Frequently Asked Questions

Am I eligible to study abroad?
Any USF student in good academic and disciplinary standing with USF may be qualified to study abroad. All majors need an overall cumulative GPA of at least 3.0; additionally, Management and Nursing majors need a minimum GPA of 2.75 within their major. A cumulative GPA less than 3.0 requires Dean’s approval.

We highly advise students to meet with their Academic Advisor and Dean to review specific major requirements and proposed study abroad courses. Any waivers from the Dean must be provided to our Director in writing or via e-mail.

All students who wish to study abroad or participate in an international program (e.g., faculty-led course, immersion, field trip, etc) must have a satisfactory disciplinary (conduct) record with the Office of Student Conduct Rights and Responsibilities (OSCCR).

The Center for Global Education (CGE) will contact OSCRR with the list of all students interested in or having applied to studying or traveling abroad. OSCRR will grant CGE disciplinary clearance enabling students to advance in the application process.

Students who are under academic probation are not eligible to participate in any type of USF-sponsored study abroad program or immersion program. Students who have been or are on Conduct Probation (Disciplinary Probation) as determined by OSCRR are not allowed to participate in any kind of USF-sponsored international program (e.g., study abroad, short term program, immersion, field study, etc.).

*Bear in mind that all program applications are different and may require additional eligibility requirements.

When can I go abroad?
Typically, students can go abroad for a semester or year during their Junior year. However, with Dean’s approval, it may be possible to study abroad as a Sophomore or first term Senior. Summer and Intersession abroad opportunities are also available to do as early as Freshman year. Keep in mind graduation and major requirements, so it is recommended to consult an academic advisor. You may also refer to the “Eligibility” section of our website for details.

Where can I go?
You may study in any country where there is a program sponsored by an accredited U.S. institution of higher education and from which you will receive an official transcript. However, USF cannot assist with study abroad in any country for which the U.S. State Department has declared a Travel Warning or Health Advisory.

When can I study abroad if I am a transfer student?
USF policy requires that transfer students establish an academic record at USF by completing two semesters at USF prior to study abroad. Under special circumstances, a student’s Dean might approve study abroad after one semester. Please see the “Eligibility” section on the CGE site for more details and/or contact your Dean’s office.

Can I study abroad if I am an international student?

1 Last Updated: January 30, 2014
Yes. We recommend that you discuss specific requirements with an advisor in the International Student Scholar Services department. We will need a copy of your resident card as well as your U.S. visa.

**How do I start the study abroad process?**
Inform your faculty advisor and the school Dean that you are thinking of studying abroad. Then, attend a study abroad information meeting or simply drop-in the office to browse study abroad material. Complete an Interest Form at www.usfca.edu/studyabroad, and schedule an appointment to meet with one of our study abroad advisors to get things started.

**How long can I study abroad?**
This will depend on your graduation target date. You can study abroad for a summer, a semester, or an academic year. There are also a few January term opportunities. Some students choose to split an academic year in two different countries or programs. Others have studied abroad for a summer and then, later, in a semester, or have done two different summers.

**When should I apply?**
We advise that you start applying a semester in advance. For example, if you want to study abroad in the Spring, you should apply the Fall before. Please submit all application materials to the CGE office before the following deadlines:

- March 1st for Fall, Academic Year, and Summer
- October 1st for Spring

**When will I hear back from the program?**
It generally takes up to a month to hear back from a program. You will be contacted via e-mail or mail. Acceptance packets will be sent to the address you list on the application or to the Center for Global Education.

**What is the acceptance rate for most programs?**
Students are generally accepted if they meet USF’s cumulative GPA requirements and are in good judicial standing with the University.

**What kinds of programs are there?**
At USF, there are USF Sponsored Programs and External Programs.

The USF Sponsored Programs include programs at other U.S. universities and programs at overseas universities with which USF has signed agreements. For these, USF tuition is paid to USF; housing costs are usually paid directly to the host university. Full course and credit transfer apply to a student’s USF transcript, and USF financial aid as well as government aid (except Federal Work Study), and loans may be applied.

