



UF ABROAD

INTERNATIONAL CENTER
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

STUDY ABROAD Family Guide



The University of Florida International Center (UFIC) understands the important role parents, guardians and other family members play in supporting their students who wish to join the Global Gator Community. We thank you for your interest and encouraging your student to study abroad.

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What Can Your Student Gain From Studying Abroad?

- **Future Career Leads**
- **Enriched Academics**
- **Personal Growth**
- **Cultural Competence**

97%
of students secured a job within 1 year of graduation

Future Career Leads

Did you know that Study Abroad Alumni earn higher starting salaries and have a higher acceptance rate into graduate school when compared to those that have not studied abroad?

87%
of students claim studying abroad influenced subsequent educational experiences

Enriched Academics

While studying abroad, students may be working on foreign language proficiency, taking courses not offered at UF, getting exposed to new teaching and research methodologies or more! The world truly becomes their classroom.

Personal Growth

In a new setting students learn to find new independence and confidence. As they try navigating a new city, country and culture, students enhance their critical thinking skills and return home with a strengthened sense of identity, flexibility and creativity.

96%
of students indicated that studying abroad increased their self-confidence

Cultural Competence

Students become more interested in other cultures and people, making them more open-minded individuals. Gaining a familiarity and appreciation for different social, political and economic systems help provide students with the skills and knowledge to contribute to the global community.

90%
of employers are looking for graduates with global competencies

Myths of Study Abroad

“It’s financially impossible”

TRUTH:

- **Exchange programs** allow students to “swap” tuition, meaning you’d pay exactly the same as your UF tuition.
- Most **Financial Aid** students receive at UF (e.g. Bright Futures, Florida Prepaid, etc.) can be used for study abroad!
- UFIC and UF Departments offer hundreds of **scholarships** every year to UF students going abroad.
- UF is one of the Top Producers of **Gilman Scholars** – a prestigious national grant that allows students of limited financial means to study or intern abroad.

“It will cause a late graduation”

TRUTH:

- Students can take courses abroad that count for their major, minor or gen ed requirements.
- Doing a program during the summer terms can actually help students get ahead in credits!
- Study abroad can be used to satisfy summer residency requirements.

“It's too complicated”

TRUTH:

- There are Study Abroad Advisors at UFIC who can help your students find the program that fits their personal, academic and professional goals.
- The staff and Study Abroad Peer Advisors (SAPAs) run weekly information sessions.
- Each semester UFIC holds a Study Abroad Fair where students can learn more about different programs, speak with Financial Aid, talk to an advisor and learn about scholarships.

“It's not safe”

TRUTH:

- Along with completing a **risk assessment**, we work to ensure all students are well informed about their overseas environment.
- **Mandatory Pre-Departure Orientation** covers best practices for students while abroad to ensure their safety and well-being.
- All students are enrolled in **worldwide health insurance** to cover any medical or safety emergencies.
- In the event of political unrest, a health emergency or natural disaster, UFIC is in close contact with on-site staff, local authorities, the US Department of State, insurance and the nearest US Embassy.

“Studying abroad was the perfect opportunity to explore new cultures while earning credit for my major. My programs have been the highlight of my experience at UF.”

Emma Frierson
UF in New Zealand (2017)
UF in Galway and Gweedore (2018)

“Emma has always displayed a sense of adventure and desire to explore other nations and cultures. We fully supported this pursuit and are thrilled that she found the opportunity to thrive in multiple study abroad situations and to work assisting other students in reaching those goals.”

Bob Frierson
Study Abroad Parent



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