







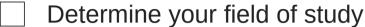
The Essential Study Abroad Checklist







18 Months Before Departure: Define Your Academic Interests



Research schools and organizations that offer study abroad programs in your area of interest

 Request application material from your universities or organizations of interest

- "What Should I Major In?" quiz from Loyola University Chicago
- "The Student's Guide to Choosing a Major" from BestColleges.com
- "The 50 Best Study Abroad Programs" from BestCollegeReviews.org





15 Months Before Departure: Prepare for Exam and Track Deadlines

- Register for undergraduate (SAT, ACT, TOEFL) or graduate (GRE, GMAT, LSAT, TSE, TOEFL) entrance exams
- Note important deadlines (either in your phone or calendar) to ensure you submit everything on time

- "How to Prepare for the TOEFL Test the Right Way" from Fluentu.com
- "How to Study for the GRE in Two Months" from Kaptest.com
- "How to Study for the GMAT" from Kaptest.com
- "How Should I Prepare for the LSAT" from Dus.psu.edu





12 Months Before Departure: Complete Testing, Research Schools, and Secure Financial Aid



- Take your required exams
- Narrow down your universities of interest
- Research scholarship and financial aid opportunities thoroughly
- Apply for scholarships and grants early on to secure funding and maximize your chance of being chosen

- "What Should Students Know About Studying Abroad" from USNews.com
- "Four Steps to Choosing the Right Study Abroad Program for You" from Experience.com
- "40 Study Abroad Scholarships & Grants to Apply for Now" from GoOverseas.com
- "How to Spot and Avoid Scholarship Scams" from WorldTrips.com
- "11 Secrets to Winning Study Abroad Scholarships" from GoOverseas.com



10 Months Before Departure: Complete and Submit Your Applications

Retake your exams, if necessary	
Collect your references and transcripts	
Write application essays	
Submit your applications with transcripts, entrance exam scores, and references	

- "The Study Abroad Application" overview from StudyAbroad.com
- "How to Write an Outstanding Study Abroad Application Essay" from SchoolMoney.org
- "Tips for Asking for a Letter of Recommendation" from TheBalanceCareers.com

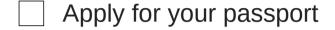
Resources:

 "Credit Transfer and Approval" from CEAStudyAbroad.com





6 Months Before Departure: Prepare to Travel



Review your travel options

Book your flights

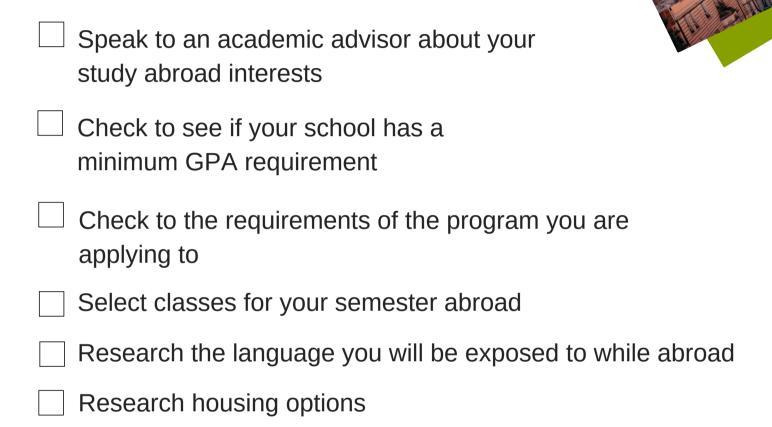


- "What Papers Do I Need to Get a Passport?" from TravelTips.USAtoday.com
- "The Complete Beginner Guide to Travel Hacking" from PersonalProfitability.com
- "How to Find Cheap Flights and Get the Best Airline Ticket Deals" from MoneyCrashers.com
- "Airfare Deals and Money-Saving Tips" from AirFareWatchDog.com





