

University of Idaho Study Abroad Advising Handbook



Change Your Latitude

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the world of Study Abroad! The UI Study Abroad Office is here to assist you in finding a study abroad program that will offer you an experience of a lifetime. The following is our contact information and office hours:

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10:00 am – 1:00 pm - by appointment
1:00 pm - 4:30 pm - walk-ins or appointments welcome

SOME CONSIDERATIONS WHEN CHOOSING A PROGRAM

Geographic Considerations

Be Open to your Options

With so many interesting countries out there, the question becomes *Where should I go?* Often students' first choice ends up becoming something familiar: Europe. We are all familiar with images of Europe through the media, arts, our strategic political alliances, and the over-emphasis on European history most of us received before coming to the university. Europe seems oddly familiar, comfortable, convenient, culturally compact, maybe even a little exotic. Yet, all students should consider this: Europe is expensive (with the exception of a few eastern European and Mediterranean countries). Also, it is very likely that some time after you leave the university, you will visit Europe as a tourist. Why not consider going further afield, for example, to New Zealand or India? You are less likely to visit those countries as a tourist later. Some other parts of the world may have excellent programs in your major or minor and provide access to important areas of research, or allow you to network with organizations or agencies that can later help your career. For example, a business major could study East Asian business in Hong Kong, one of the great economic centers; a fisheries major might find cutting edge aquaculture research at the University of the Pacific in Fiji; and a dance major might completely expand their artistic horizons by studying African dance techniques in Ghana. The important point is to keep all of your options open by exploring other site options. That best study abroad site may not necessarily be in Europe. At the same time, if your heart is really set on studying in Spain instead of Costa Rica, or you really do want to spend a semester in England, by all means go for it.

Developed vs. the Developing World

Often one of the richest learning experiences a student can have will come through studying in the developing world. However, in order to be successful in this kind of living and learning environment, a student must be prepared for the many inconveniences that might arise because of bureaucratic inefficiency, poor in-country infrastructure, a marginal economy, and long historical traditions that may favor the ruling elite over the individual or common man. There might be power outages, buses that run routinely late, hot water when you want cold water and cold water when you want hot water. A class might be rescheduled into another room without the students being informed. You might have to go to five different offices in order to get a simple task done. In short, life can be very challenging and, at times, frustrating. On the other hand, because people in developing countries may not have many of the amenities and conveniences we are used to, there is often a wonderful social life where people get together to share their everyday experiences, tell stories, discuss politics, or the outcome of that incredible soccer game! Students who choose to go to study in developing countries should be flexible and always have a good sense of humor.

Educational Considerations

Studying at a Foreign University

If you decide that you would like to be a regular student in a foreign university, you should be aware that you will be immersed in a different educational environment. Often, classes at foreign institutions are not as structured as the courses you are used to taking at UI. There may not be a quiz every week or a test every month. Instead, a good portion of your grade (if not all of it) may be based on how well you do on the final exam or a combination of an exam and a final project. Some universities may require a great deal of independence. There may not be as much professor-student interaction, and lectures may be given in a large lecture hall. Your class professor may provide you with a reading list at the beginning of the semester and expect you to read all the required texts by the end of the term without further reminding you. Some universities have lectures followed by smaller group tutorial sessions. Some professors may not have office hours because of a shortage of office space. This option is available both in foreign language and English language speaking countries. If you are interested in a foreign language speaking country, you must be fluent or near fluent in the language in order to participate. Either way, if you choose to study at a foreign university as a regular student, you have to be prepared for educational differences and be willing to develop strategies to keep up on your classes. Are you that kind of person? If not, “Island Programs” (Program Provider Programs) that often pattern their classes after the U.S. educational system may be a better option for you.

Studying in a Foreign Language

Many students who have been studying a foreign language question whether they are ready to take the step of studying in that language. Taking regular university courses in a foreign language can be challenging in the beginning, but can really push your language skills to a level that would be hard to achieve otherwise. If you are unsure whether you are ready to take regular courses (like Biology) in a foreign language, meet with Irina Kappler-Crookston in the Foreign Languages Department. If you are not ready to take regular classes taught in a foreign language, you may study the language intensively, learning the language very quickly by studying abroad. These language-learning programs are often offered through our “Program Provider” programs. If you are not interested in studying a foreign language at all, there are many English-speaking programs available to you.

