



## **Education Abroad Guide for Academic Advisors**

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## Education Abroad: An Overview

### Importance of Studying Abroad

Studying abroad can be one of the most valuable experiences a student can have during their time in college. Studying abroad can increase self-understanding and confidence, influence and deepen perspectives on the world, provide unique academic experiences, improve foreign language skills, encourage appreciation of diversity, and significantly enhance career and professional opportunities.

The following articles provide useful perspectives about the benefits of education abroad:

- [The Benefits of Study Abroad: New Study Confirms Significant Gains](#) by Mary M. Dwyer, Ph.D. and Courtney K. Peters
- [Study Abroad: A Lifetime of Benefits](#) , by Amy Ruhter McMillan and Gayly Opem
- [Effective Marketing of International Experience to Employers](#) , by Cheryl Matherly, Ed.D. (in Impact of Education Abroad on Career Development)

This guide was created to give advisors a general overview of Boise State's education abroad programs, and provide information useful in advising students interested in or who could benefit from studying abroad. This guide is not all-inclusive, so please contact the Global Learning Opportunities office with questions or for more information.

### Student Study Abroad Steps and Responsibilities

Global Learning Opportunities provides guidance for students interested in studying abroad. We strongly encourage them to contact their academic advisor early on in the process to make sure they select a program and timeframe that works best for their academic interests and degree progress. When planning to study abroad, students should take the following steps:

1. Set goals (personal and academic) for their experience abroad.
2. Research education abroad program options online.
3. Attend a Study Abroad 101 session in the GLO Office. This session will give students an overview of the process, requirements, and program options.
4. Meet with their academic advisor to determine what courses they should take during their time abroad.
5. Meet with a GLO staff member to discuss program options, course selection, scholarships, and any other questions they might have.
6. Apply to a program.
7. Work with academic departments to get courses they plan to take approved as equivalents to specific Boise State courses or requirements.
8. Study abroad!

## Course Approvals

There are two ways students can determine what a course will be approved to count as on their Boise State transcript.

- **Pre-Approved Courses:** A large number of courses have been pre-approved by the academic departments and can be found on the [Course Finder database](#) on the GLO website. The database can be searched by city, country, discipline, course number or keyword, and will allow students to see how specific courses will count at Boise State.
- **Not Previously Approved:** If a student wishes to take a course that is not already listed in the database, they will need to contact the appropriate academic department for approval. Each department has designated someone to be responsible for approving education abroad courses. A list of those responsible for these approvals can be found at the end of this document.

If a student wishes to take a course that is not equivalent to something offered at Boise State (Italian History, for instance), the course will count as an elective. For those courses, we employ the university-wide education abroad elective course numbers 239 (lower division) and 439 (upper division).

Students must fill out a Course Approval Form (CAF) prior to studying abroad. This form will be used when their classes are posted to their Boise State transcript upon return from their program abroad. This is the form the academic departments will sign when approving specific courses. Alternately, students can contact the departments by email to request approval, and forward the email approval to one of the GLO staff members.

Departments will sometimes request a syllabus or other information about a course before they will grant approval. In many cases, it is possible for GLO staff to obtain such materials. If a student encounters such a request from the department, they should contact the GLO office for assistance.

**Tip:** When requesting course approvals, students should include a few alternate courses in the event that a course is over-enrolled or cancelled. This will ensure that the student has a backup plan that will keep them on track with regard to their academic progress.

## GPA requirements

Students must have a 2.5 GPA to apply for education abroad. Some programs and scholarships require a higher GPA. If a student's GPA is below the minimum when applying, he or she should schedule a meeting with an advisor in the Global Learning Opportunities Office to discuss their options.

## Program Sites and Structure

### Types of programs

Students have many options when it comes to choosing a program. Though Boise State has many affiliated programs, students most commonly choose to participate in either USAC or Direct Exchange programs.

#### **The University Studies Abroad Consortium (USAC)**

The University Studies Abroad Consortium has been sending students abroad for more than thirty years. It has its roots in Boise, having grown out of Boise State's first education abroad program, which traveled to Oñati, Spain in 1973 in order to facilitate cultural and academic exchange in the Basque Country. USAC is now headquartered at and derives its accreditation from the University of Nevada Reno. USAC is a nonprofit, which allows them to keep costs reasonable for our students.

