

# ~ FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ~

## WHY STUDY ABROAD?

A study abroad experience sets you apart from the crowd. In addition to the priceless opportunity for intellectual and personal growth, an academic program abroad provides new intellectual perspectives, international experience, and language skills, all of which are increasingly valuable in today's job and career paths.

## WHO CAN STUDY ABROAD?

Programs are available for all majors. Though most major classes must be taken here at Chapel Hill, there are program options for all academic and career paths. Study abroad advisors help students choose an appropriate program and obtain course approvals from their departments.

## WHERE ARE PROGRAMS LOCATED?

UNC programs and approved programs are available around the world in Africa, Asia, Australia/Oceania, Europe, Latin America, Middle East, and North America. There are over 270 programs in more than 60 countries. It's best to start by exploring programs available through the Study Abroad Office, the Summer School, or by meeting with an advisor.

## HOW CAN I FINANCE IT?

It's manageable, even if you're on financial aid. On exchange programs, students pay Carolina tuition, so the cost for many programs is only slightly more than the cost of attendance at UNC-Chapel Hill. For out-of-state students, the tuition for many non-exchange programs is less than tuition at Chapel Hill. Financial aid travels with you, & there are expanding scholarship opportunities for study abroad. The UNC Office of Scholarships & Financial Aid has procedures in place & counseling available to help students finance a study abroad experience. Check out their website, <http://www.unc.edu/studentaid/> and click on "applying for aid." You'll see a special page about study abroad procedures. Even if you don't qualify for need-based aid, there are loan options available.

## WHAT ABOUT ACADEMICS?

You can stay on track for graduation. Students earn 12-18 credits per semester while abroad - the same as here on campus. Credits can fulfill perspectives, electives, foreign language, major, or minor requirements. Academic advising is a service of the Study Abroad Office.

## WHEN CAN I STUDY ABROAD?

The timing is flexible. Sophomores, juniors, seniors and some graduate students study abroad. The choice is yours if you start planning early. There are semester, summer, and yearlong programs, some as short as four weeks, others as long as eleven months.

**POLICY ON STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS** - Beginning in the spring semester, 2003, a UNC-Chapel Hill academic policy on credit for study abroad programs was established. The full policy is published in the Undergraduate Bulletin and on the Study Abroad Office website. Students should read and understand the policy which basically restricts participation in study abroad programs to those programs that are operated by a UNC-Chapel Hill entity or that have been approved by the Study Abroad Office. There is a petition procedure for students who wish to participate in a program that is not one of the more than 270 programs in over 60 countries currently listed on the Study Abroad Office website, but there is a deadline for such procedures which precedes the application deadline for that term. Study Abroad Programs are also operated by the UNC Summer School Abroad and are linked to the Study Abroad Office website.

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**PLEASE NOTE:** This guide is published by the Study Abroad Office, College of Arts and Sciences, and is intended to provide information on policies and procedures for programs for academic credit that are operated through this office. Such information is subject to change. Program opportunities that are available through the Study Abroad Office are listed in this guide by program name. Additional summer programs are available through UNC Summer School Abroad, 134 E. Franklin Street. (<http://www.unc.edu/depts/summer>).