Program Support Considerations

High Touch Programs with Lots of Support

Some programs have a lot of support and guidance for participating students. These programs work more closely with the students and are available to answer questions and solve problems no matter how large or small. Many “high touch” programs have a resident director (RD) on site who is responsible for working with the international students on a specific program. These RDs help with a wide variety of the study abroad experience, from everyday details of your program to cultural adjustment issues. Some may lead excursions or trips for the program provider, while others are tied more to the academic institution that you are studying at. It is possible to choose a high touch program and study with other international students or with local students. While these programs offer a lot of support, students are still expected to be responsible for their own success. This type of program might be a good option for students who would like to have lots of hands-on support and guidance through their international experience or for students who don’t feel comfortable with the local language.

Some examples of high touch programs:

- Some UI Direct Programs (Ecuador-PUCE, England-AIU, Greece-CYA, India/Nepal-SANN, Japan-Nagasaki, Japan-Ryukoku, Japan-KCP, Kenya-KEMU, Mexico-UAG, Morocco-ALIF, South Africa-Ecolife, Thailand-Chulalongkorn)
- USAC Specialty Programs (Chile, China, Costa Rica, Czech Republic, France, Germany, India, Italy, Mexico, Spain)
- ISA Programs
- IFSA-Butler Spanish-Speaking Programs
- CIEE Programs
- UI Faculty-Led Programs

Low Touch Programs with Less Support

You also have the option to choose a program that offers less intensive support services. With these programs, you are essentially a regular university student at the host school. You would receive regular university services, for example, the help of an International Student Office or the campus health clinic, but these may operate only during regular business hours and would not be exclusively for students from your program. This type of program might be a good option for students who feel comfortable with the idea of navigating through the host university system on their own and don’t mind being more independent.

Some examples of low touch programs:

- Some UI Direct Programs (Australia-Deakin, Australia-USC, Costa Rica-CATIE, Denmark-LIFE, Denmark-USD, England-Chelsea, England-Lancaster, Finland-Mikkeli, France-ESC, France-IIEF, France-INPG, Germany-FHTW, Mexico-UADY, Morocco-AUI, Netherlands-Hague, New Zealand-Lincoln, New Zealand-Massey, Spain-Zaragoza, Sweden-Lulea, Sweden-Vaxjo, Taiwan-NCYU), and ISEP Programs
- USAC Partnership Programs (Australia, Denmark, England, Ghana, India, Ireland, Japan, Korea, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Scotland, Sweden, Thailand)
- Australearn Programs
- AEC Programs
- IFSA-Butler English-Speaking Programs

❖ **Please keep in mind that the high touch vs. low touch comparison is only a generalization of types of programs. Each program is unique, so make sure you understand the structure of the program**

you choose. No matter where you go, or what program you choose, you will need to be responsible, patient, flexible, creative, resourceful and open-minded. Remember, you are responsible for your own successful experience!

ACADEMIC PLANNING

Subjects You Can Study

Major / Minor Courses

- You will find courses by looking at the “Program Search” on the UI Study Abroad website. Go to “Field of Study”.
- By working with your Academic Advisor and completing the **Advising and Credit Evaluation Agreement**, you can go abroad and stay on track to graduate on time.

Improve Upon or Learn a Foreign Language

- You have the option of studying Spanish, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Chinese, and many other languages.
- With many intensive language programs you can get through a year to two year’s worth of UI language courses in one semester because you learn much more quickly when you are immersed in the language.
- Many students add a language minor or even a second major when studying a foreign language abroad because they are able to earn so many language credits in such a short amount of time.

Area or Specialized Studies

- The University of Idaho is a wonderful school but it cannot possibly offer all areas of study. Many students will take advantage of study abroad to take courses within their field that the University of Idaho cannot offer. For example, an Environmental Science major went to Australia to take marine biology courses.
- Another option is to study a certain area of the world - the culture, politics, language, etc. - while experiencing that environment first-hand.
- Many students would like to take courses abroad that they are interested in, but that do not meet any requirements for their major or minor or for graduation. This is acceptable. Although you may graduate later than originally planned, many feel that the experience is well worth this sacrifice.

Experiential Learning

- At many program sites you have the opportunity to learn by doing. There are internships, service learning courses, and volunteer opportunities. This kind of experience gives students a much better understanding of the society that they are living in and can turn out to be one of the most memorable parts of their study abroad experience.

