Study Abroad

GETTING STARTED

GUIDE

International Education
Morehead Hall 204

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About this handbook

We are excited to work with you as you plan your time abroad. We have created this handbook to guide you through the “maze” of preparing to study abroad.

Topics covered in this guide:

✈ Why study abroad?
✈ RC Sponsored study abroad programs
✈ Study abroad credits
✈ Financial information
✈ Passports and visas
✈ Study abroad participation guidelines
✈ Application process & deadlines

The first step is to come meet with us!

Attend STUDY ABROAD 101 to learn about the study abroad process

Offered each Tuesday & Thursday: 12:00-12:30
Morehead 204

Contact Carmen Boggs-Parker for more information.

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So, you are thinking about study abroad? What do you want to get out of a study abroad experience? Do you want to improve your language skills? Do you want to build your resume? Do you want to meet new people?

Here are some other reasons for studying abroad that you may not have considered:

- Gain a greater understanding of different cultures
- Get a different perspective of American culture
- Learn about your ethnic heritage and/or religion
- Broaden your knowledge of specific geographical and cultural areas
- Further develop your interpersonal skills and ability to adapt
- Increase intellectual stimulation and development
- Conduct personal research
- Take courses not offered at Roanoke
- Prepare for graduate school
- Take advantage of the opportunity to travel
Roanoke College Semester Abroad
Yucatan, Mexico or Leipzig, Germany
Travel with Roanoke faculty leader and fellow RC students for a special semester program abroad in either the Yucatan, Mexico (spring) or Leipzig, Germany (fall). The program will be taught by a different Roanoke College faculty member each year. It is open to ALL majors. There is no language pre-requisite but all students will take Spanish or German as part of this program.

Roanoke College International Exchanges
If you participate in one of Roanoke College’s international exchange programs, you will enroll directly in a foreign university and choose from courses in a wide range of subjects that are designed for local students or specially designed for international students. You will live and learn with students from your host country and around the world. Your financial aid and scholarships automatically apply. Opportunities include:

International Student Exchange Program • Worldwide
ISEP is the world’s largest student exchange program, with over 300 member colleges and universities in over 50 countries around the globe.

University of East Anglia • Norwich, England
University of East Anglia is rated in the top 200 universities in the world according to Times Higher Education’s World University Rankings.

Aarhus University • Aarhus, Denmark
AU is a top ten university among universities founded within the past 100 years. Roanoke students can take courses through the Faculty of Arts and the Psychology department.

PH Ludwigsgurg University • Ludwigsgurg, Germany
PH Ludwigsgurg is a great choice for students who are interested in becoming teachers as this university is geared toward the training of German teachers.

University of Zilina • Zilina, Slovakia
This program is specific for Religious Studies students to enroll in Zilina’s Department of Religious Studies and the Center for Christian Education.

University of Ulster • Campuses throughout Northern Ireland
University of Ulster is a vibrant, modern institution with campuses in Coleraine, Belfast, and Derry/Londonderry.

Universidad Publica de Navarra • Pamplona, Spain
The Public University of Navarra in Pamplona is in the heart of a beautiful historic region in Northern Spain at the edge of the Basque country.

Kansai Gaidai University • Hikata City, Japan
Kansai Gaidai University’s Center for East Asian Studies is located in Hikata City, between Kyoto with its ancient temples and gardens and the vibrant commercial metropolis of Osaka.

Otto-Friedrich-Universität • Bamberg, Germany
Located in the medieval Old Town of Bamberg, a World Cultural Heritage Site, the University of Bamberg specializes in the humanities, social sciences, and computer science.

Ewha Women’s University • Seoul, South Korea
Ewha is considered to be one of the most prestigious universities in Korea, and is the largest women’s university in the world! Some of the strongest fields at Ewha include international studies, information technology, design technology, Women’s Studies, Korean studies, and Asian studies.

Waseda University • Tokyo, Japan
Students at Roanoke have the option of enrolling in the School of International Liberal Studies at Waseda. Students will take Japanese language courses and their electives in English.

