A Guide to Affiliated & Approved Study Abroad Programs

OSU Study Abroad/NSE Office
005 Classroom Building
405.744.8569    abroad@okstate.edu
http://studyabroad.okstate.edu
Affiliated Programs

Affiliated Study Abroad Programs and Locations
OSU has signed affiliation agreements with the program providers listed below. However, students may also suggest other providers for approval.

- **American Institute for Foreign Studies (AIFS):** [www.aifs.com](http://www.aifs.com)
  Australia, Austria, Brazil, China, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, England, France, Germany, India, Ireland, Italy, New Zealand, Russia, South Africa, Spain, Multi-Country

- **American Intercontinental University (AIU):** [www.austudyabroad.com](http://www.austudyabroad.com)
  England (London), France (Paris), Italy (Florence)

- **Academic Programs International (API):** [www.academicintl.com](http://www.academicintl.com)
  Argentina, Costa Rica, England, France, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Mexico, Poland, Spain

- **Cultural Experiences Abroad (CEA):** [www.gowithcea.com](http://www.gowithcea.com)
  Argentina, Australia, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, England, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Mexico, South Africa, Spain

- **Institute for Study Abroad -Butler (IFSA):** [www.ifsa-butler.org](http://www.ifsa-butler.org)
  Argentina, Australia, Chile, China, Costa Rica, Egypt, England, India, Ireland, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Scotland, Wales

- **International Studies Abroad (ISA):** [www.studiesabroad.com](http://www.studiesabroad.com)
  Argentina, Belgium, Brazil, Chile, China, Costa Rica, The Czech Republic, Dominican Republic, England, France, Italy, Jordan, Mexico, Morocco, Peru, Spain, Multi

- **Study Abroad Italy (SAI):** [www.studyabroaditaly.com](http://www.studyabroaditaly.com)
  Italy (Rome, Milan, Florence, Sicily), London

Affiliated Universities
OSU has signed Title IV Financial Aid agreements with the schools listed below, to enable students to enroll directly, receive transfer credit, and use their financial aid. Students may suggest other universities for approval.

- **Al-Akhawayn University- Morocco**
- **Nagasaki College of Foreign Languages – Japan**
- **National University of Ireland, Galway – Ireland**
- **Universidad San Andres- Argentina**
- **University de Belgrano- Argentina**
- **University of Hull – England, UK**
- **University of St. Andrew’s- Scotland, UK**
- **University of Stirling- Scotland, UK**
- **University of York – England, UK**
Where to begin
Know you want to study abroad, but aren’t sure where to start? Many students at OSU study abroad through the Reciprocal Exchange Program. However, if this type of program doesn’t meet your needs, affiliated and approved programs offer great opportunities as well. This brochure is dedicated to introducing you to these alternatives.

FAQ’S you may have for the office

What is an affiliated/approved program?
Any program approved for academic credit that is a non-OSU study abroad program is defined as affiliated or approved. Typically, these programs are coordinated by third-party providers. They can be offered by another U.S. university; a recognized university abroad; or a private study abroad organization such as ISA, CEA, etc. Collectively, we call these affiliated/approved programs.

How do I find a program?
Aside from programs recommended by family or friends, the next best option is to utilize the resources of the Study Abroad/NSE Office which include:

- Peer advisors devoted to conducting some initial research and making suggestions that will steer your own, more extensive research in the right direction.
- Information regarding web search engines and databases that provide listings of programs. For example:
  - http://iiepassport.org
  - www.goabroad.com
  - www.studyabroad.com
- Catalogues from the six private study abroad organizations with which OSU is affiliated.

What can I study?
What you study depends largely on your academic classification and how many hours you have available to satisfy requirements for your degree program. You may also try to find courses that meet specific requirements of your degree plan; this takes more planning and searching. The best approach is to have a lot of flexibility in your degree requirements and not to be locked in to completing specific courses abroad.

How do I apply?
Once you select a program, complete the Study Abroad/NSE Office’s one-page, affiliated/approved program application form and pay the $100 application fee. Then contact your host university or organization for a program-specific application. Be sure to follow the instructions carefully for
both the OSU application and your program application—these are separate processes!

When should I apply?
Generally, six months before your departure date should be ample time to prepare (see page 8). Deadlines are set by host universities/programs, not OSU. Please note that our office needs your application at least five business days prior to an Affiliated/Approved program’s deadline to guarantee the full range of services extended to students who apply through our office (see page 7 for a list of these services).

FAQs you may have for yourself
What type of courses should I take?
Be sure to consult with both your academic advisor and the financial aid office to make the best choices with regards to coursework. If you need your courses to transfer toward your degree program, you will want to carefully research the courses available to you for each study abroad program you are considering.

How long do I want to go?
Affiliated and approved programs vary in length from two weeks to two academic semesters. The best way to choose the program that works best for you is to prioritize prior commitments, organize school schedules, review degree requirements and evaluate your finances.

Where am I going to stay?
You will have to decide before leaving which type of accommodations best suit you. Do you want to get a closer look into family life and customs with a home-stay or do you want more independent living such as an apartment or dormitory? Different programs offer different housing options.

What do I want to get out of my time abroad?
Studying abroad can facilitate great educational and personal growth, spurring a new way of thinking, or it can be a time to do things exactly as you would at home with only a bit of different scenery. It is up to you to decide how deeply you will immerse yourself into the culture and the lifestyle of your host country, challenging yourself to stretch beyond being a tourist and living “life as usual”. (This section adapted from Learn Overseas, 2004)

Enrollment
With an affiliated or approved program, you will be enrolled in your classes at your host program/institution and in temporary hours (TEMP 1777-691) at OSU. You are not charged for these temporary hours and when your transcript arrives from your study abroad program, the hours on that transcript will replace the temporary hours.