Academic Advisors

Your Academic Advisor will play a major part in your study abroad planning. They may even help in the process of deciding on a program. You should check with your Academic Advisor(s) to find out which courses or major/minor requirements might be fulfilled abroad and which cannot. If you are planning on taking courses outside of your major, you should see an advisor from the department you hope to receive credit from to find out how those courses will transfer back to the UI. For example, if you are a business major but you would like to take a course to learn more about the politics in your host country, you would want to speak to an advisor from the Political Science Department. Once you have decided on a program and the courses you will take abroad, you will ensure your credit transfers by filling out a **Credit Evaluation and Advising Agreement Form** with your advisor. You will receive this form once you have applied to a Study Abroad program.

ACADEMIC POLICIES

Resident Credit versus Transfer Credit

Transfer Credit

- Transfer credit affects your cumulative GPA but not your UI GPA.
- The majority of study abroad credit is accepted by the University of Idaho as transfer credit but does not go toward the limit of transfer credit you can use toward your UI degree.

Resident Credit

- Resident credit affects your UI GPA as well as your cumulative GPA.
- Only USAC “Specialty Programs” and UI Faculty-Led study abroad programs are accepted as resident credit at the University of Idaho.

Credit Limits

Federal financial aid regulations limit how many credits from a foreign institution you are allowed to apply toward your degree (generally not more than half of the credits for your degree). If you plan to study abroad for more than an academic year, please make sure you speak with a study abroad advisor. You should also check with your specific College to find out their limit on the number of credits you may take abroad.

Grading

The University of Idaho will receive a transcript from your program abroad that will show the grades and credits you received according to their grading and credit system. This transcript will be filed in your permanent UI Registrar’s file. How the course grades are entered into the internal UI system may differ depending on which program you attend. Some program grades are recorded in the UI

system as Pass/Fail. This is the case if the foreign grading system from your host country is so different from the U.S. grading system that it would be difficult to translate the grades accurately. Other country or program grading systems translate more easily to the U.S. grading system and are therefore entered as A-F grades within the UI system. See below for a list of which programs are recorded in the UI system as pass/fail and which are recorded as A-F.

One thing to remember is that if you decide to transfer to a new school or apply to graduate school after the University of Idaho, an official transcript from the foreign institution where you studied will be sent to the school for which you are applying. How your grades were recorded within the UI system will not be seen by another school.

PASS/ FAIL GRADES will only be given for the following programs:

- AEC (Australian Education Connection)
- AIU (American InterContinental Univ.)
- ALIF (Arabic Language Inst., Fez)
- AUI (Al Akhawayn Univeristy, Ifrane)
- AustraLearn
- Chelsea School at the University of Brighton
- Chulalongkorn University
- CATIE
- Deakin University
- ESC-Chambery
- FHTW-Berlin
- The Hague University
- IIEF-Strasbourg
- INP-Grenoble
- ISEP (International Student Exchange Program)
- Kenya Methodist University
- In addition, **“Non-UI” programs whose transcript comes directly from the foreign institution and all Law student transcripts** will be taken as pass/fail within the UI system.
- Lancaster University
- LIFE (U of Copenhagen, Fac. of Life Sciences)
- Lincoln University
- Lulea University
- Massey University
- Mikkeli Polytechnic
- National Chiayi University
- PUCE (Pontificia Univ. Catolica de Ecuador)
- Ryukoku University
- SDU (Southern Denmark University)
- UADY (Universidad Autonoma de la Yucutan)
- UAG (Universidad Autonoma de Guadalajara)
- USC (University of the Sunshine Coast)
- University of Zaragoza
- Vaxjo University

A-F GRADES will be given for the following programs:

- CIEE (Council on Intl. Educational Exchange)
- CYA (College Year in Athens)
- Ecolife
- IFSA-Butler (Institute for Study Abroad, Butler)
- ISA (International Studies Abroad)
- In addition, **“Non-UI” programs whose transcript comes from a U.S. university** will be marked A-F.
- JASIN (Nagasaki University of Foreign Studies)
- KCP Language Institute
- SANN Research Institute, Nepal/India
- USAC (University Studies Abroad Consortium) Specialty and Partnership Programs

Are You About to Graduate?

