

# 1 Beginning the Process at Auburn

## FAQ's – Who? When? Where?

Who can study abroad?

Because of the plethora of study abroad programs, almost anyone who wants to can! Auburn has its own unique study abroad options, and there are literally thousands of programs organized by other global institutions and universities that cater to all majors and minors. Students with disabilities or in the vocational rehabilitation program can check with [AU Program for Students with Disabilities](#) , [AU Vocational Rehabilitation](#) and [Mobility International USA](#)

Can I go on a study abroad program through another university?

Yes. Although Auburn has over forty departmental programs, so do other universities and you can go on their programs as a transient student, while we maintain your full-time status at AU (by registering you for Auburn Abroad, which allows you to use scholarships, financial aid, and PACT funding to study abroad). At the end of the program abroad your host program sends OIE an official transcript from which your AU AA course credits are posted.

When and how long can I study abroad?

You can begin studying abroad as early as the summer after freshman year (as long as you are 19 when the program begins and you meet GPA requirements). When you go abroad and how long you stay is completely up to you and your academic advisor! It is highly advisable to plan early if you want to study abroad, because it can be more difficult to find suitable programs once you get into your upper-level major classes. Some students do intensive studies abroad in the summer before the fall semester begins. Others may choose to study abroad for an entire academic year. The longer you stay the greater your exposure to the culture and language will be. Most students wish they could have stayed longer, so consider a semester or a year program if your course of study lends itself to the possibility. The best study abroad programs are those that take place over one or two semesters. These allow you to immerse yourself in the subject of your

studies and experience significant personal growth. However, programs shorter than one semester do allow you to experience in depth intensive study in one or two academic courses.

If I don't speak a foreign language, can I still study abroad in a non-English speaking country?

Yes! Today in virtually all countries of the world, there are universities that offer courses taught in English, although we do recommend study of conversational language and culture in countries where a language other than English is spoken. AU's Office of Int'l Education/Study Abroad advisors can help you locate programs that work for you.

How do I decide where to study?

Many people already have an idea of where they would like to go, but if you don't know, don't worry! Consider your personal and family interests. Do you prefer warmer or cooler weather, an English speaking or non-English speaking environment, coastal or inland regions, your family heritage, cultures, your academic program? Read up on a country or region you find interesting. Evaluate your language skills. Check out different universities and programs that are available. Some AU departments have programs that they run or recommend for specific majors, so check with your department.

How do I know which classes will transfer back towards my AU major / minor / electives?

All classes that you plan to take abroad on any program (AU or Non-AU based) must be pre-approved by the academic discipline department head, college dean, your academic advisor, and your Auburn Abroad advisor. Once you have chosen a program, select the courses you intend to take, and download and fill out the AU Course Approval form. Make an appointment with the AU Department Head for each course you plan to take and with your Academic Advisor. Department Heads approve the individual courses for AU equivalency, using course descriptions you print from the website of your program abroad and take with you to the meeting. When your form is complete, you know exactly what Auburn courses you will get credit for when you return. Doing that keeps you on track for graduation – you are taking required Auburn courses in Australia, China, Spain, or wherever you choose!

## How much will I pay to study abroad?

Most programs abroad run about the same as out-of-state tuition. The least expensive option is an AU direct exchange program, because you pay Auburn resident tuition, plus housing, meals and other living expenses abroad. The longer your program lasts, the less the per day cost to you. There are also many other benefits associated with longer programs, such as better cultural integration and greater language proficiency. Regardless of the cost, make sure that the program you select is through an accredited college or university. Financial aid, scholarships, and PACT funding can generally be applied to study abroad, and there are great external scholarships available for study abroad, especially in less traditional destinations.

Do not focus on cost when researching your program choices. Cost is often a reflection of services and all the functions a program provides. Therefore a low cost program may only provide you with courses, some meals, a la carte excursions, etc., as well as a more general set of support services. Other programs might include airfare (one way or round trip), a full time resident director, multiple excursions, academic tutoring, etc. Each program offers a unique range and set of components which can lead to cost differences. Don't short change your choices by solely looking for the cheapest program.

## How do I get started?

The **first step** is deciding that you want to study abroad! **Next**, attend a 30 minute Auburn Abroad Orientation session held in 234 Biggin Hall on **Thursdays at 3 p.m.** and **Fridays at 11 a.m.** year-round (Note: please check time and location as it is subject to change). An advisor will explain the entire process, and help you learn how to research programs (or make sure that your proposed study abroad program is a good fit for your academic goals and personal interests, if you have already made your choice).