

# UIW Study Abroad Guide for Academic Advisors

Fall 2019

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UIW International Affairs  
Authored by: Office of Study Abroad  
Study Abroad Coordinator

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# Why study abroad?

Benefits of studying abroad include...

## Experiential Learning

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Students are introduced to new experiences, meet new people and access materials that aren't available on campus. On a program led by business faculty member, students visit corporations, meet with industry leaders and engage in design projects. A fine arts class may be primarily conducted in museums, archives or backstage at a national theater.

## Career Prospects

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Numerous studies demonstrate that study abroad participants have higher graduation rates and better placement into graduate school and the job market. Students interning with an overseas organization distinguish themselves; just 1% of the U.S. university population has this experience at the time of graduation.

## Learning a New Way of Life

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Traveling as a student comes with different expectations than tourism. Students become immersed in their surroundings, learn new languages, the local history and politics of a region and its people's values, beliefs and cultures. Exposure to all these areas means students develop intercultural competency: the ability to communicate with people of other cultures.

## Becoming a Global Citizen

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Returning students demonstrate an increased ability to articulate their experiences. They learn what it takes to show empathy and compassion for others. Students learn to work independently and gain resilience through the process of cultural adaptation. Our students learn what it means to be a global citizen and a global leader.

**“...researchers who have measured the impact of study abroad and other international learning experiences have found that they have a positive impact on academic, educational, and professional outcome measures.”**

***-[National Association of International Education](#)***

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# How can UIW students study abroad?

**Step 1:** Students meet with the Study Abroad Coordinator to identify which opportunities fit their academic needs, professional goals, and cultural interests

## ✓ 2 UIW European Study Centers

- Heidelberg, Germany and Strasbourg, France
- All majors welcome, several core classes and electives offered
- Always allows students to pay using institutional aid
- Owned and operated by UIW
- **Go Abroad:** Fall, Spring, and Summer Sessions I and II

## ✓ 2 UIW Mexico Campuses

- Mexico City and Irapuato
- Always allows students to pay using institutional aid
- **Go Abroad:** Fall and Spring

## ✓ 140+ Sister Schools

- 40+ countries
- Allows students to transfer (pre-approved) credits back to UIW
- Almost always allows students to pay using institutional aid
- **Go Abroad:** Fall, Spring, and Summer
  - Dates, deadlines, and courses will vary from school to school

## ✓ Faculty-Led Programs

- Short-term academic based programs
- Students receive academic credit
- Always allows students to pay using institutional aid
- **Go Abroad:** These opportunities vary from year to year

*p.s. Summer programs are recommended for athletes and students with rigid academic plans.*



*Students can also go abroad with student clubs and to volunteer. Ask us how!*

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# My student is interested in going abroad... Now what?

**Step 2:** Students meet with their Academic Advisor to determine when to go and identify which courses to take abroad



## Determine best term(s) for the student to go abroad

→ Discuss remaining degree requirements and program restrictions

## Identify courses your student should set aside for study abroad and courses that they should take prior to and after their study abroad program

- Consider the student's overall academic plan for their time abroad. Glance at their degree audit. Do their proposed courses keep them on track for graduation?
- What courses are best abroad?
    - Core courses
    - Lower level courses
    - Electives

### Notes



**p.s.** Coming Soon!

We are working on making the study abroad experience as easy as possible for everyone involved! This means creating the ultimate course equivalency list so you and your student can easily find equivalent courses abroad!



## ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to participate in the study abroad program, you:

- must be currently enrolled as a full-time undergraduate student
- have successfully completed 12 hours at UIW
- have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.4 (some sister schools may require a higher GPA)
- cannot be abroad the semester you plan to graduate
- must complete 36 of the last 45 hours at UIW
- cannot enroll in more than 30 credit hours abroad
- must meet eligibility requirements at sister school (foreign language skill may be required)

## Academic Protocol

Students who enter UIW as freshmen must have successfully completed a minimum of 12 credit hours to be eligible to study abroad.

Transfer students must have successfully completed a minimum of 12 credit hours to be eligible to study abroad. Students must be enrolled at UIW while participating in the study abroad program.

Students may submit a petition for an exemption from these policies if there are compelling academic and intellectual reasons. Students should contact the Study Abroad Coordinator to discuss petitioning. All exemptions are on a case by case basis. The International Affairs Office reserves the right to deny a student's exemption request.

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# My student is applying to study abroad... What is my role?



## Complete and sign the Request to Study Abroad form with the student.

- Work with your student to **determine course equivalencies** at the student's abroad institution. The Study Abroad Coordinator will send you the course descriptions available once the student's application is processed.
- If the student will be taking a course from a different department, have the student contact the appropriate department chair to make sure equivalencies are approved.

