Get into Graduate School

If you are considering going to graduate school right after graduation, it’s important to research options and gather information to help you in the decision-making process. It’s never too early to start the research, but during your senior year you will want to shift into gear!

Application Process...
Application materials should be obtained at least one year prior to beginning Graduate School. Always check with schools for deadlines which may vary widely.

Graduate Exams...
You will need to find out which graduate admission exam is required for your programs of interest. Use practice tests and guides to study.

Applications and Essays...
Most Graduate school applications generally include a personal essay. Focus on two Goals: Be persuasive & Personal! Draw from your study abroad experiences and let them know why you would be a good fit.

Recommendations and Resume...

Find a Program Abroad that Fits:

- Begin your search with one of the standard Directories of Graduate programs abroad.
- [www.petersons.com](http://www.petersons.com)
- [http://www.princetonreview.com/graduate-school.aspx](http://www.princetonreview.com/graduate-school.aspx)
- [www.gradschoolsandabroad.com](http://www.gradschoolsandabroad.com)
- [www.degreescabroad-cis.com](http://www.degreescabroad-cis.com)
- [www.degreeabroad.com/search.cfm](http://www.degreeabroad.com/search.cfm)
- [www.study-in-europe.org](http://www.study-in-europe.org)
- Other resource: [http://www.istc.umn.edu/programs/graduate/moreInfo.html](http://www.istc.umn.edu/programs/graduate/moreInfo.html)
- Also, talk with faculty for good programs in your area of interest.

International Fellowships and Financing:
- Rotary Scholarships funding for one year
- Rhodes scholarships
- US-Ireland Alliance Fellowships
- [http://www.grad.umn.edu/fellowships/](http://www.grad.umn.edu/fellowships/)
- [http://www.gradschools.com/Article/Graduate-Fellowships/1676.html](http://www.gradschools.com/Article/Graduate-Fellowships/1676.html)
- Alternative sources of Funding:
  - [http://www.grad.umn.edu/prospective_students/Financing/other.html](http://www.grad.umn.edu/prospective_students/Financing/other.html)
- Financing Abroad:
  - [http://www.salliemae.com/international/us_students/](http://www.salliemae.com/international/us_students/)
  - [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)
  - [www.iefc.org](http://www.iefc.org)
  - [www.internationalscholarships.com](http://www.internationalscholarships.com)
  - [www.iefa.org](http://www.iefa.org)
  - [www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org)
BENEFITS OF INTERNATIONAL-ORIENTED STUDY AT GRADUATE SCHOOL IN THE US

- The perspective of intensive study of an academic discipline or conducting research on the country/area/language of interest without leaving the US
- Incorporate your study abroad experience into studies
- Contribute to internationalization in US education and intercultural links at all levels of society
- Combine studies with career exploration
- Stay close to support networks of family and friends

IMPORTANT FACTORS TO CONSIDER BEFORE COMMITTING

- Future job requirements (is this degree helpful?)
- Foreign language requirement
- Changing majors/fields
- Time and finances needed to finish the degree
- Commitment to more independent study and research with minimal supervision
- Financial aid opportunities and conditions (e.g., Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships)
- The desirable components of a high-quality institution and program includes but are not limited to: (1) a rich and broad offering of area studies courses in the geographic or thematic areas of interest; (2) diverse foreign language offerings (particularly in the less commonly taught languages); (3) outstanding faculty mentoring; (4) opportunities for pre-dissertation research; (5) strong support for the preparation of research proposals for dissertation research. These are five key components that lead to successful graduate training and preparation for a career in international and area studies.

HOW DO YOU EXPLORE THESE OPPORTUNITIES?

Resources to consider in learning of academic training for international career in the U.S.:

http://www.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ope/iegps/career.html (Office of Postsecondary Education, US Department of Education)


http://www.istc.umn.edu/educators/newcomers/degreePrograms.pdf (USA programs in International education are included in this list of world-wide options)

http://www.ipsl.org (International Partnership for Service-Learning and Leadership)

Web sites of the federally-funded Title VI National Resource Centers for programs in specific geographic areas