#### **Academic Framework**

For each credit offered, a requirement of 15 contact hours is met. USAC semesters run approximately 14-15 weeks depending upon breaks, and in most cases, the calendar is concurrent with our semesters. Students are required to enroll in a minimum of 12 credits and can typically take up to 18 credits. Some program sites have a specific academic focus, and others allow students to enroll directly at the host university and take courses in virtually any discipline. All courses and faculty are approved by the USAC Board of Directors, which is comprised of representatives from a number of U.S. universities, including Boise State.

#### **USAC Locations**

<b>Program Location</b>	<b>Academic Focus</b>
Gold Coast, Australia (Griffith University)	Most disciplines
Melbourne, Australia (Deakin University)	Most disciplines
Florianópolis, Brazil	Portuguese, Brazilian Culture, Economics, Natural Resource Management
Santiago, Chile	Spanish, Latin American Studies, Anthropology, International Relations
Chengdu, China	Chinese and Chinese Studies
Shanghai, China	Chinese, Chinese Studies, International Business
Heredia, Costa Rica	Spanish, Latin American Studies, Ecology
Puntarenas, Costa, Rica	Spanish, Latin American Studies, Ecology
San Ramón, Costa Rica	Spanish, Latin American Studies, Life and Health Sciences
La Habana, Cuba	Spanish, Latin American and Cuban Studies
Prague, Czech Republic	European Politics, Culture, and Art
Brighton, England (University of Brighton)	Most disciplines
Bristol, England ( University of Bristol)	Most disciplines
London, England (London Metropolitan University) – semester	Most disciplines
London, England - summer	British Studies

Reading, England (University of Reading)	Most disciplines
Lyon, France	French, French and European Studies
Pau, France	French, French and European Studies
Lüneburg, Germany	German, German and European Studies
Accra, Ghana (University of Ghana) - semester	Most disciplines
Accra, Ghana - summer	African Studies
Bangalore, India	Indian Culture, Sociology, Anthropology
Cork, Ireland (University College Cork) - semester	Most disciplines
Cork, Ireland (summer)	Irish Studies
Galway, Ireland (summer only)	Irish Studies
Haifa, Israel (University of Haifa)	Most disciplines
Reggio Emilia, Italy	Italian, Education, Communication, Health, Economics
Torino, Italy	Italian, International Business, Architecture, Design
Viterbo, Italy	Italian, History, Art, Art History, Environmental Studies
Hiroshima, Japan (Hiroshima University)	Most disciplines
Nagasaki, Japan (Nagasaki University of Foreign Studies)	Most disciplines
Osaka/Kobe, Japan (Kwansei Gakuin University)	Most disciplines
Seoul, Korea (Yonsei University)	Most disciplines
Maastricht, Netherlands (summer only)	European Studies, International Business
The Hague, Netherlands (The Hague University of Applied Sciences)	Most disciplines
Hawke's Bay, New Zealand (summer only)	Environmental Studies
Auckland/Palmerston North/Wellington, New Zealand (Massey University)	Most disciplines
Oslo, Norway (University of Oslo)	Most disciplines
Krakow, Poland	Jewish Studies, European Studies, Economics, Political Science, Polish Language
St. Andrews, Scotland (University of St. Andrews)	Most disciplines
Stirling, Scotland (University of Stirling)	Most disciplines
Stellenbosch, South Africa (Stellenbosch University)	Most disciplines
Alicante, Spain	Spanish, European Studies
Bilbao/Gexto, Spain	Spanish, International Business, European Studies
Madrid, Spain	Spanish, Art, European Studies
San Sebastián, Spain	Spanish, Psychology, Basque and European Studies
Växjö/Kalmar, Sweden (Linnaeus University)	Most disciplines
Chiang Mai, Thailand	Political Science, Anthropology, Asian Studies
Khon Kaen, Thailand	Health, Wellness, Thai Culture
Montevideo, Uruguay	Spanish, Latin American Studies, Viticulture, Agribusiness

### Direct Exchange Programs

Boise State has partnerships with certain universities that allows for a two-way exchange of students. The academic offerings of these schools vary, and some might require students to have more experience in their chosen academic field or language, or a slightly higher GPA. One of the major differences with direct exchange programs is that students pay Boise State University tuition while they are abroad, rather than paying a program provider.