Graduating seniors

- Students planning on graduating right after they finish their study abroad program must submit written permission (usually the signature on the Credit Approval Form) from their college Dean or Associate Dean to the Study Abroad Office prior to departure.
- They should also remember to submit an application for graduation to the Registrar's Office prior to leaving the country.
- Finally, those students should arrange and pay for their overseas program coordinators to send transcripts of their completed coursework by **express mail** back to the home campus. This should speed up the transfer of your credits for graduation. This is your responsibility!

Students who have already graduated

- It is still possible for you to study abroad even after you have graduated.
- If you have graduated you must open another curriculum at the UI. If you do not need financial aid you may apply to the UI as a Non-Degree-Seeking student. If you will apply for financial aid, you must apply to the UI as a Degree-Seeking student again. This does not imply that you must finish another degree at the UI, but in order to be eligible for financial aid you must be a degree-seeking student.
- Be aware that you might be eligible for less or no financial aid or scholarships if you have already graduated. For example, if you have already graduated before you study abroad, you are not eligible for Pell Grants, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (SEOG), or International Experience Grants (IEG). However, you may still be eligible for loans depending on the amount of aid you received before graduating.

STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Students with Disabilities, Health Issues, Children

Many study abroad programs can accommodate students with disabilities, health issues, and/or children. There are lots of options for every type of student, so start planning your experience early and work closely with a Study Abroad Advisor to choose a site and a program that will be a good fit for you!

FUNDING YOUR STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCE

Choosing a Program

When choosing a program, cost may be an important factor for you. You must first decide how much you are able to spend to study abroad and look at how much financial aid or scholarships you usually receive. If you find that a program you are considering is too expensive then you can look at other programs in less expensive countries or cities, programs with less support options, or you may decide to choose a shorter program.

A good starting point to determine what you can and cannot afford is to look at the University of Idaho estimated costs of attendance. For a full-time undergraduate student with no dependents, the total estimated cost of attendance at the University of Idaho for one semester is \$9,250 (2009-2010 estimate) for Idaho residents and \$14,280 for non-residents. **There are no Study Abroad programs that will match these costs exactly**, but this gives you an idea of what you usually spend in a year and you will be better able to decide how much, if any, you would be able to cover beyond these figures. Study Abroad semester costs can vary greatly but typical costs range between \$12,500 and \$17,000.

Financial Aid

You can use your financial aid to study abroad. In the summer term, you must be registered for at least 6 credits to receive financial aid. How much aid you will receive will depend on your personal financial aid eligibility. Every student planning on using financial aid toward a study abroad program should meet with their financial aid advisor to determine how much aid they will receive and whether or not their financial aid will cover their study abroad experience.

You should not change anything on your FAFSA form if you study abroad. You should complete your FAFSA as you normally would. Once you have applied to a study abroad program, the Study Abroad Office will give a total cost of attendance for your study abroad program (including tuition, fees, housing, meals, application fees, airfare, insurance, and personal expenses) to the Financial Aid Office. Using this information and your personal FAFSA information, the Financial Aid Office will determine if your aid eligibility will change. Some students may become eligible for more financial aid while most others will not. This will depend on your program cost of attendance and your personal FAFSA results. Please remember that there are financial aid limits depending on your year in school, and general limits as to how much aid one student can receive during their academic career. **It is important to note that just because your study abroad Cost of Attendance may be higher than your UI Cost of Attendance, this does not mean that your financial aid will automatically increase to meet those costs.** Please make sure to meet with your financial aid advisor early in order to financially plan for your study abroad program.

Please keep in mind that if your financial aid does increase because of your study abroad program, the extra aid will be disbursed evenly between the fall and spring semesters even if you will only be abroad for one semester.

Applying For Scholarships

- If you are receiving scholarships, you may be eligible to keep receiving them when studying abroad. You should check with the source of the scholarship to be absolutely sure.
- Unless you are going on a faculty-led program, tuition waivers do not apply when you study abroad.
- You should research and apply for scholarships early, as some scholarships are given in the spring for both the fall and spring semesters of the following year.
- There are many study abroad specific scholarships that you can apply for. You can find a current list of scholarships by going to the Study Abroad website: www.webs.uidaho.edu/ipo/abroad, or by stopping in to the Study Abroad Office. **Check out the International Experience Grant!**
- You can also check the following websites for more scholarship information:

www.internationalships.com	www.finaid.org
http://www.miusa.org/	www.fund-raising.com/fundraising-ideas.htm
www.fdncenter.org/index.html	http://www.nsep.gov/initiatives
www.fastweb.com	www.rspfunding.com
www.studyabroad.com/forum/financial_aid.html	
http://www.umabroad.umn.edu/financial/scholarships/index.html	

Planning Ahead and Saving Money

You will be expected to pay some fees like application fees, program deposits, international airfare, immunizations, passport fees, visa fees, etc., before your financial aid is disbursed. You should plan ahead for these costs, as it is not possible to have your financial aid disbursed early.