American University in Cairo • Cairo, Egypt
AUC is a premier English-language institution of higher learning offering undergraduate, masters and graduate diploma programs. All classes are taught in English.
Roanoke College also offers affiliated programs in England, Ireland, France, Italy, India, Germany, Cyprus, Australia, New Zealand, China, and Spain. Some of these programs are designed specifically for U.S. or international students. On these programs, you will learn in classrooms and on field trips about the business, history, politics, arts, culture, and language of your host country.

Opportunities include:

**Regent’s University • London, England**
Located in beautiful Regent’s Park in central London. Its international student body, includes many students from the U.S., who study in the liberal arts, business, film, psychology, fashion, and language schools.

**Umbra Institute • Perugia, Italy**
Located in the medieval center of Perugia, Italy’s “university town.” Students choose from a wide variety of subjects taught in English, as well as courses in Italian language.

**International Studies Institute • Florence, Italy**
ISI is located in the heart of Florence and offers courses in Renaissance and classical studies, Modern European history, and Italian studies.

**CEPA Foundation • Strasbourg, France or Heidelberg, Germany**
The CEPA Foundation offers high quality academic programs in their estates in France and Germany. Classes are taught in English, although supplemental language classes are available. CEPA also offers students community engagement and internship opportunities.

**James Cook University • Townsville, Australia**
One of the world’s leading institutions focusing on the tropics and is surrounded by the spectacular ecosystems of rainforests, savannahs, and the iconic Great Barrier Reef.

**Universidad del Pais Vasco • San Sebastian, Spain**
Study Spanish and Basque language and culture while you live in a stunning location on Spain’s beautiful northern coast, twenty minutes from the border of France. Homestays are an option with this program.

**University of Nicosia • Nicosia, Cyprus**
Enjoy the island life in Cyprus. The University of Nicosia is the largest research university in southern Europe that teaches in English, and offers a broad range of degree programs in the humanities, sciences, business, med-
Discover a New You!

Vesalius College • Brussels, Belgium
Situated in Brussels and home to a thriving international community, Vesalius College offers students a truly unique educational experience. The College’s teaching methods are characterized by small, interactive classes, flexibility in course selection and continuous assessment. Students can enroll in international internships.

University of Lyon 2 • Lyon, France
You will enroll in 12 credits of intensive language courses taken at the Université Lumière Lyon II Centre internationale d'études Françaises (CIEF) with other international students, plus 3 to 6 credits of elective courses in French culture or European Studies designed specifically for USAC students.

University of Brighton • Brighton, England
Brighton’s colorful character, history, architecture, and cosmopolitan culture all combine to make it an exciting and vibrant place to live and study. The Brighton program allows you to enroll in a range of courses in a variety of disciplines.

Christ University • Bangalore, India
The Bangalore (Bengaluru) program provides the extraordinary opportunity to study Indian culture, sociology, and global issues and while volunteering in the local community with fellow students who are interested in contributing and making a difference in their society.

The University of Pau • Pau, France
You will enroll in 12 credits of intensive language courses taken at the Université de Pau’s Institute of French Studies with other international students, plus 3 to 6 credits of elective courses in French culture, business or European Studies designed specifically for USAC students.

Griffith University • Gold Coast, Australia
Ideal if you want to live and study near some of Australia’s most beautiful coastline and rainforest and are looking for a wide range of courses in diverse disciplines.

Massey University • New Zealand
One of New Zealand’s leading educational institutions, offering prestigious and innovative courses across the five colleges, as well as opportunities to enjoy a true taste of Kiwi culture.

Deakin University • Australia
Offers you the opportunity to enroll in a wide range of courses from Arts, Business and Law, Education, Health, Nursing and Behavioral Sciences, and Science and Technology.

University College Cork • Cork City, Ireland
Enroll in a variety of courses in Ireland’s leading university. Cork, the second largest city in Ireland, is located on the south coast of the island, and is the home to a large number of industries.

University of Shanghai • Shanghai, China
Students can focus on language acquisition and business courses. Shanghai is the financial capital of China making it a unique place to study economics, and business management.