### Academic Framework

The structure of degree programs abroad can vary greatly. Many European universities have three year degrees. The first year of the degree is considered a foundation year (lower division) and the second and third years are considered advanced studies (upper division). The teaching and assessment structure can also be quite different from what our students are accustomed to. Rather than the continuous assessment that is common in American universities, grades in the European and Australian systems are typically determined by one cumulative examination or paper at the end of the term. Academic calendars can also be quite different from ours, which can limit which terms students can study in some locations. Please contact GLO if you or one of your students has specific questions about a particular country's degree structure, grading, or academic calendar.

### Direct Exchanges Sites

Program Location	Academic Focus
Canberra, Australia (University of Canberra)	Most disciplines
Aarhus, Denmark (Aarhus University)*	Business, Economics and Political Science
Lyon, France (ESDES Business School)	Business and Economics
Nancy, France (ICN Business School)*	Business and Economics
Heidelberg, Germany (Heidelberg University of Applied Sciences)*	Business and Economics
Saarbrücken, Germany (Universität des Saarlandes)	German Language
Global Engineering Exchange, many locations	Engineering
Nagoya, Japan (Chukyo University)	Japanese Language and Culture, Asian Studies
Tokyo, Japan (Asia University)	Japanese Language and Culture, Asian Studies
Tokyo, Japan (Hosei University)	Japanese Language and Culture, Asian Studies
Kaunas, Lithuania (Lithuanian Sports University)	Health, Kinesiology
Guadalajara, Mexico (ITESM)	Spanish, Business and Economics, Engineering
Kristiansand, Norway (University of Agder)	Education, Political Science, Business and Economics, Humanities
Bilbao, Spain (University of the Basque Country)	Business, Engineering
Bilbao, Spain (University of Deusto)	Business, Engineering
San Sebastian, Spain (Mondragon University)	Business, Engineering
Aberystwyth, Wales (Aberystwyth University)	Most disciplines

\*Both semester and summer programs offered

### International Student Exchange Program (ISEP)

Students who participate in ISEP pay tuition and room and board to Boise State. With ISEP, students can study in over 200 locations worldwide. The full list is available [here](#).

## National Student Exchange

Boise State is a member of a consortium of over 200 colleges and universities that offer the National Student Exchange Program. NSE provides students with the opportunity to study at other universities within the consortium for a semester or a year, while paying either Boise State tuition or the host university's in-state tuition.

NSE can be a great option for students to broaden their academic horizons by taking a course not offered at Boise State, to investigate potential graduate programs, or to experience another part of the United States. NSE encompasses campuses in the U.S., Puerto Rico, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Canada. Programs in Quebec and Puerto Rico also offer students an opportunity to refine their French or Spanish language skills without traveling quite as far from home. This can also be a great option for students in majors that can be harder to make progress on while studying abroad, such as Education or Engineering.

More information about NSE can be found on their [website](#).

## Other Programs

Students are not limited to studying abroad through the USAC or direct exchange programs. They can study abroad through a variety of programs affiliated with Boise State. Students can search for additional program sites on the [Program Finder](#) on the GLO website.

# Advisor Tools and Information

## Financial Aid

Fear that education abroad is unaffordable is the number one reason why students do not study abroad. Figuring out how to pay for a study abroad experience can be daunting, but it is completely feasible. Students can use all of their federal financial aid and scholarships while studying abroad. The WUE and the GEM tuition waivers will continue to apply if a student is participating in a direct exchange or ISEP program, otherwise they will go on hold until the student returns to Boise State. The only type of aid that will not apply when studying abroad is work study funding.

Students usually fund their experience through a combination of financial aid, scholarships, personal savings, and parental support. There are a number of education abroad-specific scholarships available through Boise State, the U.S. government, and private foundations and organizations. The Global Learning Opportunities office awards approximately \$30,000 in scholarships each year, with application cycles in both the spring and fall. There is an extensive list of scholarships on the GLO [Money Matters](#) website, though the list is by no means exhaustive. Students are encouraged to begin researching scholarships early, as deadlines can be as early as a year in advance.

## When should students study abroad?

Students may choose to study abroad for a summer, a semester, or an entire academic year. Students are not limited in the number of times they can study abroad during their academic career, but it is important to

consider at what point it makes the most sense in their academic plan. While this will be different for each student, there are a few general tips when advising students on when they should study abroad.

