Office of International Programs

WHY STUDY ABROAD
WHY STUDY ABROAD – WHAT STUDENTS ARE SAYING

The experience as a whole enriched my knowledge and view of the world. Being in Sweden and in close proximity to Copenhagen exposed me to a lot of new technologies and methods of Architecture, not to mention learning more about Scandinavian culture which influenced me in the best way possible.

Reem A., Lund University

Last summer, I decided to experience New York city in the context of a study abroad summer term at NYU. Not only has this experience exposed me to new teaching methods and contributed to my professional development, but it has also impacted my personal development in more ways than one. I came back with a feeling of fulfilment that is usually hard to find!

Yara C., New York University

My semester overall was a very enriching experience and was one that I wish would have lasted longer than just the summer. I met people of different backgrounds and learned things that I may not have in Lebanon. I got exposed to various things and this made the experience one of self-growth and reflection.

Jinan M., University of California, LA

“Academically, I felt like I was constantly learning since I took a Spanish class which I could easily practice in my everyday life, and an Art class, which I could relate to walking in the street of Barcelona and visiting museums.”

Roland Khalil A., Barcelona School for International Studies

It was my first time living alone, so the experience as a whole was new to me and I don’t have just one memorable experience but many.

Hassan I., University of California, Berkeley

In my opinion, every single thing I did there will forever be cherished in my mind and my heart, it was an experience of a lifetime and I wish I can do it over and over again.

Mariam B., Universidad Carlos III de Madrid
WHY STUDY ABROAD – WHAT FACULTY ARE SAYING

Wassim El Hajj, Chairman and Associate Professor, Department of Computer Science
Tens of our students go for study abroad every year and I follow up with each and every one of them. All of them without exception return with a big boost in their self-confidence. They become more aware about diversity, are exposed to different teaching styles and different cultures, and strengthen their academic skills. Many are able to join top universities abroad for graduate studies. They all describe the experience as life-changing. If it was up to me, I would make the study abroad program mandatory for all students given its many benefits.

Issam Srour, Associate Professor, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering
Expand your network, gain new perspectives, try out a potential grad school, or just have fun… all great reasons to spend a semester abroad.

Mona Harb, Chairperson and Professor, Department of Architecture and Design
Studying abroad provides students an exceptional range of opportunities to grow intellectually, mature, and build their character, beyond the familiar settings they cruise within.

Marco Bardus, Assistant Professor, Department of Health Promotion and Community Health
Why studying (or doing an internship) abroad may be a life-changing experience for you? Because moving abroad for a long period of time will force you into a new environment, new rules, new lifestyles. Only this way can you truly broaden your horizons, discover a different country, culture, learn another language, make new friends. Studying and working abroad is much more than just traveling to a new country for holidays. Going abroad is your chance to grow and change, for life.

May Farah, Assistant Professor and Director of Media Studies, Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Media Studies
I encourage each and every one of our students to spend a semester studying abroad. It’s rewarding on so many levels – socially, culturally, intellectually; it’s truly an unparalleled and unique experience.
STUDYING ABROAD PROGRAMS

Seize the opportunity that AUB offers students to study abroad during their undergraduate, graduate, or PhD studies. Study Abroad Programs are enriching life-changing experiences that enhance students’ academic, personal, and professional development. OIP study abroad advisors can assist students in thinking through their options and in applying to the university of their choice.

STUDY ABROAD AND YOU

There are many advantages to studying abroad...

Experience a new culture

The best way to learn about a new culture is to fully immerse yourself in it. Spend time abroad, get to know a new culture, and receive credit for the courses you take all at once. Take advantage of the opportunity to be part of a large international community of students. Graduate having established lasting friendships with people based in many different countries, which is great for future trips, and also a good basis for an international professional network.

Enhance your CV

Impress prospective employers and graduate school admission committees by including your study abroad experience in your CV. Having a study abroad experience on your CV will demonstrate your cross-cultural skills and shed light on your ability to adapt to new settings.

Study and learn differently

Often times students studying abroad will experience a completely new way of learning. Each country has its own unique style of teaching. Studying abroad can help you expand your academic horizon and develop the capacity to adapt to various educational settings.
Gear up for your career early on

Studying abroad is highly likely to enhance your career prospects.

“Employers are looking to graduates to have international experience either by studying or working abroad.” - Lauren Welch, head of advising for the US-UK Fulbright Commission in London.

The most basic benefit is that it will give you something to talk about during your interview. More importantly, it will show your potential employer that you can make it on your own, you are a team player, and you are flexible and can fit in when placed in new environments.

