

Goals of Study Abroad

Study abroad supports the development of knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed to live and work in the 21st century, and promotes the internationalization of the home university. Specifically, study abroad should:

1. Facilitate students' intellectual growth by exposing them to knowledge, concepts, and/or experiences that reflect a different cultural frame of reference, and stimulate students' interest in cross-cultural, international, and comparative learning.
2. Contribute to students' professional development by facilitating awareness of how their intended profession may be viewed/practiced differently in different cultural contexts and by encouraging the development of skills today's employers seek (such as self-reliance, cultural awareness, and cross-cultural communication skills).
3. Accelerate students' personal growth, including facilitating the development of confidence and self-reliance, stimulating a desire for exploration and trying new things, and expanding students' ability to interact in unfamiliar situations.
4. Develop students' skills for relating to culturally different others in various situations, such as academic settings, social venues, and professional environments, so that they may become aware of cultural differences, reflect upon them, and be comfortable living and working in diverse environments.
5. Enhance students' self-awareness and understanding of their own culture by providing opportunities to compare and contrast host country customs, values, and traditions with their own.
6. Contribute to the internationalization of the home department/college/university by infusing the classroom and campus with returned students' various new cultural perspectives; by providing opportunities for faculty involvement in international teaching and learning; by acting as a catalyst for faculty scholarship and research; and by linking faculty and student expertise gained through study abroad with college endeavors and initiatives.