

Help in Comparing and Choosing a Study Abroad Program

Subjects

- Programs offer a wide variety of subjects you can study. All programs offer different courses, so research the ones that interest you to see what subjects are offered.
- *Is the program research oriented or course structured?*
- Example of subjects: Art History, Business, Communication, History, International Relations, Political Science, Psychology, etc.

Credits

- For semester/year programs, you can earn 12-18 credits per semester.
- For summer programs, earn 3-9 credits.
- * Some programs require a student to take 18 credits during one semester. Just keep in mind that at Pitt, 18 credits is a lot of work. While you are abroad, you might not want to spend so much time in the library.
- * Most credits earned abroad will transfer over to Pitt. Many will even count towards your General Education Requirements. *Talk to your academic advisor if you have any specific questions about transfer credits.*

Language of Instruction

- Although many programs offer classes taught in English, others will have classes taught in that country's language.
- Some of the programs taught in English will also offer introductory courses to learn the language of the host country.
- *If you are NOT fluent in the country's language, make sure courses are taught in English*

Costs and What's Included

Look carefully at what's included in the cost of the programs. Some things to think about are:

- Tuition/Program fees
- Housing- Options usually are dorms (either living with American students, International students, or both); apartments; homestays; hotels.
- Meals- Programs can offer: all meals included; some meals (breakfast and dinner); no meals (usually this option goes with apartments that have kitchens because grocery stores are always nearby); allowance for meals.
- Location of Housing- Check out where in the city your housing will be located. Some housing will be far away from where you will be taking classes, and you will have to pay for transportation.
- Other- Many programs offer extra amenities that are included in their fee. Some of these things to keep in mind are: excursions, cell phone, phone card, ISIC card, books, and transportation passes. Some even include flights to the country.

- Cost of Living- The American dollar is worth a different amount depending on what country you're in. Check the exchange rate before leaving! See: www.x-rates.com
- Always read the fine print! If study abroad staff/interns cannot answer your program- specific questions, contact the study abroad provider.

Deadlines

- Make sure you submit all material on time.

<i>Program Name</i>			
<i>Program's Website</i>			
<i>Location</i>			
<i>Application Deadline</i>			
<i>Application Fee</i>			
<i>Program Dates</i>			
<i>Program Tuition/Fees</i>			
<i>Available Program Scholarship?</i>			
<i>Host Institution</i>			
<i>What subjects are included?</i>			
<i>How many credits will you receive?</i>			
<i>What language are the courses instructed in?</i>			
<i>Housing choices and the location of the housing?</i>			
<i>Meals?</i>			
All meals			
Some meals (breakfast and dinner)			
No meals			
Allowance for meals			

<i>Program Name</i>			
<i>Other amenities?</i>			
Things like: Pre-Departure Orientation/Handbook?			
International Flight?			
Airport Reception?			
On-Site Orientation?			
Excursions or field trips?			
Cultural Activities/Classes?			
Insurance?			
Internship?			
Internet Access?			
Cell Phone?			
Transportation passes?			
Other?			
<i>Cost of living?</i>			
International flight (If not included with program)			
Travel Expenses			
Textbooks/Supplies			
Extra Meals			
Personal			
Misc.			
Total?			