



Study Abroad Worksheet

There are many different types of study abroad programs. Your answers to the questions on this worksheet will help you determine which type of study abroad program might best match your goals, interests and academic needs.

Main Goals

Why do I want to study abroad?

What do I hope to gain from this experience?

Academics

Do I need to complete major requirements while abroad? Yes No

If yes, which requirements: _____

Am I interested in pursuing a specific academic focus? Yes No

If yes, which focus: _____

What type of learning environment would I prefer? (Check all that apply)

- Traditional classroom setting
- Field station
- Large lecture-style classes
- Small seminar-style classes

With whom do I want to take classes? (Check all that apply)

- Other study abroad students
- International students
- Host-country students
- Combination

Am I comfortable directing my own learning experience? Yes No

In the US, students are often told exactly what they should read and research. Many foreign universities expect students to take a more independent approach to their learning. For example, students are given a starting point and suggestions for further reading, but there is usually a strong emphasis on private study. Additionally, in some instances 100% of the course grade depends on the final exam at the end of the semester or year.

Location

Is there a country or region in which I am academically and culturally interested? _____

What type of location do I want?

- Urban
- Rural

Language

Is it important for me to improve my language skills? Yes No

Do I want to take all my courses in the host-country language? Yes No

When to Go

How much time would I like to spend abroad? (Check all the apply)

- Semester
 - Second-semester of Sophomore year
 - First-semester of Junior year
 - Second-semester Junior year
 - First-semester of Senior year
 - Second-semester of Senior year

- Academic Year
 - Junior year
 - Senior year

Program Structure

Do I want to re-create a Smith-type experience abroad or try something completely new?

Would I prefer a high level of support from a study abroad program? Yes No

Support could include extra in-country staff, arranged housing and excursions, assistance with visa and application process, etc.

How comfortable am I with true independence? _____

For example, some programs would require that you be responsible for seeking out help if you need it; arranging your own activities and excursions.

Would I prefer a large university or small program setting?

Living Arrangements

- Which living arrangements appeal to me the most? (Check all the apply)
- With a host family
- With other study abroad students
- With students from host country

Other aspects of the experience that could affect where I study abroad:
