ABROAD?

Earn academic credit
• Fulfill requirements in your major, minor or elective coursework
• Experience hands-on learning
• Gain intellectual insight

Develop global competencies
• Develop the ability to work effectively in international settings
• Gain awareness of and adaptability to diverse cultures, perspectives and approaches
• Familiarize yourself with major currents of global change and issues they raise
• Increase effective communication across cultural and linguistic boundaries
• Gain confidence in international settings

Prepare for your future
• Gain problem solving skills, a sense of direction and purpose for your future career
• Learn how to be independent and work as a team
• Demonstrate self-reliance and an adventurous spirit
HOW DO YOU GET STARTED?

Take advantage of the many ways in which you can learn more about studying abroad. Learn the basics at a Getting Started session, review study abroad programs online, attend a program information session and/or visit with an education abroad coordinator. Taking the time to research all of your options will help you make the best decision.

Attend a Getting Started session

At these sessions, you will learn more about studying abroad, including how to select a program that is the best fit for you, along with other practical information about finances, the application process and other resources available to you. Given the variety of options from which you can choose and all the things you will need to consider, attending a Getting Started session will help you narrow your choices and provide you with an opportunity to ask questions of the experts. Attending one of these sessions is highly recommended, and schedules are available online at oia.osu.edu.
Find the program that is right for you at oia.osu.edu

The online search engine enables you to narrow your search for a study abroad program to find the one that best meets your academic goals. You can search by multiple fields to find programs specific to a subject you are interested in studying, a particular country you want to explore, the length of time you want to study abroad and the time of year that works best for your schedule. Once you have a list of potential programs, click on the program name to find additional details about the program including dates, costs, eligibility, application deadlines and education abroad coordinator contact information.

Attend a program information session

These one-hour sessions will give you an in-depth overview of a study abroad program, and in some cases, the opportunity to meet the resident director and program alumni. Visit oia.osu.edu to view a listing of program-specific information sessions.

Meet with an education abroad coordinator

Each study abroad program is managed by an education abroad coordinator in the Office of International Affairs. If you have attended a Getting Started session and have specific questions about a particular program, or if you already have been accepted to a program, you should speak directly with the appropriate education abroad coordinator. You can find your program’s corresponding coordinator name on the right-hand side of the program information page. Each education abroad coordinator holds walk-in advising hours every Wednesday from 1 - 4 p.m.

If you have attended a Getting Started session and have started to research your education abroad options, but are still unsure of which program to select, please direct general education abroad questions to abroadadvisor@osu.edu for further assistance.
HOW DO YOU DECIDE WHICH PROGRAM IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

An education abroad experience will be the single most important element of your academic career at Ohio State. The experience will help you gain a combination of critical thinking skills, technical expertise and global awareness, and will change your perspective about the world in which we live.

Identify goals
Before researching specific programs, ask yourself the following questions:

- Why do you want to study abroad?
- What do you want to achieve and experience?
- Have you discussed studying abroad in relation to your degree requirements with your academic advisor?
- In which semester do you plan to graduate?
- Have you considered the financial implications of studying abroad?
- Will you consider building education abroad into your financial aid package?
- Are you an Ohio resident or out-of-state student?
Consider which of these is of most importance to you:

**Location**
- Do you have preferred countries or regions in mind?
- Do you want to be in a big city or in a rural, developing area?
- Do you have a preference regarding climate?

**Academics**
- Are you looking for an English-only curriculum, or would you like to study in another language?
- Do you want to take classes within your major or courses fulfilling general education requirements?
- Do you want or need to continue or complete a foreign language requirement?
- Are you able to take a class on campus before participating in a winter break or spring break program?

**Structure**
- Would you prefer a program that takes place over winter break, spring break, the month of May or one that lasts a semester or longer?
- Would you prefer to live and study with Ohio State students and faculty or live and study independently?
- Do you want to take classes with students from the host culture or with international students only?
- Are you comfortable living abroad independently?
- Do you want to have an Ohio State faculty member (or resident director) available?
Housing

☐ Do you prefer to live in residence halls, apartments or with a host family?

☐ Do you want to live with other international students or with local students from the host country?

☐ Are you comfortable with minimal accommodations in a developing country?

Set priorities

Now it is time to set priorities based on your goals, expectations and comfort level. Write a list of the factors that you consider the most important to you. You can even combine them into a goal statement (bearing in mind that you may need to be flexible with some factors):

“I want to find a semester length program in the fall, that is affordable and in Western Europe where I can complete all my German language requirements while living with a host family and traveling to surrounding countries.”
WAYS TO STUDY ABROAD

Understanding the way study abroad programs are structured is crucial in making the right program choice that will fit your needs.

