Study Abroad:
What UT Parents Should Know

Many questions may arise when your student decides to study abroad. Here are some useful answers.

Q. Which majors can study abroad?
A. UT has a program for students from all majors. There are over 400 UT-approved programs in over 80 countries.

Q. How will they stay on track at UT?
A. Your student can take a full academic semester of courses overseas that have direct UT equivalencies, so they do not fall behind in coursework and degree completion. The My Credit Abroad (MyCA) database has over 7,000 international course offerings that have been equated back to UT. Additionally, there are 2-6 week faculty-led programs that allow for your student to earn in-residence credit with a UT professor and meet degree requirements.

Q. Do students have to know where they want to go?
A. No, but students are encouraged to know which courses they want to take abroad so the Study Abroad Office can identify a suitable program with relevant academic coursework.

Q. Does financial aid apply?
A. Yes! Your student’s federal award packages can be applied towards any program costs.

Q. Will my son/daughter lose UT scholarships if he/she goes abroad?
A. Your student’s financial aid travels with them, in most cases. We typically advise that students contact the scholarship-sponsoring agency for more specific details.

Q. Is it affordable?
A. The cost of studying abroad may be less than you think! Think of the real cost as the difference between studying on campus and studying abroad. In most cases, this reflects the cost of a passport, visa, flight and the difference in cost of living between Austin, Texas and the study abroad destination. There are programs where the total cost is the same or less than studying in Austin.

Q. What are the next steps?
A. Prior planning is critical. Students have many choices to consider. The sooner they start researching, the more options they can consider in order to maximize funding opportunities.

Q. What are the long-term benefits?
A. Learning how to navigate different cultural perspectives will develop communication skills that will translate into the workplace across multiple business industries and professions.

Of approximately 450 employers surveyed, 50% identified competencies, such as “adapting to situations of change” as gained through a study abroad experience as a valuable trait which made an employee “stand out.”

- Collegiate Employee Research Institute (2008 study)

Questions?

Contact our office at (512) 471-6490 or visit world.utexas.edu/abroad for more information.
Scholarships

The Study Abroad Office and the University of Texas at Austin offer close to a million dollars annually in numerous scholarships for study abroad. In addition, we direct your students to additional resources for funding. Here are a few examples:

1. International Education Fee Scholarship – Offers $1,200 - $1,800 awards available to any enrolled UT Austin student. One in four applicants on average receives an award.
2. First Abroad Scholarship – Offers $3,000 awards for first-generation-in-college students who have earned less than 60 hours at UT.
3. 25th Anniversary Scholarship – 25 scholarships awarded each year to undergraduates with financial need.
4. Affiliate Provider Scholarships – Many of the study abroad program providers we partner with, such as CIEE, API and IFSA, have scholarships available exclusively to UT students.

Health & Safety

The University of Texas at Austin is committed to your student’s safety. All programs are continually monitored and undergo on-going, extensive assessment for health and safety. All students are provided:

- Access to 24/7 health, safety and security information as well as comprehensive insurance coverage.
- Students have online resources and in-person orientation to help them prepare for safe travels abroad.
- UT stays in communication with your student before departure, throughout their stay abroad, and upon their return.
- On-site administrative support that ensures your child’s safety in case of emergencies.

“Even though I knew next to nothing about the program or country my child would be traveling in, once he explained how thorough the Study Abroad office is in their preparation, I felt much more comfortable.”

– Lucia Luna, parent of Eduardo Luna, Turkey 2012