As a last resort, there is a possibility that you can get a “short-term loan” from the Financial Aid Office before your financial aid is disbursed. There is a limit on the amount you can get with a short-term loan and it does incur interest. You should try to pay it off before your financial aid is disbursed by working, etc. If it is not paid off by the time your financial aid is disbursed, it will be automatically taken out of your financial aid award.

Creating a Budget

You should use the Study Abroad Budget Planning Worksheet in this booklet. Not all of the categories on the worksheet will apply to you for each program, but overall the worksheet should give you a good sense of your budget. You can make copies of this worksheet to use when comparing programs.

Working During Study Abroad

There are very few countries abroad where it will be legal for you to work. Even if it is legal for you to work, this does not mean that you will be able to find a job once you arrive overseas. The economy in many countries is struggling and people are hesitant to hire someone who is not a resident. When creating a budget you **must not** count on any funds from working abroad.

Creative Ways to Raise or Save Money

- Apply for scholarships. See the websites listed previously for some ideas.
- Talk to your college or department about scholarships or grants.
- Find work or pick up extra hours during breaks to save up. Plan early and spend carefully now so you have enough time to save.
- Check local libraries, high schools, alumni associations, religious organizations, the Chamber of Commerce, City Hall, Lions Clubs, travel agents, media (TV, newspapers, radio stations), country clubs (some will offer scholarships to students who worked there as caddies!), etc. for scholarships, or ask them to sponsor a pancake breakfast or raffle on your behalf.
- Contact local heritage organizations for funding, especially if you are a member of that community or if you are planning on studying abroad in a country relevant to the organization's members. Examples include the Swedish-American Society and the Japan-American Society.
- Seek professional organizations in the area or in your hometown in which you plan to work, or are working, and inquire about grants or scholarships.
- Ask credit unions, banks, or major corporations for donations or scholarships.
- Have your parents ask their employers about scholarships for children of employees.
- Ask a relative for a low- or no-interest loan.
- Forgo birthday and holiday gifts in exchange for study abroad financial assistance (gifts or loans).
- Ask your friends and neighbors to help contribute money or used items, such as a backpack, travel gear, etc. Also ask local stores to contribute supplies.
- Sell your non-essential items at a garage sale.
- If you have a talent, do artwork, bake cookies, or build crafts or similar items and sell them.
- Ask your fraternity or sorority to sponsor you.
- Organize a car wash in your neighborhood.
- Arrange for someone to sublet your apartment while you are gone. You will not be able to receive financial aid to maintain an apartment, car payments, or other expenses back home while you are away.
- Offer to let a relative or friend use your car while you are gone in exchange for helping you make your car payments. Or, if your car is paid off, ask for a small amount of money.

- Shop around early for your international airline tickets. The Internet does not always give the best prices. Try the newspaper, local travel agents, or look into group flight options offered by the program provider. Ask for student discounts whenever possible.
- Look into alternative student loans if you do not qualify for need-based financial aid. Contact the Financial Aid Office (208-885-6312) for a list of alternative loans.

*"Creative Ways to Raise or Save Money" and "Study Abroad Budget Planning Worksheet" taken from University of Minnesota's Study Abroad Advising Handbook