Credit
Ideally, you will research all of the classes available for you to take abroad before you leave OSU. The classes you find that are likely to apply to your degree plan are then evaluated for their OSU equivalence. You will use this evaluation to help you to select classes when you enroll abroad. In some cases you must wait until you are on site before knowing which classes will be available.

You must complete the Course Equivalency Evaluation Form and obtain the appropriate signatures from your college academic advising office, the Financial Aid Office, and the Study Abroad/NSE Office for confirmation that your courses will transfer back to OSU and apply to your degree program as you expect. To be considered for financial aid, courses must apply to your degree plan.

**Application Deadlines & Eligibility**

You will find that eligibility and deadlines differ from program to program, so it is up to you to determine if you meet the program’s requirements and when any required information is due.

Typically, applying six months before the program starting date will give you ample time to complete applications and acquire all required materials. In general, students in good academic standing with approximately a 2.5 G.P.A and with no history of misconduct have a good chance of being accepted, providing they meet any language proficiency requirements.

**Cost**

Cost can be one of the trickiest factors to plan for when traveling. The last thing you want is to be in a country 5,000 miles away from home and not have sufficient funds to pay for your return.

Here are several items to consider when calculating your cost:

1) Does the price of your program include housing and meals?
2) Will the food provided by your host family be enough to get you through the day?
3) Does your cost include excursions and if so is there a way to reduce the price should you decide not to attend any given trip?
4) On average how much will you have to spend in a month on local transportation and how close is your school to where you will be living?
5) How much will your airfare be for a roundtrip ticket to and from your site?
6) What is the current exchange rate for the US dollar vs. the host country currency?

Another cost to be aware of is the $100 application fee paid to the Study Abroad Office. The section “What can you expect from the Study Abroad Office?” details what this fee covers.

**Funding**

To use your federal financial aid, OSU must sign a contractual agreement with the sponsoring organization. This process takes a bit of time, thus, if you are planning to participate in a program...
in which OSU students have not participated before, you should identify yourself as soon as possible to the Study Abroad Coordinator so that an agreement may be arranged.

Because you will not be attending OSU, you will have to defer any tuition-based scholarships you currently receive until your return. However, there are numerous study abroad scholarships that are made available through the program or the host university. Additionally, you may also be able to apply for scholarships such as OSU’s Bailey Family Memorial Scholarship for study abroad in the humanities or federal scholarships such as the Freeman Scholarship for study in Asian countries, the Gilman Scholarship for Pell Grant eligible students, or the National Security Education Program for study in non-traditional locations. Private organizations as well as the colleges specific to your major (School of Business, College of Engineering, College of Arts and Sciences, etc.) may offer scholarships or grants. The Study Abroad/NSE Office even administers a scholarship for study abroad!

If you are unable to find scholarships to fund your studies, the next most popular options are working overtime, taking out additional loans, and last but not least, telling your parents how much you love and cherish them and that as soon as you find a well-paying job you’ll pay back every cent!

**Benefits**

**Language Acquisition** – If you can not think of another great reason to travel just think of one of the most logical. Almost all majors require foreign language proficiency and it is safe to say that native speakers in their own country are proficient in their given languages.

**Résumé Building** – International experience is a great way to separate yourself from your competition. Studying abroad shows that you are independent, resourceful and open-minded. Furthermore, as international travel becomes easier and cheaper it is quickly becoming the standard and not the exception.

**Affiliated/Approved Specific Benefits** – Perhaps you are already sold on studying abroad, but must determine whether an Affiliated/Approved program or a Reciprocal Exchange would be best for you. Some of the potential advantages that many Affiliated/Approved programs offer are:

- In-country and often on-site support from a program staff devoted to your specific program.
- More structured programs.
- Organized excursions.
- The support of fellow U.S. student participants.
What can you expect from the Study Abroad Office?

• Assistance and support before, during, and after your time abroad.
• Domestic and international mailing (regular and priority), including FedEx.
• Domestic and international telephone calls & faxes from our office.
• Copying and scanning.
• Two free passport photos from our office photo service.
• Assistance in determining OSU course equivalence and applicability of courses to your degree program.
• Correspondence with your host university.
• Help in selecting your host program/university.
• Liaison with OSU administrative offices such as Financial Aid, Bursar’s Office, and Academic Advising Offices.
• Assistance with passport and visa matters.
• One day orientation for you and your family prior to your departure.
• Welcome back party upon your return to OSU.

Thanks for letting us share in your Study Abroad adventures!
Affiliated/Approved Timetable

12 to 18 months before departure
☐ Research options! Visit the study abroad office to start.

9 to 12 months
☐ Apply for a passport!
☐ Gather information.
☐ Choose a field of study and a country.
☐ Choose a program.
☐ Consult with your academic advisor.

6 to 9 months
☐ Fill out application in the Study Abroad Office.
☐ Apply to program before deadlines.
☐ Draw up a study abroad budget.
☐ Consult with the Financial Aid Office (See the Study Abroad/NSE Office for Financial Aid contact).
☐ Decide on a study plan.
☐ Attend the OSU Study Abroad Orientation.
☐ Complete the course equivalency evaluation process.

3 to 6 months
☐ Get visa(s).
☐ Make travel plans.
☐ Make financial arrangements.
☐ Arrange housing.
☐ Study the culture, history and literature of the country.

1 to 3 months
☐ Schedule medical and dental visits.
☐ Ensure enrollment in TEMP 1777-691 for the number of credit hours you will be enrolled in while abroad.
☐ Arrange adequate insurance.
☐ Purchase International Student Identity Card.
☐ PACK!!