- If a student is going abroad to study a foreign language, we recommend he or she study abroad for a year. This gives the student a better chance to immerse himself or herself in the culture, get past initial cultural barriers, and develop stronger language skills.
- Often the best time to study abroad depends on a student's major. Students planning to enter programs that require admission, such as Nursing and Teacher Education, typically study abroad during their sophomore year, before they are accepted to the program. In other majors, such as Political Science or Business disciplines, students can benefit from studying abroad later on in their academic career, as they will have access to a wider variety of upper division courses.
- Some majors allow for a large number of elective credits. As all courses taken abroad will count at least as elective credits, this allows students an opportunity to expand their academic horizons by taking advantage of courses and disciplines not offered at Boise State.
- It is possible for students to study abroad during their last semester at Boise State, but if they plan to do so, they must notify the GLO Office in writing, at the time they apply for their program. Depending on the program, we cannot guarantee we will receive their transcript in time for it to be validated for graduation during that term. It is important that students talk with the GLO Office if they are considering studying abroad during their final semester.

Residency Credit: Because students receive Boise State credit for courses taken abroad, studying abroad does not violate the last 30 credits rule. Students are eligible to study abroad up through their very last semester, provided that it fits into their academic plan.

### **What classes can students take while studying abroad?**

The point a student is at in their degree progress is often a determining factor in what courses they take while abroad. It is possible for students to take University Foundations courses, major and minor requirements, major and minor electives, and general electives while abroad. The only courses students cannot take while abroad are the University Foundations courses UF 100, UF 200 and UF 300, and the first year writing requirement courses (ENGL 101 and ENGL 102).

#### **University Foundations Classes**

In many locations, students can take courses that will satisfy certain University Foundations requirements. Whenever possible, students should be encouraged to save their FH (Foundations of Humanities), FN (Foundations of Natural, Physical, and Applied Sciences), FS (Foundations of Social Sciences), and FA (Foundations of Arts) requirements to take while abroad.

It is possible for students to take courses that do not exactly match courses on the approved University Foundations course list, as long as they meet the spirit of the requirement. In order for these substitutions to be approved, students must contact University Foundations and provide a course description or syllabus for the course they wish to take. If a student opts to take a language not offered at Boise State (Italian, Czech, Thai, etc.), it will still be posted in a way that will satisfy the FH requirement.



## **Major/Minor Requirements**

Depending on the specific degree program, it is generally possible to find multiple program sites that will allow students to take courses that will apply directly to their major or minor. In some cases, the need to take specific courses while abroad will be the determining factor in where a student studies. It is helpful if a student has already met with their academic advisor to determine what classes they would normally take a Boise State during that term and how many electives they have left, before they decide on a program site abroad.

## **Major/Minor and General Electives**

Any class a student takes while abroad will count as Boise State credit, even if it is not directly equivalent to a course offered at Boise State. If that is the case, the university-wide education abroad course number 239 or 439 will be used.

## **How GLO can help students**

- **Program selection** – We can help students select a program that fits their academic needs, career goals, and personal interests.
- **Credit transfer** – We can help students understand how the courses they take abroad will apply to their degree at Boise State.
- **Scholarships** – GLO awards substantial scholarships each year and can offer guidance and other scholarship opportunities.
- **Passports** – As a passport acceptance facility, students (and staff and faculty) can have their passport photos taken at a discounted rate and can apply for a passport through our office.
- **Visas** – We provide support and guidance in applying for a student visa, if necessary.
- **Other issues and support**- support for disabilities and accommodation, or any other support areas needed by a student abroad

While we are certainly the first and primary point of contact for students interested in studying abroad, there are limits to the support and information we can give students. We are not academic advisors, so while we can certainly advise students on how courses will count at Boise State, that is essentially the limit of our advising. This is why we strongly encourage students to meet with their academic advisor before making a final decision about a study abroad program.

## **Specifics to consider when advising students interested in studying abroad:**

- Whether studying abroad will cause them to miss the opportunity to take a course that is only offered during a specific term, and therefore force them to delay their graduation
- What courses a student should register for during the semester following their term abroad
- If it is their last semester, whether they will be able to receive their transcript in time for graduation.

