

Faculty Advisor Information on Education Abroad

EDUCATION ABROAD is:

- **A University Priority.** “We will enable our undergraduate students to develop the knowledge, perspective, experience, and skills necessary to lead in a globally connected world by providing them with an opportunity to have at least one international experience before they graduate.” – The 2030 Plan
- **A Unique Set of Opportunities.** Education abroad programs include a variety of academic environments and may be comprised of classroom-based instruction, internships, practicum, research, and/or field work.
- **A Chance to Develop New Knowledge, Skills, and Attitudes.** Education abroad contextualizes intellectual discourse by creating dynamic interactions between the learners and the learning environment and exposing students to different peoples, their cultural values, and their perspectives. Students gain an international perspective on their chosen academic field and develop important life skills, such as critical thinking, independence, flexibility, resilience, and the ability to communicate across differences.

INTERNATIONAL STUDIES OFFICE and EDUCATION ABROAD

The International Studies Office is charged with providing opportunities for UVA students to engage with the world through meaningful academic pursuits and helping students apply their newly gained global perspective to future endeavors. The ISO collaborates with schools and faculty to offer academically rigorous and culturally enriching programs. Education Abroad staff advise students through goal setting and program selection, guide them through logistical arrangements, prepare them for cultural and academic adjustment, and maintain student records.

Education Abroad Team Contact Information: <https://educationabroad.virginia.edu/contactlocation>

Education Abroad Advisors by Region: <https://educationabroad.virginia.edu/make-advising-appointment>

ACADEMIC ADVISING and EDUCATION ABROAD

ENCOURAGE:

- Ask your advisees, “Are you planning to study abroad?” If you yourself studied abroad, share your experience. How did it impact your learning and career?
- Bring education abroad into on-Grounds classrooms. If you teach a COLA class, you will receive an email from our office asking if we can present briefly in one of your class sessions. We are happy to visit other classes, departmental faculty meetings, or other gatherings – just let us know!

SUPPORT:

- Major Advising Sheets (<https://educationabroad.virginia.edu/your-major>) are developed in close collaboration with departments, and serve as a *starting point* for students to find programs with strong curricular matches. (If there is not yet one available for your department and you are interested in creating one, please be in touch!)
- Students may reach out to you regarding changes to his or her course selection while abroad (they will have instructions for what to do in such cases), or academic advising for the following term on-Grounds.

- When advising students who have returned from abroad, discuss ways to incorporate what they learned into on-Grounds coursework; draw connections between their experiences abroad and their academic and future career endeavors.
 - Opportunities and outlets for students to engage with and build on their experience: <https://educationabroad.virginia.edu/life-after-education-abroad>
 - Concerned about how a student is doing while readjusting? CAPS can be a resource: <https://www.studenthealth.virginia.edu/caps>

ADDRESSING COMMON STUDENT CONCERNS:

These are the most common; please don't hesitate to direct a student with *any* concerns about education abroad to us.

- **Finances.** The cost of education abroad depends on the program and program type. Information about financial resources and planning is available here: <https://educationabroad.virginia.edu/finances>. A common myth is that short term programs are less expensive, but for students using financial aid semester can be more affordable.
- **Graduating on-time.** This is expected! Courses taken for “transfer credit” are pre-approved; students know how their courses from abroad will apply to degree requirements before committing to participating. “Direct credit” refers to UVA courses taught abroad. <https://educationabroad.virginia.edu/academic-considerations>
- **Language skills.** Opportunities are available for students at any level of language. Numerous programs allow students to take coursework in English, even in non-English speaking countries.
- **Missing out on life at UVA.** Encourage students to think about what they may gain by engaging with people, places, and knowledge outside of Charlottesville. To be more than a tourist in another country is priceless.

NEXT STEPS for EDUCATION ABROAD

Successful education abroad experiences begin with early planning. Please encourage students to:

- Take the Education Abroad Workshop/quiz: <https://educationabroad.virginia.edu/education-abroad-workshop>
- Define goals based on academic and personal needs; consider the program's or institution's course offerings and how they might integrate with degree requirements
- Discuss intended plans with:
 - their Academic Advisor/Dean (also discuss the department's education abroad policy)
 - an Education Abroad Advisor (if required or desired) to discuss academic and personal goals and identify a program that best supports these goals
 - parents/family, and Financial Aid Advisor (the latter if applicable)

LEARNING OUTCOMES

The UVA Education Abroad Learning Outcomes Assessment identified five over-arching learning outcomes of education abroad, which the ISO uses to inform best practices in program development and administration.

- Students apply their knowledge to create a global frame of reference in their response to situations and events.
- Students understand, respect, and appreciate cultural differences.
- Students demonstrate understanding of themselves and their ability to cope and adapt.
- Students apply their knowledge of intercultural communication to adapt to a different culture and to interact effectively with those from a different culture or cultural background.
- Students seek out opportunities for engagement.