Study Abroad Budget Planning Worksheet

Expense Description	Cost
<i>Program Fee</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> tuition	
<input type="checkbox"/> fees	
<input type="checkbox"/> housing	
<input type="checkbox"/> meals (how many per week/month? _____)	
<i>Travel Documents & Immunizations</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> passport	
<input type="checkbox"/> photos	
<input type="checkbox"/> visa	
<input type="checkbox"/> entry / exit tax	
<input type="checkbox"/> re-entry permit	
<input type="checkbox"/> immunizations	
<i>Transportation</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> international airfare	
<input type="checkbox"/> train, bus, or domestic travel from airport to program site	
<input type="checkbox"/> transportation for personal travel	
<i>Textbooks / Materials</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> books	
<input type="checkbox"/> art or other course supplies	
<input type="checkbox"/> pens, notebooks, etc.	
<i>Room and/or Board (if not included in program fee)</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> housing permit	
<input type="checkbox"/> meals not included in program fee	
<input type="checkbox"/> housing and meals over breaks	
<i>Personal Living Expenses</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> local transportation (bus pass, subway pass, taxi)	
<input type="checkbox"/> communications (phone card, postage)	
<input type="checkbox"/> toiletries	
<input type="checkbox"/> emergency cash	
<i>Spending Money</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> optional excursions / field trips / independent travel	
<input type="checkbox"/> souvenirs / gifts	
<input type="checkbox"/> social activities	

HOUSING OPTIONS

You may want to think about housing options when choosing a program. Some programs have limited housing options while others give you a variety of options. Keep in mind that if you really want to learn a language and/or a culture, your best option is to live with a family, or at least to live with native students. The biggest regret that students have when they return from studying abroad is that they “hung out with too many Americans”, and “spoke too much English.”

ESSENTIAL TRAVEL DOCUMENTS

Passports

If you know you will be going abroad, you should apply for a passport, if you do not already have one. **If you do already have a passport, make sure it is still valid.** You may obtain passport applications or check the validity of your current passport at the following website:
<http://travel.state.gov/passport/index.html>.

Directions for obtaining a passport:

- Read the directions carefully. Fill out the application but **DO NOT SIGN**. Do not fold, staple, or erase on the form. Consult the directions carefully for required proofs of identity and for special circumstances.
- You will need official passport photos, which may be purchased at the Post Office, Office Depot, Kinko’s Copies, Wal-Mart, Archer Photography, or Rite Aid. Photos are generally sold in sets of two, and you may need additional sets for visa applications, identity cards, etc. Orders are often given a small discount if you order these additional sets (reprints) at the same time as your first order.
- Locate acceptable proofs of identity. You will need a certified copy of your birth certificate and your driver’s license. If you do not have a certified copy of your birth certificate, you can order one from VitalChek or a similar company. The VitalChek website is: www.vitalchek.com.
- Take the passport application, two passport photos, proofs of identity, and the passport fee of approximately \$100 (may need to be written on two separate checks) to your local post office or passport services office. In Moscow, you may obtain a passport at the following locations:
 - Post Office - located at 220 East 5th Street
 - Passport processing hours are different than regular business hours so please call ahead.
 - Passport applications and further information for obtaining them at a US Post Office may be found on the following site:
<http://www.usps.com/passport/welcome.htm>.
 - Courthouse – located at 522 South Adams Street
 - Further information may be found on the following site:
<http://www.latah.id.us/clerk/passports.php>.
- You **MUST** apply in person if this is your first passport. This process usually takes 6-8 weeks for processing.
- If you are under a time constraint, there is an expedited service that can process the application in about 2 weeks upon receipt at the Passport Agency. This service costs an additional \$60.

Student Visas

Most semester or yearlong (and some summer) participants must obtain a **student visa**.

Student visas are stamped in your passport. Contact the country consulate or embassy that has jurisdiction over your home state to request student visa application forms and instructions. Many embassies and consulates will even allow you to order or download student visa materials via the Internet. **For a complete list of foreign consulates in the U.S. with homepages you can go to: www.embassyworld.com.** From the main page, you should click on “Embassies Inside the U.S.” Search for the appropriate consulate and access their web page for further information. If you have trouble reaching someone at an embassy, this is very normal. Sometimes it is easier to fax a request for a student visa application and directions.

You will need to return the completed forms, your passport, and any other required documentation and fees to the consulate or embassy. Send these documents using a traceable mail service (e.g., Federal Express or USPS certified mail). Never send them by regular mail.

What do I need for a student visa? While requirements vary, you typically need:

- ◆ 2-12 weeks of time
- ◆ valid passport
- ◆ official letter of acceptance from your study abroad program
- ◆ proof of adequate finances to cover your stay overseas (e.g., financial aid award letters, bank statements, letters of support from your parents)

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO NOW

Use Your Resources

You will find many resources in the Study Abroad Office. The following resources will help you to choose a program that works the best for you.