Global Learning Opportunities  
SMASH 227  
Tel: 426-2630  
Email: [studyabroad@boisestate.edu](mailto:studyabroad@boisestate.edu)



## **Contact Global Learning Opportunities**

If you have any questions or would like to connect your student with someone at GLO, we can be reached at:

426-2630

[studyabroad@boisestate.edu](mailto:studyabroad@boisestate.edu)

[international.boisestate.edu](http://international.boisestate.edu)

Simplot/Micron Building 227

## Education Abroad Course Approval Contacts

### College of Arts and Sciences

<u>Department</u>	<u>Approval Contact</u>	<u>Email</u>
Anthropology	John Ziker	jziker@boisestate.edu
Art	Dan Scott	dannyscott@boisestate.edu
Biological Sciences	Clay Cox	ccox@boisestate.edu
Chemistry/Biochemistry	Owen McDougal	owenmcdougal@boisestate.edu
Communication	Todd Norton	toddnorton@boisestate.edu
English	Mac Test	edwardtest@boisestate.edu
Geosciences	Jim McNamara	jmcnamar@boisestate.edu
History	Nick Miller	nmiller@boisestate.edu
Mathematics	Uwe Kaiser	ukaiser@boisestate.edu
Music	Linda Kline-Lamar	lkline@boisestate.edu
Philosophy	Andrew Cortens	acorten@boisestate.edu
Physics	Charles Hanna	physics@boisestate.edu
Psychology	Roberto Refinetti	rrefinetti@boisestate.edu
Sociology	Arthur Scarritt	arthurscarritt@boisestate.edu
Theatre Arts	Richard Klautsch	rklautsch@boisestate.edu
World Languages	Adrian Kane	adriankane@boisestate.edu

### College of Business and Economics

All Departments	Eden Taylor	edentaylor@boisestate.edu
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### College of Education

Counselor Education	Aida Midgett	aidamidgett@boisestate.edu
Curriculum, Instruction & Foundational Studies	Kathleen Budge	kathleenbudge@boisestate.edu
Educational Technology	Brett Shelton	brettshelton@boisestate.edu
Literacy, Language and Culture	Roger Stewart	rstewart@boisestate.edu
Special Education & Early Childhood Studies	Deb Carter	debcarter@boisestate.edu@boisestate.edu

### College of Engineering

Civil Engineering	Nancy Glenn	Nancy.glenn@boisestate.edu
Computer Science	Amit Jain	ajain@boisestate.edu
Construction Management	Casey Cline	ccline@boisestate.edu
Electrical & Computer Engineering	Jim Browning	jimbrowning@boisestate.edu
Materials Science & Engineering	Will Hughes	willhughes@boisestate.edu
Mechanical and Biomedical Engineering	Don Plumlee	dplumlee@boisestate.edu
OPWL	Tony Marker	anthonymarker@boisestate.edu

### College of Health Science

School of Allied Health Services	Bob Wood	<a href="mailto:robertwood928@boisestate.edu">robertwood928@boisestate.edu</a>
Community & Environmental Health	Lillian Smith	<a href="mailto:lilliansmith@boisestate.edu">lilliansmith@boisestate.edu</a>
Kinesiology	John McChesney	<a href="mailto:johnmcchesney@boisestate.edu">johnmcchesney@boisestate.edu</a>
Nursing (undergrad)	Ann Hubbert	<a href="mailto:annhubbert@boisestate.edu">annhubbert@boisestate.edu</a>
Radiologic Sciences	Leslie Kendrick	<a href="mailto:lesliekendrick@boisestate.edu">lesliekendrick@boisestate.edu</a>
Respiratory Care	Lutana Haan	<a href="mailto:lutanahaan@boisestate.edu">lutanahaan@boisestate.edu</a>
Social Work	Randy Magen	<a href="mailto:randymagen@boisestate.edu">randymagen@boisestate.edu</a>

#### College of Public Service

Criminal Justice	Laura King	<a href="mailto:lauraking2@boisestate.edu">lauraking2@boisestate.edu</a>
Global Studies	Brian Wampler	<a href="mailto:bwampler@boisestate.edu">bwampler@boisestate.edu</a>
Military Science	Tim Slep	<a href="mailto:timslep@boisestate.edu">timslep@boisestate.edu</a>
Political Science	Lori Hausegger	<a href="mailto:lorihausegger@boisestate.edu">lorihausegger@boisestate.edu</a>
Public Policy and Administration	Luke Fowler	<a href="mailto:lukefowler@boisestate.edu">lukefowler@boisestate.edu</a>
Urban Studies & Community Development	Amanda Ashley	<a href="mailto:amandaashley@boisestate.edu">amandaashley@boisestate.edu</a>

#### University Foundations courses

University Foundations	Eden Taylor	<a href="mailto:edentaylor@boisestate.edu">edentaylor@boisestate.edu</a>
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