Ohio State faculty-led programs – semester
• In most cases, groups of Ohio State students study together with an Ohio State faculty/staff member or GTA serving as the resident director
• Programs take place within the semester calendar and many are open to all majors
• Students typically receive three to nine credits

Ohio State faculty-led programs – May
• Groups of Ohio State students study together with an Ohio State faculty/staff member or GTA serving as the resident director
• Programs will commence in the month of May and be anywhere from nine days to four weeks in length
• Some programs require students to register for a pre-departure course during the preceding spring semester
• English is almost always the language of instruction

Ohio State faculty-led programs – winter break and spring break
• Groups of Ohio State students study together with an Ohio State faculty/staff member or GTA serving as the resident director
• Program travel will take place during winter and spring breaks, and many programs are open to all majors
• Students complete an on-campus class prior to departure and receive study abroad credit in the same semester as the class
• English is almost always the language of instruction
**Third party provider programs**

- Programs are managed by another U.S. or international organization that provides extensive service and support
- Offered for a semester, academic year or summer term
- The credit for more courses that students take are not pre-approved; you will need to choose your courses and get them approved by the appropriate academic units at Ohio State
- Students are enrolled along with local and/or other international students and classes are taught either in English or the host-country language
- For more information regarding third party provider programs, please visit oia.osu.edu/pdf/TPPDEProgramOverview.pdf

**Direct enroll programs**

- Students enroll directly in classes at an overseas institution
- Offered for a semester, academic year or summer term
- The credit for more courses that students take are not pre-approved; you will need to choose your courses and get them approved by the appropriate academic units at Ohio State
- Require a high level of independence
- For more information regarding direct enroll programs, please visit oia.osu.edu/pdf/TPPDEProgramOverview.pdf

**International exchange programs (IEP)**

- Third and fourth year Ohio State students study at an overseas institution while students from the overseas institution study at Ohio State
- Offered for either one semester or the full academic year
• The credit for more courses that students take are not pre-approved; you will need to choose your courses and get them approved by the appropriate academic units at Ohio State
• Students earn full-time credit, and classes are either taught in English or the host-country language
• Applicants are selected by an interview committee
• Exchange students pay Ohio State tuition for each semester of enrollment, plus travel and living expenses

Research
• Find programs dedicated to research at oia.osu.edu by utilizing the education abroad search engine; type “research” into the key word search and view the results to begin evaluating your options
• Additional support is offered through the Undergraduate Research Office; please visit undergraduateresearch.osu.edu
Internships

• Internships are non-paid, credit-bearing experiences where students have the opportunity to gain professional work experience abroad

• Internship programs are often a combination of traditional academic courses and internship work

• There are a handful of Ohio State approved internship programs. These programs do not have an Ohio State resident director but there is usually an in-country support staff person

• English is typically spoken in the workplace with these internships

• With internships that are Ohio State sponsored, the credit is pre-approved; with third party provider or direct enroll internships, the credit is not pre-approved – you will need to get the credit approved by the appropriate academic units at Ohio State
HOW CAN YOU FINANCE YOUR EDUCATION ABROAD EXPERIENCE?

Program costs
Costs will vary widely depending on the length, the location, and the type of program. Please review the individual program information sheets, listed at oia.osu.edu, for details about costs.

Financial aid
Financial aid is available for students who participate in an approved study abroad program. However, you must be formally accepted into a study abroad program through the Office of International Affairs before aid eligibility can be determined. The Office of International Affairs will provide you with a budget letter detailing the costs of your study abroad program. This budget letter, in combination with the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), the Ohio State Scholarship Application, and other elements, will be used to calculate the amount of aid you will receive for the term you plan to study abroad.

Scholarships
There are a number of education abroad scholarships available. A detailed scholarship list can be found in the “Grants and Scholarships” section under the Education Abroad Getting Started tab at oia.osu.edu. Please keep in mind that scholarships usually have their own application process and deadlines that are separate from the education abroad application.
HOW DO YOU APPLY?

Application process
Consult the details of the study abroad program you have selected online to find the application deadlines and any additional requirements. At a minimum, students are required to be in good academic standing and are subject to a disciplinary screening. To find out more information about the online application, please visit oia.osu.edu/application-and-policies/apply.html.

All applications have the following requirements:

• A $150 application fee (posts directly to your Statement of Account)
• A personal statement (approximately one page)
• An Ohio State Advising Report (please visit buckeyelink.osu.edu)

Some programs also require:

• An academic reference
• Supplemental application materials

Additional applications must be completed for third party provider and direct enroll programs. All of these requirements are listed in detail on the program information pages online.
BEFORE YOU GO

Health and safety
The safety and welfare of study abroad students is of the utmost importance to the Office of International Affairs. We provide information about supplemental health insurance, international travel medicine consultations and how to register your international destination with the U.S. embassy.

Passports/visas
Passports are required for every Ohio State study abroad program. For many education abroad destinations, passport information is required to apply for an entry visa (as early as six months prior to departure). If you already have a passport make sure you know when it expires. You may need to renew your passport prior to traveling.

Pre-departure orientation
All students will be required to participate in on-campus pre-departure orientations organized by the Office of International Affairs. These sessions will offer important details about travel, health, safety measures, academic expectations and cultural information.
The Office of International Affairs cultivates and nurtures the growth of global perspectives at Ohio State. International Affairs oversees Education Abroad, International Students and Scholars, the Global Gateways, the Global One Health Initiative, the Mershon Center for International Security Studies and five Area Studies Centers. The office also sponsors and administers grants and scholarships, develops international agreements with foreign institutions, supports student scholars and conducts educational outreach and special events.