

ACADEMIC ADVISOR'S GUIDE TO STUDY ABROAD



OUTREACH & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
VIRGINIA TECH.

GLOBAL EDUCATION OFFICE

When students come to your office and inquire about study abroad, this resource can help guide the conversation:

What Is Your Role?

- Help determine the best time for a student to study elsewhere
- See how study abroad fits a student's degree progress
- Check which/how many courses a student is required to take in order to graduate on time
- Determine if the courses offered abroad are a good match for the courses a student needs to take
- Ascertain if there are prerequisites a student needs to take at Virginia Tech before going abroad
- Determine flexibility with course selection (including major(s), in your minor(s), CLEs, electives)

When Should Students Meet With You?

Students should meet with you first to discuss their 4 year plan and which semester will work best to go abroad. Once they have discussed the opportune term, and the courses/major they will be focused on during that term, they can then come to the Global Education Office to discuss specific universities and programs.

Is an Account Needed?

Students need to create a My Study Abroad Account. This is required for EVERY program (even Non-VT programs). Students can create a My Study Abroad Account at <https://www.globaleducation.vt.edu/MyStudyAbroad-login.html>. If students are going abroad with a Non-VT program they must register their program on http://sa.globaleducation.vt.edu/index.cfm?FuseAction=Programs.ViewProgram&Program_ID=11728.

How do Credits Work?

Students can take up to 18 credits on most study abroad programs (and sometimes even 21 credits), although typically students take between 12-15 credits.

Do Credits Transfer Differently? What is the Authorization To Take Courses Abroad Form?

- This form ensures the host university the student is going to is officially accredited, that the host university courses have VT equivalent courses, and that the Dean has given final approval for the student to study those particular subjects abroad.
- The form should be signed first by the Global Education Office, second by the students primary Academic Advisor, and thirdly by their primary major college Dean.
- Be aware that different countries may

use a different credit system than the US credit system. Students may need to meet particular credit amounts to reach fulltime status/financial aid requirements.

How Do They Select Courses?

Students who intend on applying to a program should come to you with course descriptions from the host university so you are able to determine if VT has course equivalents.

Does Financial Aid Still Work With Study Abroad?

Students can apply aid (federal aid, scholarships, grants, etc...) to their study abroad programs. They should seek assistance from the Financial Aid Office to discuss how they can benefit from financial aid and how their aid will be effected by going abroad.

Helpful Resources:

Global Education Office
www.globaleducation.vt.edu

Financial Aid Office
<https://finaid.vt.edu/>

Scholarship Central
<https://vt.academicworks.com/>