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A Family's Guide to Study Abroad

Inside This Guide: *Congratulations!*

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| Benefits of Study | 2 | Your student has made the decision to study abroad and is about to embark on the adventure of a lifetime! We hope you are proud that s/he is interested in seeing more of the world, making new friends from other cultures, developing cross-cultural competence, and enhancing their academic interests and career prospects. |
| Student Responsibility | 2 | By now, your student has met with and discussed their program with a Purdue Study Abroad Advisor, completed and returned the Host University or program application and other requisite forms, received the <i>Savvy Student's Guide to Study Abroad</i> , and is beginning or has already completed the mandatory orientation program. The online portion covers various topics including pre-departure information, travel documents, cultural adjustment, course approvals, Purdue registration procedures, academic expectations, and health and safety. The intercultural awareness presentations address cross-cultural issues students encounter overseas. A pre-departure workshop offers advice on a variety of useful topics, and finally, a regional pre-departure meeting has been scheduled for later this semester. At this regional orientation, Purdue students who studied abroad last year, as well as international exchange students studying at Purdue this semester, lead panel discussions at which time your student can raise questions and concerns with others who "have been there, done that." |
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-Purdue Study Abroad Staff

Types of Programs

Co-Sponsored Programs Purdue students are eligible to participate in a number of study abroad programs that are organized by agencies specializing in international education (Arcadia, CIEE, IES, IFSA, DIS, etc.).

Direct Enroll Programs are similar to Exchange Programs in duration, independence and academics; the main differences are that Direct Enroll programs tend to cost more and do not bring overseas students to Purdue.

Exchange Programs are based on agreements that Purdue maintains with academic institutions around the world. Participants will be enrolled as regular students at the partner university but will pay their regular level of tuition to Purdue.

Purdue-Administered Programs are designed and administered by the Study Abroad Office and typically take place over the summer. Usually a Purdue representative leads the program and teaches one course. Participants typically earn six credit hours, depending on the length of the program.

Learn more about Types of Programs at www.studyabroad.purdue.edu/programs

Benefits of Study Abroad

In today's global society, an international experience has become an essential component of higher education.

Studying abroad enriches students' academic experience. They get to live in interesting places, have many opportunities to visit historically and culturally significant sites, examine artifacts they've only read about or seen on TV, and interact with local students and faculty. Many will become students at prestigious universities where they have to adjust and learn to thrive in an academic system that usually demands quite a bit of independence and initiative. It is common for returned students to tell us that they came home to Purdue after their term abroad more focused, more excited about completing their degree program, and with a better idea of what they would like to do after graduation.

The challenges that come with living in another culture force students to hone their interpersonal and communication skills, increase their sensitivity to other cultures, and become more adaptable, assertive, and independent. We are constantly impressed with the air of confidence and self-assurance that returned students possess after their time abroad.

Finally, students' overseas experience can enhance their professional credentials. Returned students report that interviewers always discuss their international experience with them during job interviews. The personal characteristics and new perspectives that students developed while overseas are valued by more and more companies, organizations, and employers who seek staff members who can thrive outside their comfort zone, speak a foreign language, and/or live and work more comfortably in a multi-cultural environment.

Your student's decision to spend a semester overseas is a worthy investment indeed!

Student Responsibility

Your student has a Study Abroad Advisor at Purdue. This advisor assisted him or her in completing the host university or program application and has already briefed your student about program features, accommodation options, academics, visa information, program costs, the course approval process, insurance, and other matters. While the Study Abroad Advisor is available to answer questions and offer assistance, your student should assume the primary responsibility of planning for their time abroad.

We expect your student to:

- Complete all Purdue Study Abroad requirements
- Return host university or program forms in a timely manner
- Obtain course approvals
- Secure required travel documents
- Make travel plans
- Review pre-departure resources
- Participate in all orientation programming
- Contact their Study Abroad Advisor with questions/ concerns

Students should also make necessary preparations for life overseas, such as familiarizing himself or herself with the host country, getting information about the academic program, talking with returned and incoming exchange students, setting up a communication plan with family and friends, and attending to financial matters.