5 Months Before Departure: Review School and Program Requirements



- "How to Find Study Abroad Housing" from GoOverseas.com
- "How to Get by in a Foreign Country When You Don't Speak the Language" from WorldTrips.com
- "Dealing with Culture Shock" from WorldTrips.com



4 Months Before Departure: Organize a Packing List

- Create a packing list
- Buy anything you need from your list
- Consider luggage restrictions and packing organization

- "The Ultimate Study Abroad Packing List" from WorldTrips.com
- "How to Pack Your Bags Before You Study Abroad" from USAC.edu
- "What NOT to Pack for Study Abroad" from StudentUniverse.com
- "What Can I Bring" A-Z list from TSA.gov





3 Months Before Departure: Secure Documentation and Living & Travel Arrangements

Livi	ng and Travel Arrangements				
	Confirm acceptance to a study abroad program	*You will need to fill out Form 1-20 and Form DS-160 if you are an international student			
	Arrange your accommodations and travel				
	Enroll in classes	studying abroad in the			
Rec	quired Documentation	U.S.			
Forms and Visas					
	Visit the website or consulate of the country you are visiting				
	Fill out *Form I-20, *Form DS-160, and ot	her application forms			
	Pay the SEVIS 901 fee that allows you to apply for a visa				
	Apply for your visa				
	Schedule an appointment with a local eml	passy or consulate			
	Research to find out what documents to to Ensure your passport is up to date	ake to your appointmen			
	Take a 2x2 colored photo (white backgrou	und and neutral facial			

expression) and submit it with your forms



Hea	alth Insurance
	Determine whether your university and/or visa requires international student health insurance
	Understand the insurance requirements
	Research plans and purchase a student health insurance policy that meets your requirements and budget
	Obtain a visa letter from your insurer that provides proof of coverage (if necessary for your visa)
	Obtain a *waiver form from your insurer that provides proof of comparable coverage (if necessary for your university)
ften	y universities offer their own health insurance plans. However, schools will times let you purchase your own student health coverage elsewhere if your er provides them with a waiver form that includes proof of coverage which meets their school requirements.
ften	times let you purchase your own student health coverage elsewhere if your er provides them with a waiver form that includes proof of coverage which
ften	times let you purchase your own student health coverage elsewhere if your er provides them with a waiver form that includes proof of coverage which meets their school requirements.



Resources:

- "Everything You Need to Know About Getting an F-1 Visa" from WorldTrips.com (for international students to the U.S.)
- "What Questions Should I Ask When Buying Study Abroad Insurance" from WorldTrips.com
- "Travelers' Health" page from CDC.gov
- "Your Health Abroad" from Travel.State.Gov
- "Smart Traveler Enrollment Program" from Step.State.gov

2 Months Before Departure: Plan for Technological Needs

Update your cell phone plan or order a cell phone that works abroad
Purchase power adapters and converters
Download useful apps



Resources:

- "11 Tips to Find the Best Study Abroad Phone + Plans" from GoAbroad.com
- "The Top 50 iPhone Apps for Study Abroad" from TheStudyAbroadBlog.com
- "Study Abroad Parent Guide-Communication Tips" from StudyAbroad.com
- "Study Abroad: Technology Tips" from Pearsoned.com



Get required/recommended vaccinations and ensure you are healthy enough for travel

- "Health Concerns for Study Abroad Students" from WorldTrips.com
- "16 Tips to Stay Healthy While Traveling" from HuffingtonPost.com
- "What to Pack in Your Travel First-Aid Kit" from TravelandLeisure.com







1 Month Before Departure: Confirm All Arrangements are Final



Create your budget
Ensure you understand exchange rates
Convert some of yuour money to the foreign currency before leaving in case you want some spending money when you arrive
Confirm that your apartment, dorm, and other accommodations are set
Arrange transportation from the airport to your school or accommodations
Make copies of important documents
Do last-minute packing and shopping

- "How to Crate a Realistic Study Abroad Budget" from WorldTrips.com
- "5 Transportation Options for International Students in the U.S." from WorldTrips.com
- "Exchange Rates and Currency Calculator" from X-Rates.com

