

STUDY ABROAD 101

THE WORLD IS YOURS. CHOOSE YOUR PATH.

There are many questions to ask yourself when choosing your international experience. This guide will help you identify resources and set your priorities to find the right program for you!

International Opportunities at CSB|SJU

17 Semester-long Study Abroad Programs: Spend a semester off campus on a signature CSB|SJU program.

Fall: Australia, Austria, Chile, China, France, Greco-Roman, Ireland-Galway, Japan, London, and Roman-Greco

Spring: Australia, Guatemala, India, Ireland-Cork, London, Northern Ireland, South Africa, and Spain

Short-term Study Abroad Programs: These trips take place all over the globe and change every year. They range from 2 to 8 weeks and are sponsored through various on-campus departments and offices.

Volunteer/Service-Learning Opportunities: These short-term international trips allow you to experience a different country through service; typically sponsored by the CSB|SJU Campus Ministry Offices and the Women's Center.

External Study Abroad: Students who wish to participate in a program not otherwise provided by CSB|SJU may apply independently through an external program. To get started, meet with an Education Abroad Advisor to discuss your program ideas and other academic matters.

Get Started

Identify your Resources: Where can you go to learn more about study abroad? CSB|SJU has many resources to support the search for your best study abroad option. A great place to start is this Study Abroad 101 session, the fall Study Abroad Fair, the OEA website and advisors, the Study Abroad Ambassadors (check the OEA website!), and your faculty or academic advisor.

Make your 4-Year College Plan: Making a plan early allows you to fit study abroad into your 4-year plan. Discuss your options with your academic or faculty advisor.

- *What type of study abroad might work best for my major/minor?*
- *What common curriculum requirements can I fulfill abroad?*
- *What type of extracurricular activities might I want to incorporate in study abroad?*
- *Do I have another interest or a complementary subject area that I want to focus on while abroad?*

Program Types & Features

When choosing your best option for study abroad, there are a lot of things to consider. Use your resources! To explore the programs offered through CSB|SJU check out the OEA website at www.csbsju.edu/OEA. As you choose your path, we encourage you to consider the program types and features listed below.

Academic Context: Education abroad programs offer a wide variety of classroom and experiential learning opportunities. Consider your academic goals, as well as what type of learning environment fits you best.

- *Do I want to take classes abroad for academic credit?*
- *Do I want to complete an internship or work abroad?*
- *Is it important to me that I can be involved with service learning or volunteering abroad?*
- *Would I prefer to take classes with only Bennies and Johnnies, with other international students, or a mix?*
- *Do I want to study abroad in a university setting or take courses offered through a program provider?*
- *Do I have the self-initiative to take courses taught in a different style (lecture and self-study focused)?*
- *What visits and excursions are included as part of the academic offerings of the study abroad program?*

MAKE GOALS • IDENTIFY ROADBLOCKS • FIND SOLUTIONS • SET PRIORITIES • CHOOSE YOUR PATH
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Length & Timing: Programs vary in length from two weeks to twelve months. As you plan for study abroad, think about what length and term will give you the experience you are looking for. Make sure you look at the dates of the program to see what program works best for you.

- *What year and semester does study abroad fit best in my 4-year plan?*
- *Am I available during spring break, or could a summer or winter program fit into my 4-year plan?*
- *Can a southern hemisphere semester work better for me?*

Geographic Destination: This includes not only the country where you will travel and study, but the environment in which the program is located.

- *Am I interested in a particular region of the world or a specific country?*
- *Am I looking for an urban or rural setting?*
- *How would program excursions in this location enhance my learning?*
- *How far am I willing to step outside of my comfort zone?*

Language: Many programs in non-English speaking countries offer courses in English, allowing even beginners to gain basic language skills. Investigate ALL your options – only 5 of our 17 programs have a language prerequisite.

- *Are there language prerequisites for the program I am looking at?*
- *Do I want to be in a country where the primary language spoken is English, or would I like to surround myself with a second (or third) language?*
- *Can I take all of my classes in a second language?*
- *Can I take some classes in the second language and some in English?*
- *Can I challenge myself to take one class in a second language and the rest in English?*

Housing Arrangements: Types of housing include host families, apartments, or residence halls. Also, remember that student housing in other countries is very different than what we have at US colleges and universities.

- *Will I live with other Bennies and Johnnies?*
- *Will I live with other US students (non-CSB|SJU) and other international students?*
- *Will I live with a host family?*
- *Will I be able to cook my own meals or will meals be provided?*

Financial Concerns: Look beyond the sticker price and start budgeting now!

- *What exactly is included in the price of the program I am looking at?*
- *What are the food options for this program?*
- *What is the general cost of living on-site?*
- *Are there scholarships available?*
- *Have I asked Study Abroad Ambassadors about how much money they spent while abroad?*
- *Am I eligible to receive additional loans to help fund study abroad?*
- *How can I start to save a little money now?*

Make Study Abroad a Priority!

What's Next?: Here are a few suggestions:

- *Ask yourself, when again in your life will you have the opportunity to live abroad?*
- *Talk with your family about the importance and benefits of this opportunity.*
- *Identify potential roadblocks and find solutions now.*
- *Weigh your social, academic, or athletic commitments with study abroad.*
- *Remember that your actions now can affect your application to study abroad (disciplinary records are considered during the selection process for participation on CSB|SJU study abroad programs).*
- *Know your goals for going abroad and be able to speak to how your selected program will help you to achieve those goals!*