University of Torino • Torino, Italy
As a bustling urban center, Torino is a natural destination for language, culture, and international business education. You will attend classes through the Business School of the University of Torino and have the option of applying for an internship.
There are many things to consider as you are making your choice. Please talk with the Assistant Director of International Education to help you through this process.

**Academic issues to consider when selecting a program abroad:**

- What types of courses do you need to take abroad? (Major/Minor/Concentration/INQ/Electives)
- How much flexibility do you have in the courses you will take abroad?
- Do you want to take courses in the local language or in English?
- Do you have the language fluency to take courses in the local language?
- Are you going to take language classes abroad?
- Are the language courses transcripted, or just offered through a language institute?
- What is the crediting system at your host institution?
- How many courses will you have to take to receive the number of units you require?
- How many courses do students typically take at your host institution?
- How are the courses typically assessed? If exams are required, make sure you will still be in your host country to take them. Will you be in the host country during the exam re-take period?

During the semester before you go abroad, you must meet with your advisor to discuss course choices for your study abroad program. Your course selections must be approved by your advisor, the chair of each relevant department, and the Registrar.

You must be assigned letter or number grades for all of your courses by program or host institution faculty. No pass/fail grades will be accepted. All courses for which you receive an equivalent grade of C- or better will be credited on your Roanoke College transcript as transfer credit. While the grades assigned by your program or host institution faculty will not appear on your RC transcript, they will appear on your program or host institution transcript.

Your Roanoke College GPA will not be affected by the grades you receive abroad. If you later apply to graduate or professional school or for some government or other employment, the graded program or host institution transcript may be required.

You MUST be enrolled in the equivalent of full-time study for the country in which you are studying. As long as you are enrolled as a full time student abroad and receive a passing grade in ALL of your courses you should receive the equivalent of a full semester of units at Roanoke College.

Study abroad credit is transfer credit unless you enroll in the Leipzig, Yucatan, or Virginia Oxford Summer program. These programs are considered RC campus courses, so they are credited with RC credit like your normal courses. These courses will be figured into your GPA.
How much is this going to cost?
The Office of International Education works with each student individually to ensure the most cost-effective manner for the student to participate in an international experience.

Study abroad fee
A $350 study abroad fee is applied to all students, with the exception of our extension campuses. This fee exists to offset the costs incurred through program application fees, foreign transcript evaluation, credit transfer, processing of federal and/or state financial aid for disbursement to the student, and other administrative expenses.

RC Extension Campuses
Students participating in the Leipzig or Yucatan programs will NOT pay the study abroad fee, but WILL pay a program fee. Both programs charge the normal tuition, fees, and housing costs for the semester. Yucatan charges the board fee as all meals are covered in the program. Leipzig does not charge for meals as students are expected to reserve funds for purchasing food to cook. This program fee covers the group flight, excursions, and most other expenses involved in the program.

Exchange, affiliated, and unaffiliated programs
An exchange is essentially a trade of places. A student in a foreign country pays his or her tuition, room, board, and fees. A Roanoke College student pays RC tuition and fees, room and board. The students then trade places and receive the benefits of what the other student has paid for at his or her home institution.

An affiliated program does not involve an exchange of students, but rather allows Roanoke College to directly enroll a student in a foreign institution or program. Roanoke College will charge students for tuition and fees. Depending on the program, students may be charged for housing and/or meals as well. A student is never charged twice for the same service. For instance, if a student pays for housing here, they will not be charged for housing abroad.

An unaffiliated program is not connected to Roanoke College through a contractual agreement. In order to participate on an unaffiliated program, the student must withdraw from Roanoke College. The student is not billed by Roanoke College, but also cannot receive the Roanoke College institutional or federal financial aid. The student would pay out of pocket for the program. There are limitations on what courses transfer in this situation. No assistance from the Office of International Education will be given to students who enroll in unaffiliated programs.