Upon acceptance to the Host University or program, your student will receive a packet of information or be given access to a program website. These materials may include an official letter of acceptance, housing information, pre-registration form, visa application information, arrival instructions, and information about the onsite orientation program and university. We instruct our participants to go through these documents carefully, follow instructions, and share the information with family and significant others. Frequently, acceptance materials include time-sensitive materials that have to be returned to the host university or program organizer in order to confirm participation.

We encourage students to keep you informed about his or her program or to refer you to the appropriate websites and resources for additional information. The federal law known as the Family Education Reform and Privacy Act (FERPA) prevents us from releasing information that concerns students even to immediate family members. If you have questions, your first point of contact should be your student who will most likely have the information.

Academics FAQ

How many courses do students take while studying abroad?

Purdue requires students to take the equivalent of at least 12 (semester) or 6 (summer) Purdue credits. Typically, that is 4 or 2 courses respectively. Exceptions may be made ahead of time with approval by the Study Abroad Office and the Study Abroad Liaison.

If students take less than 12 or 6 credits, they can lose their financial aid and insurance coverage.

At the same time, students must abide by the host institution's minimum credit requirement which in many cases is more than just 12 credits. For example, universities in Europe typically have a 30 ECTS minimum requirement which is equivalent to 15 Purdue credits.

What is a Study Abroad Academic Liaison?

Study Abroad Academic Liaisons are professors or academic advisors who have the authority to designate and approve the appropriate Purdue equivalents of the courses students take overseas.

Can a student take less than the required minimum credits?

Generally no. Purdue requires all Study Abroad Students to take the equivalent of at least 12 Purdue credits every semester or 6 for the summer so they can make progress on their degree program while abroad.

How do students know which courses to take while abroad?

Students must consult their Academic Advisor and the appropriate Study Abroad Liaison to determine (a) which courses to take while overseas and (b) how many credits will be assigned to each course.

Does a student receive grades for courses taken abroad?

Students receive Purdue credits and grades for courses within approved academic areas. If a program hasn't been approved by a specific academic area students receive P/N credit for their coursework abroad.

Can a student take courses for Pass/No Pass?

A Purdue student accepted into a Purdue-approved program may choose the P/N option for courses approved for direct credit that are completed overseas. If a student chooses to take one or more courses P/N, s/he must first discuss the matter and secure approval from her/his Academic Advisor. The procedures for this are found on the students *My Study Abroad* Page. The deadline for submitting the P/N form is no later than the eighth week of the study abroad semester or, for shorter programs, prior to 50% of the program's duration.

Once the P/N form is submitted, a P/N grade will be recorded on the Purdue transcript for the applicable coursework. This is not reversible.

Why do students have to get course approval?

Students should continue progress toward their degree requirements while studying abroad. In fact, what gets recorded on their academic record are the designated Purdue equivalents of the courses taken overseas. Securing course approval ensures that students are going to take the appropriate courses and that they and their Academic Advisor knows what degree requirements they are satisfying while abroad.

What if a student is unable to complete a Course Approval Form before leaving the U.S.?

It is very important to secure approval for all courses to be taken abroad. If the student is unable to secure approvals before departure, or would like to get additional approvals, it is possible to get them approved while abroad. The student should email his or her Academic Advisor, the appropriate Study Abroad Liaison, and Study Abroad Advisor to make the request. He or she must provide the syllabus for each course.

What if the student decides to take a course that has not been approved?

If a student takes a course that has not been pre-approved, there is no guarantee that the course is an acceptable replacement for one of his or her degree requirements. The student should, however, work with their Study Abroad Liaison, Academic Advisor, and Study Abroad Advisor during their time overseas to gain the appropriate course approval. Students are asked to upload their overseas course enrollment form to confirm their final course registration during their time abroad.

My child is a year ahead and is studying abroad just for fun. Is securing course approval still necessary?

Yes.

Encourage your student to balance work and play while studying abroad.



