

Helping Your Advisees Plan for Semester Study Abroad

Study Abroad Timeline

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4. Application
5. Nomination & Selection
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Planning

For many students, planning begins at the Study Abroad Fair, held early in the semester every fall. Students also can begin their planning process at www.highpoint.edu/global by clicking on the "Getting Started" menu link. Here, they can discover the benefits of studying abroad, learn how to start planning, read about the application and selection process, and browse current and returned study abroad students' blogs.

Study Abroad Advising

Before applying for a study abroad program, all students must meet with a study abroad advisor.

The initial advising appointment will explain the study abroad process, help students determine their goals (academic, personal, and/or professional) for studying abroad, and help students narrow down their options. We'll cover differences in educational systems and what types of courses can be found at our partnering schools. We'll also discuss the application for study abroad, the nomination and selection process, the fees for studying abroad, the *Financial Aid for Study Abroad* policy, the credit transfer policies, and any policies that may apply to their specific program.

Many students meet multiple times with their study abroad advisor. We also are happy to speak with parents, taking into account any FERPA restrictions, and advisors. Please don't hesitate to contact us for more information.

Academic Advising

While study abroad advisors are willing to help students find courses at universities abroad, the primary academic advising will need to come from the students' academic advisor. Your students may come to you with the following questions:

- What courses can I take abroad?
- Can I graduate on time?
- Which programs offer specific courses?
- Will you sign off on my courses?

Generally speaking, students can choose to take courses abroad which satisfy major or minor requirements, Core requirements, or free electives. Students should realize, however, that universities abroad may offer limited coursework taught in English in only a narrow scope of disciplines. Additionally, some departments may have restrictions on coursework taken abroad.

To assist in finding courses that may meet your advisees' needs, review with them the online resource "Universities by Major" found on the Global Education website. Links to the course (module) catalog can be found on program pages. Students will need to obtain equivalency approvals for their preferred and alternate courses for each university listed on their application. Students who have completed 80 credits before studying abroad should have a graduation audit before departing for their program.

Core Classes Abroad

It is a misconception that students should save their Core courses for study abroad or that taking gen eds abroad will be easier than major courses.

The truth is, finding courses abroad to satisfy Core requirements at HPU can be challenging. Generally, most higher education systems do not offer general education study, as undergraduates take only subjects in their major course of study. Therefore, study abroad students may only be able to enroll in courses within one faculty. If they can enroll across disciplines, they will be studying upper-level courses in those majors.

Enrolling in coursework about which the student is passionate can help them navigate cultural stressors, diversify the understanding of their major course of study, and strengthen their degree.

Application

There are many parts to a study abroad application, which will be discussed in length in the study abroad advising appointment. Two parts that you may see include the *Confidential Academic Reference* form and the *Course Equivalency Approvals for Credit Transfer* form.

Students applying to study abroad for a semester are required to have two academic references. These must be completed by HPU faculty members who have taught the student in a class. If you have worked with a student only in academic advising or academic assistance roles, please encourage your student to ask a faculty member who has taught them to complete the form.

When reviewing course equivalencies, look for completed equivalency mappings, as well as approvals for all courses, before signing off on the form. While you will not be approving a course for equivalency, you will be noting that the courses will work for the students' degree plan. Ensure students have alternate courses selected and approved, and that the student has a separate form for each university to which they'll apply.

Nomination & Selection

After the application deadline, the Office of Global Education will review applications based on various qualifications, namely the students' cumulative GPA, personal statement, class standing, and previous study abroad experiences. Qualified students are nominated to their preferred university where space is available. Qualified students not able to be placed at their preferred university will be nominated to their alternate university or contacted to discuss alternative options. Selection and acceptances are provided by the host institution.

More information can be found at www.highpoint.edu/global by clicking on the "Resources" menu link under Study Abroad.

Pre-departure

All students must participate in the mandatory pre-departure orientation scheduled before the end of the term and prior to their studies abroad. This workshop will cover important information regarding planning & logistics, academics abroad, health & safety, cultural adjustment, credit transfer, re-entry, and various other topics to assist our students through the study abroad process.

If an advisee contacts you needing help at any point in the study abroad process, whether abroad or on campus, do not hesitate to contact the Office of Global Education. Often times, these students are facing culture shock, and Global Education staff can help them through the process.

Re-Entry

Many resources are available to help students transition back to HPU after their studies abroad. Often, the most difficult transition students make in the study abroad process is the transition home, known as Re-Entry Shock. Refer struggling students to the Office of Global Education.

Tips for Advisees

Encourage advisees:

- to be flexible where academically possible.
- to find academically-relevant programs.
- to meet early with Global Education staff.
- to be open-minded when facing different classroom teaching styles, coursework expectation, and assessment frequency which may look different from HPU.

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