



Study Abroad Advising Tips

1. You **CANNOT** take any course abroad to count as a "W" or writing intensive course.
2. Expect to have only one or two courses abroad count towards your major or minor unless you are going on a program specifically designed for the major, such as the Maastricht program, Goldsmiths program or Arezzo program.
3. Any courses you want to count for a major or minor must be pre-approved by your department chair, and **NOT** your advisor.
4. If you are taking a foreign language course abroad, it will most likely count as an elective towards graduation, and not as an "FL."
5. If you are a foreign language major or minor, only certain immersion programs will have courses that count for your major or minor. Courses in a foreign language will transfer for a language major or minor if they are literature or culture courses. Otherwise, they will transfer as electives towards graduation.
6. Programs in a country where English is not the native language will require you to take a foreign language course and a culture course. Culture courses can sometimes count as an "A" (art) or "H" (history) or "B" (political science or sociology) or "L" (literature) or "R" (religion) or "P" (philosophy). You may want to wait to take these requirements abroad rather than here. Otherwise, they will transfer in as electives towards graduation.
7. Generally, you cannot take a G requirement abroad.
8. Generally, you cannot take an S requirement abroad unless you are in Australia, Denmark, or Ireland.
9. Some culture courses will qualify for the D perspective **ONLY** if they are nonwestern! Therefore, culture courses taken in Europe and Australia will not be nonwestern. The exception is a course about the aborigines in Australia.
10. Internships are noncredit except for the Washington program and certain internships in Florence.

NOTE: More than 50% of Muhlenberg students study in a country where English is NOT the native language. Strive for that too!

52.4% of the class of 2009 studied abroad. YOU should too!! With good prior planning, you can study abroad no matter what your MAJOR or MINOR is!!!!

How should you choose where and when to go?

- Academic/curriculum: *GAR*, Major, Minor, electives to graduation, internships, field research
- Geographical considerations: time of year, climate, terrain, proximity to other places
- Urban, suburban or rural location. Size of institution/number of students
- *GPA*
- Third-party provider or Direct enrollment
- Language: beginner or intermediate with some English courses , advanced (immersion), or all-English
- Living arrangements: host family, dorm, apartment, cooking, meal plan, assimilated with international and local people, commuting considerations
- Technological considerations
- Assessment/grade transfer
- Ability to travel to other places
- Disability and health considerations
- Personal extracurricular activities

Types of Programs

- Third party providers:
 1. Approved programs that begin with a provider name such as *CIEE*, *SIT*, *SFS*, *CET*, *CGE*, *Butler*, *Fairfield University*
 2. Generally offer optional group flights and airport pickup
 3. On-site staff for American students abroad
 4. Often excursions are included
 5. Courses are either in a separate facility or are sometimes at a local university
 6. Classes can be with American students or with host country students
- Direct Enrollment:
 1. Australia, England, Scotland, Ireland, Israel, Egypt, *Otaru University*
 2. Except for Israel, there is generally no group flight and for some institutions, no airport pickup
 3. Registered as a visiting student at the host institution
 4. Staff on site handle all international students, not just Americans
 5. Except for Israel and Egypt, no excursions are included
- Independent programs
 1. *AUCP* in France and *CCCS* programs
 2. Small number of only American students

Barriers:

- Certain physical or learning disabilities
- Financial limitations
- General lack of student courage
- Low *GPA*'s or social or academic violations
- Need to have a declared major (advisor must sign off)
- Parental reluctance to permit longer study abroad
- Passport/visa processing time
- Reluctance to leave home-based personal relationships
- Sports
- Time constraints for particular majors (such as double majors and pre-med students)
- Will not be able to work while abroad

CUT THROUGH THE BARRIERS!!!! AND JUST DO IT!!!!!!!!!!!!