External Programs include all other study abroad opportunities via other U.S. universities or host program providers. Tuition, housing costs, and fees are paid only to those providers. **You are required to complete a Leave of Absence form.** Pre-approved units will transfer back to USF to count towards your degree, but courses will not be listed on the USF transcript. **USF will not award Federal, State, or USF Financial Aid for the period while you are on leave, but some private loan options may be available.** If you have financial aid questions, please meet with a USF Financial Aid counselor.

**What do I do if I do not want to go through a USF program?**

2 Last Updated: January 30, 2014
No matter which program you wish to apply to, you must do so through the USF CENTER FOR GLOBAL EDUCATION. We will assist you with your application and make sure you are eligible and have completed the host program requirements. The Financial Aid Office will assist you with alternative financial aid options.

**Do I have to pay USF tuition as well as host program tuition?**
No, you do not pay both; you pay one tuition for the program you choose.

**How do I get money to study abroad on an External Program?**
Plan ahead in creative ways. There are study abroad scholarships available, and the Center for Global Education can advise and assist you, but you should have contingency plans in case you do not receive a scholarship. The USF Financial Aid Operations Office will be glad to provide information on any private loan options you may have.

**How should I choose a program or location?**
When choosing a program or location for study abroad, we recommend you consider a variety of factors, including:

- **Your finances**
  (Do you receive USF aid? Do you need to make sure your financial aid is not interrupted?)

- **The timing of your visit - spring, fall, summer, or academic year**
  (How important is the weather to you? Remember the seasons are opposite in the Southern Hemisphere.)

- **Your Major**
  (Are there academic or natural resources in the area that would be valuable to your course of study? Would you like to conduct an internship in addition to classes?)

- **Other academic requirements**
  (Have you saved some core courses? Can you take major related courses at the site? Can you graduate on time if you only take electives overseas?)

- **Your language expertise**
  (Have you had the three or four college semesters of language required for some study abroad programs?)

**How do I get credit for study abroad?**
Prior to your departure, you will need to complete a Petition to Enroll at Another Institution (PEAI) form on which you will list the courses you think you will take overseas. Your faculty advisor and Dean as well as the Transfer Center and the Center for Global Education will need to approve of these courses for credit to apply towards graduation.

**What courses can I take? Are there programs for specific majors?**
It is recommended that you save some of your core curriculum courses for study abroad since they are more available in various programs. These include history, literature, philosophy, visual arts, and social science. Please see your Dean for a complete list. There are certain limits and residency requirements to taking courses in your major or minor overseas, depending on the USF college/school in which you are enrolled.

**Can I graduate on time?**
Yes! But, we highly advise that you communicate regularly with your faculty advisors, Dean’s Office, and the Center for Global Education.

**What kind of housing is available during study abroad?**
Living arrangements vary with each program. Everything from independent apartments, residence halls, campus dorms, and host family stays may be available. For a few sponsored programs, housing is paid directly to USF; however, most housing fees are paid directly to the host institution/program.

**Do I send the application materials on my own?**
The Center for Global Education will mail, fax, scan, email and/or copy anything related to study abroad so please utilize these FREE services! Once you have gathered all your application materials, bring them to the Center to check that everything is completed and ready to be sent. The center usually sends out materials on the day of your submission. Please contact our office to confirm that your application has been mailed to your respective program(s). The Center scans and files all study abroad materials in our database.

**When will I hear back from the program(s) that I have applied to?**
A response from any study abroad program can generally take two weeks up to a month. They will send acceptance materials to the Center or your permanent or current address. You may also hear from them via e-mail. The Center will contact you once they receive word from a program. If the program should contact you first about your acceptance status, please notify the Center as they will need a copy of your acceptance letter.

**Something came up and I can no longer study abroad for the term I applied for. What do I do?**
If you have been accepted into a study abroad program and can no longer attend, you must inform both the program and the Center of your decision and whether you would like to defer or retire your study abroad folder. You may wish to request that the program keep your application on file for another term. Keep in mind each program has different deferment policies.

**How long will my interest form stay on file?**
The interest form you completed at the beginning of the study abroad process will remain on file for one academic year, after which it will be retired if you do not follow through with the study abroad process.

Please contact us for more information.

**USF CENTER FOR GLOBAL EDUCATION**
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M-F 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
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[http://www.usfca.edu/studyabroad](http://www.usfca.edu/studyabroad)