Program Costs

If your student is participating in an Exchange program expect to pay the regular Purdue semester or summer tuition and fees, plus the cost of international health and medical insurance, for the duration of the student's program. You will receive the Purdue invoice at the normal time from the Office of the Bursar.

Please note that tuition fee remission applies to Study Abroad Exchange programs. Payment of the Purdue Bursar bill (tuition, fees, and insurance) must be made by the requested deadline(s). Failure to pay on time will result in the cancellation of registration at Purdue University. Reinstatement occurs after paying the late registration fee.

If your student is participating in a Co-Sponsored program your student will *not* pay Purdue tuition. Instead, the student pays a comprehensive program fee to the program provider directly and a Study Abroad fee to Purdue University. Expect an invoice from the program provider (CIEE, IES, DIS, etc.). Remit payment to the provider according to the organization's payment schedule. The Study Abroad fee is \$914 for the semester and \$305 per module in the summer. If suitable, insurance coverage is not included in your student's program fee, then he or she will be enrolled in the Purdue insurance and the cost is added to your bill. The Purdue Bursar will send fee statements for applicable fees at the normal time.



Financial Aid & Scholarships

Purdue Moves Scholarships are available to assist undergraduate students with financial need.

In order to be considered, students must meet the following criteria:

- Enrolled as Purdue West Lafayette undergraduate degree seeking student.
- Participating in a credit bearing approved study abroad program through Purdue University .
- Meet the requirements as outlined at www.studyabroad.purdue.edu.
- Students are only eligible for one Purdue Moves semester-long and one short-term scholarship during their Purdue career.
- Enroll for an approved program.
- Students do not need to be in accepted status to apply for a MOVES Scholarship.

Students participating in semester long programs should also consider applying for the Study Abroad Intercultural Learning Scholarship for an additional \$2000.

If your student is a scholarship recipient at Purdue, please confirm with the appropriate scholarship agency or administrative office that those benefits will apply if the student studies abroad.

Learn more about Financial Aid & Resources at www.studyabroad.purdue.edu/financialaid

Health & Safety

When the Chinese use the expression “May you live in interesting times,” they mean it as a curse. As evident from current events, we are indeed living in interesting times. While the Purdue Study Abroad Office believes that students are in no more danger by studying abroad than by staying in the United States, we take safety concerns very seriously.

Our approach to safety includes careful monitoring of U.S. Department of State travel warnings and advisories, regular consultations with colleagues around the country who are involved in the administration of study abroad programs, with onsite resident directors, with responsible officials of host universities, with contacts in the U.S. Department of State and other agencies, and with other experts who are well informed on international issues and

events. We have also implemented an emergency preparedness and crisis response plan for our overseas programs by providing key individuals (onsite faculty and host institution administrators) with guidelines to follow under a variety of circumstances. The response plan calls for working with overseas contacts as well as the Dean of International Programs, the Dean of Students' Office, and ultimately the Provost and President of Purdue University. For more information concerning the safety and health of your student, please see the Health and Safety page on our website.

We cannot, however, guarantee the absolute safety of each participant or ensure that risk will not at times be greater than at home. Similarly, we also cannot monitor the daily personal decisions, choices,

and activities of individual participants any more than is the case on our home campus.

We address health & safety issues thoroughly in the *Savvy Student’s Guide*, during the mandatory orientation, and pre-departure meeting. We encourage you to review the safety tips listed in the study abroad handbook and discuss them with your student.

Students should be mindful of the laws in their host country.

Staying Healthy Abroad

To be ill in another country, where Mom’s chicken soup won’t come to the rescue, is not going to be fun. Of more importance, a healthy person has a sunny outlook and can experience challenges overseas in a more positive light.

Before departure, your student should have a general physical, eye, and dental exam. If your student has a chronic ailment, make sure s/he packs a complete medical record and typed copy of any prescription medication. Encourage the student to practice healthy lifestyle while abroad and to know the conditions at the host country. Is the water safe to drink? Will the student need vaccinations? Check the Centers for Disease Control website for information. Stress can be a factor overseas and the student should be prepared with tried and tested coping mechanisms.