What additional expenses should we expect?
- Passport and visa fees
- Travel costs: airfare, transportation, and personal travel expenses
- Sometimes students must pay a refundable housing deposit
- Insurance (if participating in an ISEP program)
**Passport**

If you don’t have a passport, apply for one as early as possible. It generally takes six to eight weeks to get a passport and can take longer depending on demand. If you already have a passport, be sure it will be valid for at least six months beyond the date you will return to the U.S.

[http://travel.state.gov/passport/get/first/first_830.html](http://travel.state.gov/passport/get/first/first_830.html)

**Visa**

You will need a visa to study in most countries. We will assist you in understanding the visa process, but the consular website and your host university’s international office are the best sources of information. They should indicate in your acceptance letter if you will need a visa and may give you or tell you where to find information and application forms, but you are responsible for obtaining your own student visa, which can take six weeks or more. In most cases you will need several passport-sized photos, your acceptance letter from the host university, and evidence of financial aid or personal funds sufficient to support yourself while studying abroad. Evidence of financial support typically refers to recent bank statements, either yours or your parents, reflecting an adequate balance for several months of a specific amount indicated by the visa application instructions. While in most cases it is not possible to apply for a visa more than 90 days before departure, you should start the visa application process as early as possible.
Study abroad is one of the experiential learning experiences that Roanoke College is committed to providing our students. We believe in the value of real-world learning which comes out of these experiential opportunities. Time spent abroad in another culture helps students to broaden their perspective, step out of their comfort zone, develop a greater sense of independence and confidence, and increase their intercultural competency: all of these skills enhance student development which reflects Roanoke College’s mission of preparing students for responsible lives of learning, service and leadership in what has now become a truly global context.

Beyond encouraging students to simply have a study abroad experience, it is equally important that we assess student learning that results from the experience and support this learning through opportunities for students to process, reflect upon, and articulate the meaning of the experience. Therefore, we have instituted participation guidelines for all students who study abroad as follows:

- **Study Abroad Preparation Meetings.** All students will be required to attend meetings to help them prepare for the study abroad experience. Topics for these meetings include: visa information, the course approval process, wellness abroad, cultural preparation, the IES assessment meeting, conduct and safety, and the pre-departure orientation dinner.

- **Intercultural Effectiveness Scale (IES) Assessment.** All students who study abroad are required to take the IES assessment, which is a two-part process. There is an online questionnaire that must be completed BEFORE the assessment meeting. Results from this questionnaire are reviewed in the assessment meeting. AFTER returning from studying abroad, students must retake the online questionnaire.

- **Re-Entry Programming and Tasks.** Study abroad students continually report that their time abroad was a transformative experience. For many students it can be challenging to reconcile their experiences abroad with the daily routine back here in the States. Re-entry programming is designed to help ease the transition back home.
  - Welcome Back Returnee Workshop. We gather together again as a group to begin to process the experience and discuss what it's like to be back “home.”
  - Anonymous evaluation survey.
  - One-on-one debrief meetings
  - Study Abroad Fair. This is an opportunity to give back to the college and your peers by sharing information about your study abroad program and encouraging other students to study abroad. The fair occurs the Friday of Family Weekend in the month of September.
APPLICATION PROCESS

There are multiple levels of application in the study abroad process. First, students must apply to study abroad through our office, the Office of International Education. Follow this link to apply:

https://www.roanoke.edu/inside/a-z_index/international_education/study_abroad/application_procedures

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- Minimum GPA of 2.5 (some programs have higher G.P.A. requirements)
- Good academic standing
- No record of serious or persistent conduct or academic integrity violations

APPLICATION MATERIALS:

- Study Abroad Application
- Study Abroad Degree Progress Form and major/minor/concentration checksheets
- Study Abroad fee of $350 for semester sponsored programs
- Copy of most recent transcripts
- Copy of passport identification page

DEADLINES:

Study abroad in fall of the following semester: December 1
study abroad in spring of the following semester: May 1st

NEXT STEPS:

Students will then apply for the program that they want to attend. Each program will have different requirements and deadlines. Generally, students should be prepared to submit the following:

- A letter of recommendation from a faculty member
- A personal statement describing why you want to study abroad
- Language proficiency reports if you will be attending a program where the courses are taught in a language other than English.