University of Idaho Study Abroad Website – www.uidaho.edu/ipo/abroad. Here you will find an overview of all UI Study Abroad programs. You will be able to compare programs by looking at their academic options, costs, program support, country and city information, housing options, and eligibility requirements. Use the Program Search to search by program type (UI Direct or UI Program Provider), country, area of study, etc.

Program Provider Catalogs and Websites – These resources offer much more detailed information about Program Provider sites and the courses you can choose from. Once you have narrowed your options by looking at the University of Idaho Study Abroad website, this will be your next step if you are looking at a Program Provider site. Link to their sites through the UI SA website.

UI Direct Institution Websites – You can usually find details regarding courses and the university itself by going to its website. Once you have narrowed your options by looking at the University of Idaho Study Abroad website, this will be your next step if you are looking at a UI Direct institution. You will find links to UI Direct institution websites through the UI SA website. We also have some UI Direct catalogs and brochures in the Study Abroad Office

Study Abroad Library – In the International Programs Office you will find various books about different countries. You can check them out for a week at a time.

Past Participants - These students are a great resource because they have experienced study abroad sites first-hand. You can find contact information for these students on the UI Study Abroad website under “Resources”, “Past Participants”.

Study Abroad Advisors – After you have attended a “First Time Study Abroad Session” and have had a chance to look over the UI Study Abroad website, you can stop in to meet with a Study Abroad Advisor. Study Abroad Advisors can help you to choose a program that will best meet your needs and will help you with your application process once you have decided on a program. Study Abroad advisors are available for walk-in advising between 1:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday or you can set up an appointment anytime after 10:00 a.m., Monday through Friday.

Questions You Should Be Asking

When looking for a study abroad program you should be asking the following questions:

- What kind of academic program am I looking for?
- What language would I like to study in?
- What kind of support would I like from the UI Study Abroad Office and on-site in the host country?
- Do I want a competitive placement program or a non-competitive placement program?
- What is the cost of the program?
- Is there a certain area of the world that interests me more than others?
- What do other students have to say about this program? Talk to your friends and peers and check the Study Abroad website to contact past participants.
- Do I want to live in a big city or a smaller town?
- What kind of housing would I like?
- Do I want an experiential learning experience to go along with my studies?

Follow the Steps!

1. Visit the Study Abroad website: www.webs.uidaho.edu/ipo/abroad and go to the Program Search.
2. Determine what will be your main focus of study:
 - Do you want to study courses in your major/minor, study a foreign language intensively, or do a combination of courses in your major/minor and a foreign language?
 - Do you want to study in a foreign language, e.g., take biology classes in Spanish?
 - Do you want to do an area studies program, e.g., African Studies, which is not part of your major/minor?
3. Determine what kinds of programs might fit the study focus you have chosen. For example, if you are interested in studying biology in Spanish, you will likely have to choose an immersion program, while if you would rather study a language intensively; it will most likely be a language and culture program.
4. Do you have a geographic preference, i.e., do you want to be in Japan vs. Australia? Do you have an economic preference, i.e., do you want to study in the developed world, e.g., Scandinavia vs. the developing world, e.g., China?
5. What other elements are important to you?
 - Do you want significant field experiences, such as trekking for 3 weeks in the Himalayas?
 - Do you want to do an internship, volunteer, or take a service-learning course?
7. Compare program costs by completing the Study Abroad Budget Planning Worksheet (back page).
8. Contact past participants listed on the Study Abroad website, or talk to your peers on campus who have already done a program to determine what their experience was through a program or particular site.
9. Stop by the Study Abroad Office in LLC Building # 3 (Ground Floor) to meet with a Study Abroad advisor.

Monday through Friday:
10:00 am – 1:00 pm - by appointment
1:00 pm - 4:30 pm - walk-ins or appointments welcome
10. Once you have found some programs that look interesting to you, go to the program or university websites to find more information on courses, or come to the Study Abroad Office to pick up a program catalog or look at the Study Abroad library information.
11. Take course information to your Academic Advisor to see which program's courses will work best for your major, minor, or foreign language.
12. Once you have determined a program that is right for you, download an application from the Study Abroad website, take it from your Program Provider catalog, or come to the Study Abroad Office to pick-up an application.

And you are on your way!