Health & Safety Resources

Centers for Disease Control & Prevention www.cdc.gov

U.S. Department of State www.travel.state.gov

Learn more about Health & Safety abroad at www.studyabroad.purdue.edu/safety

Medical & Dietary Needs

If your student has special medical or dietary needs, we suggest the following:

- Have your physician indicate the generic name of the medication. The brand name of your student’s medication could go by another name in the host country.
- Research how the student’s condition is typically treated in the host country or how pharmacies dispense prescription medication.
- Know how the medical condition is commonly known in the host country so he or she can make the condition known without delay if medical attention is needed. For example, mononucleosis is called “glandular fever” in the United Kingdom.
- Inform the Study Abroad Office if the student needs special accommodations. We need time to work out arrangements with Purdue Disability Resources and our overseas partners.
- Inform the overseas staff of the student’s needs and get set-up with a specialist or general practitioner as soon as possible.
- Talk with your insurance company and pharmacy so the student can bring enough medication with him or her.

Health & Safety (cont'd)

Insurance

Purdue University mandates that all students studying abroad have sufficient international emergency medical insurance. Most students are therefore enrolled in Purdue's International Travel Health Insurance.

Purdue insurance provides a comprehensive package of medical benefits and emergency services specifically addressing the risks associated with studying abroad.

Students do not need to file an application or complete an enrollment form — the Study Abroad Office takes care of the paperwork.

The coverage is valid for the dates of the program. The 30-day premium rate is \$32 and the charge for a semester or summer's worth of premiums is included in the Purdue Bursar invoice you receive before the start of your student's overseas study term. Prior to departure, your student receives access to an insurance card.

Individuals file claims directly to the insurance company. For routine medical services while overseas, the student should pay the physician, clinic, or hospital directly and then file for reimbursement later. Fortunately, health services in many parts of the world are not as exorbitant as they

are in the United States, so paying for services directly should not present undue hardship to the student. Students should be sure to save the physician or clinic invoice for filing a claim at a later date. If your student requires more serious or extensive medical services, he or she need to contact the insurance company.

If your student plans to do some traveling either before the official start date of the program or after the program ends, you may opt to extend his or her coverage up to one month before and after the official program dates. You will pay the extended coverage premium directly to the insurance company.

We are aware that some countries (ex: Japan, Australia) require the purchase of in-country insurance in order to secure an international student visa. In this case, your student will still need the Purdue Study Abroad insurance, even if he or she purchases the host country's required insurance. Coverage for travel outside the host country or benefits for medical, political, or security evacuation and repatriation are not provided by the in-country insurance.

The study abroad insurance is for health and medical services only.

Coverage does not cover theft or loss of valuables. We ask students not to bring valuable items overseas, but it's up to you if you choose to purchase insurance for your student's computer and other gadgets. You may also want to check if your homeowners insurance extends to loss of property while overseas.

Learn more about Purdue's International Travel Health Insurance Provider at

www.studyabroad.purdue.edu/safety/insurance

If your student has special needs encourage them to let the Study Abroad Office know as soon as possible so we can begin to make plans for a

Emergencies Abroad

In an emergency, the student must contact the onsite staff and local authorities first. There is little anyone in the U.S. can do if the person needs immediate assistance. Only after the matter has been attended to should the student call home.

For emergencies that occur after hours, the student should contact the Purdue University Police Department at +1 765-494-8221. This number is active 7 days a week, 24 hours a day. If the police department determines that the call requires the attention of Purdue personnel, Study Abroad staff members will be contacted. This number should be used for emergencies only, such as serious accident or illness. Non-emergency calls may be made to the Study Abroad Office at +1 765-494-2383 during normal business hours, 8am – 5pm EST, Monday– Friday.

We strongly recommend doing some contingency planning before the student leaves for their program site. Should an emergency occur, decide now what steps should be taken. Will the student fly home? If not, consider ways to lend emotional support while s/he remains overseas. Who will relay information about the emergency to the extended family?

You might also consider getting a passport now in case you have to go overseas to attend to an emergency involving your student.