## **Remember:** Students will register for their next semester while abroad!

### Notes



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## My student is abroad... What might they need?



Your student might make changes to his/her schedule after arrival and may need your advice on the changes.



Your student may also need assistance with course selection for UIW registration



Please don't hesitate to include the UIW Study Abroad Office at any time- especially if your student needs help with something other than academics.

## My student has returned to campus... Now what?

### Sister Schools

Students will receive an IP and have 6 months to submit an official transcript after the UIW semester ends. Some transcripts may need an official evaluation, which takes additional time.

Students should request **Official transcripts** to be sent to the Study Abroad Office, then the Study Abroad Coordinator will submit it to the Registrar's Office.

- o How did the credit transfer? Is a substitution form needed?

### ESC

Grades are sent directly to Registrar!

*p.s. Career Services can help students incorporate their experience into their resume!*



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# Financing Study Abroad

**Step 3:** Students meet with the Financial Assistance Advisor to learn more about their options and how to finance their study abroad experience

## ✓ Eligible students can apply for Federal Aid

- FAFSA: [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)
  - Opens October 1<sup>st</sup>
- Student will need to complete all required documents

## ✓ Remember summer Financial Aid rules

- Funds used during summer can reduce awards for Fall & Spring
- Loans, Pell Grant, and Outside Scholarships only
- Tuition waiver for straight exchange schools
- **Enrollment:** Student loans require at least half-time enrollment

## ✓ Most study abroad opportunities can be covered by Financial Aid

- **Loans:** Student (Subsidized/Unsubsidized), Parent PLUS, Private
- **Scholarships:** Institutional, Outside Resources
  - [www.uiw.edu/finaid/scholarships](http://www.uiw.edu/finaid/scholarships)
- **Grants:** Federal/State

Program Type	Federal Aid	State Aid	Institutional Aid	Private Loans	Private Scholarships	Tuition Waiver
Straight Exchange	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
European Study Center	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes, Fall & Spring Only
Non-Straight Exchange	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	At the discretion of the donor.	No



Financing Study Abroad developed by Ms. Mimi Nguyen: [Mtnguye4@uiwtx.edu](mailto:Mtnguye4@uiwtx.edu)



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## Straight Exchange

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A straight exchange denotes a partner institution with which UIW has a bilateral exchange agreement, meaning, the partner does not charge us for tuition. Thus, the student can use their UIW sponsored aid.

## Non-Straight Exchange

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A non-straight exchange institution invoices UIW for tuition; a student cannot use their sponsored aid because it is soft money and we need hard money to be able to pay the tuition invoice from the partner institution. (i.e. John Cabot University-Italy, American University of Paris-France, University of The Arts London-United Kingdom, Mary Immaculate College-Ireland).

### Notes



# Fall 2019 Calendar

UPCOMING EVENTS: FALL 2019	DATE & TIME	LOCATION
ACADEMIC ADVISOR: LUNCH & LEARN	July 19 <sup>th</sup>	ICC ballroom
STUDY ABROAD INFO TABLE	August 27 <sup>th</sup> /28 <sup>th</sup> @ 11am-1pm	SEC Concourse
PARENT AND FAMILY INFO NIGHT: STUDY ABROAD	September 12 <sup>th</sup> @ 6pm	ICC-tbd
<b>PASSPORT DAY</b>	September 19 <sup>th</sup> @ 10am-2pm	SEC Concourse
<b>SPRING 2020 APPLICATION WEEK: STUDY ABROAD ADVISING SESSIONS</b> (LET'S GET THAT APPLICATION PAPERWORK DONE!)	September 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 25 <sup>th</sup> , 26 <sup>th</sup> @ 9am-12pm (non-ESC) & 1pm-2:30pm (ESC)	SEC Concourse
<b>MOST SPRING 2020 STUDY ABROAD APPLICATIONS DUE BY...</b>	October 15, 2019	Online Application & other paperwork
PRE-DEPARTURE MEETING FOR SPRING 2020	November 16 <sup>th</sup> @ TBD	SEC-TBD
INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK	November 18 <sup>th</sup> -22 <sup>nd</sup>	Around Campus
<b>MOST SUMMER 2020 STUDY ABROAD APPLICATIONS DUE BY...</b>	March 15, 2020	Online Application & other paperwork

## Contact Us

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→ 140+ sister schools  
→ Mexico Campuses  
→ Faculty-Led

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→ European Study Centers

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## Notes

