

STUDY ABROAD: A Guide for Students & Supporters



Cal Poly's International Center is committed to providing equitable access to study abroad opportunities for all Cal Poly students. We understand that studying abroad is a major decision, and we want you to consider how studying abroad can benefit you or your student. Much of the learning students gain abroad is experiential - students are able to apply what is learned in the classroom and enrich their learning by interacting with the culture around them. Another major benefit students receive is a deeper understanding of themselves, leading to great personal growth. Many students and their supporters have reservations about studying abroad. We want you to know that we are here to support you and will work alongside you to make studying abroad a reality for you or your student.

COMMON CONCERNS:

Finances

Study abroad is an investment in a student's future. With proper preparation, anyone can plan a great study abroad experience that fits their financial needs. Both federal and state financial aid are applicable to many of our program options. Even if you or your student has never received financial aid, you should investigate the possibility. Countless scholarship resources are available, as well.

Step 1: Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by March 2 prior to the year you want to study abroad.

Step 2: Compare the Budget Sheet for each program you are considering.

Step 3: Attend one of our Financial Aid & Scholarship Workshops.

For more information, please visit our website www.studyabroad.calpoly.edu

Academic Credit

Our goal is to help students find a program that will fit their academic goals and allow them to continue to make progress towards their degree. We help students select appropriate coursework and complete the necessary steps to ensure that courses taken abroad will transfer back to Cal Poly and contribute to their degree progress. While students are abroad, they have access to Cal Poly academic advising to help them resolve any of their questions regarding degree progress, registration, and courses.

Step 1: Consider which types of classes you would like to take abroad (major, minor, GE).

Step 2: Try to save Area C & D GE courses. (Many of these courses are available abroad!)

Step 3: Meet with our peer advisors to discuss course petitions and transferability.



Health & Safety

Students' safety and security are our top priorities. All Cal Poly students that study abroad will have access to support staff, health insurance, and guidance on emergency protocols. Every student will enroll in the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP). This is a resource hosted by the U.S. State Department to assist travelers in the event of a political emergency or natural disaster.

Step 1: Research the host country—each region and culture are unique! Please see our website for resources on safety tips and location-specific information.

Step 2: Attend the mandatory pre-departure orientation (after you have been accepted) to familiarize yourself with the resources available to you while you are abroad.



TALK TO STUDENTS LIKE YOU

We understand that studying abroad is a big decision. You may worry that it is unaffordable or that it will cause delayed graduation; perhaps you've never traveled outside of the country or the state before. Cal Poly students like you want to share their study abroad experiences and serve as resources for you:

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NEXT STEPS FOR STUDENTS:

Your first step towards embarking on this adventure will be to **attend a Study Abroad 101 Workshop**. Please visit our website for more information on workshop dates, times, and locations. Be sure to register for your space in the workshop using the link provided!

Cal Poly International Center

www.studyabroad.calpoly.edu

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