

STUDY ABROAD 101

EXPLORE. EXPERIENCE. ENGAGE.

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!

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 CGE website and advisors, the Study Abroad Ambassadors (check the CGE website!), and your faculty or academic advisor.

Make your 4-Year College Plan: Making a plan early allows you to fit an international experience (or multiple experiences!) into your 4-year plan. Discuss your options with your academic or faculty advisor.

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

International Opportunities at CSB/SJU

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

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

Spring: Australia, Germany (year-long also available), Guatemala, Ireland-Cork, Ireland-Dublin, London, South Africa, and Spain

Embedded Courses: These courses range from 2-4 credits, taken as a part of semester course offerings. The course starts during CD mod, during fall or spring semester and includes an international component after the term has ended. Course offerings change from year to year.

Short-term Study Abroad Programs: These programs take place all over the globe and change every year. They range from 1 to 8 weeks and are sponsored through various on-campus departments and offices.

Global Fellowship Programs: Gain valuable professional experience in an international context. These unique summer opportunities are typically facilitated through the Center for Global Education.

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

External Study Abroad: If you wish to participate on a program not otherwise provided by CSB/SJU, you may apply independently through an external program. To get started, meet with CGE to discuss your program ideas and other academic matters.

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 CGE website at www.csbsju.edu/global. 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?*
- *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?*

Length & Timing: Programs vary in length from one week to ten 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? (the dates are different!)*

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 4 of our 19 semester programs have a language prerequisite and most of the short-term programs have no 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 some or all of my classes in a second language?*
- *Can I challenge myself to take one class in a second language and the rest in English?*

Housing Arrangements: Types of housing include home stays, 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?*
- *Is a homestay available?*
- *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 my life will I 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.*
- *Be engaged with internationally-focused events on campus. Check the CSB/SJU Master Calendar!*
- *Learn more about international options – reach out to Ambassadors and attend the Study Abroad Fair.*
- *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!*