Get ready for an international workplace

Studying abroad will help you expand your circle of connection and allow you to network with prospective employers.

“Students are more open to new knowledge and expertise when abroad, and that knowledge is often more easily applicable and adaptable to situations requiring international interaction; thus, one can expect to be more competitive in today’s era of globalization.” - Sarah Han of the Department of International Cooperation at the Korean Council for University Education.

See your own culture through a new lens

Living in a foreign country can help inform your point of view on your own culture, allowing you to develop your own views rather than accepting your home culture as absolute. You will also be able to represent your university and country wherever you go and act as a cultural ambassador to those who are not familiar with your country.

Become truly independent

Students are likely to gain gradual independence through their university experience in general. But studying abroad takes that a step further, challenging you to really develop as an individual. While studying abroad, you will have to cope on your own, look after yourself and take care of your own affairs—perhaps the only way to become truly independent.

Develop your language skills

Traveling to a country you are trying to learn the language of is a great way for you to practice your skills in an immersive environment. You will experience a dynamic way of learning a new language by having conversations with locals.

Travel more widely

Studying abroad is a chance to travel more widely and discover the world region in which you are based. Students often have the time and opportunity to travel within the country they are studying in. Depending on where you are based, you will get the chance to discover the regions around your area and even go country-hopping!
DIFFERENT WAYS TO STUDY ABROAD

Single Term, Summer, and Year-long Programs

Students are encouraged to start planning from their first term at AUB in order to stay on track. Students should research options and narrow down their choices before selecting the most suitable program for their objectives. Check out the detailed timeline on page 15.

AUB Eligibility

- Undergraduate students must complete 24 credits at the sophomore level before applying to study abroad; graduate students must complete 6 credits. Students can also go abroad during the summer term if they have completed 30 credits at the freshman level.
- Students may take up to 30 credits abroad.
- Students are required to take a minimum of 12 credits per term at the undergraduate level; a minimum of 3 credits per term at the graduate level.
- Students should spend their last term at AUB before graduating.
- Students must be in good academic standing.

Course Transfer

- Students must submit a “Study Abroad Course Approval Form” to OIP for each proposed course before going abroad.
- Transferred credits taken during a Study Abroad Program do not affect students’ GPA.
- Upon returning, students must submit their official transcript to the Office of the Registrar.

For more information, go to the “Frequently Asked Questions” on page 17.

Where Can I Go?

Students may study abroad at one of AUB’s partner universities through the Exchange Program, or at any other university as a free mover.

Search for programs by type, location, and term aub.edu.lb/oip/pages/search.aspx

For additional Study Abroad search engines, visit studyabroad101.com and goabroad.com

Exchange Programs

Exchange programs give AUB students the opportunity to spend up to a year at one of AUB’s partner universities, while paying AUB’s tuition. As part of the Exchange Program, students are required to submit an application directly to OIP and sit for an interview. Successful applicants are nominated to the host university. Students who plan to go on exchange should have a minimum cumulative average GPA of 78 to be eligible to apply. Exchange programs are only available during the Fall and Spring terms.
Exchange through Erasmus+

Some partner universities in Europe offer students in need of financial assistance additional funding through the Erasmus+ Exchange Program. Students need to be nominated by OIP in order to be considered for the funding. Students who are currently receiving financial aid at AUB have a priority over others.

Study Abroad Programs

Students have the chance to apply as visiting, free-mover students to non-partner universities under the Study Abroad Program. Students should apply through the host university of their choice directly, as each university has its own requirements. Tuition at AUB is waived and students pay the host university tuition.

Summer Programs

Summer Programs are considered Study Abroad Programs. AUB partners with a number of universities that grant students either preferential application process and/or tuition rates.

- University of California, Berkeley (UCB)
- Stanford University, Knight-Hennessy Scholars
- Boston University (BU)
- University of Pennsylvania (UPenn)
- University College London (UCL)

BY THE NUMBERS

Six continents

More than 45 Exchange Programs

Countless Study Abroad Programs

88% of students are from FAS and MSFEA

76% of students go through Study Abroad opportunities

93% of students are undergraduates

63% go to North America/Canada

32% go to Europe

RETURNING STUDENTS’ TESTIMONIALS

86% reported personal growth

70% reported making long-lasting connections and friendships

60% reported increased cultural awareness

60% reported academic growth and enrichment

55% reported higher self-responsibility and independence
COSTS & FUNDING

Student financial aid is applicable only under the Exchange Program, and not the Study Abroad Program. For this reason, it is recommended that students receiving financial aid at AUB consider partner universities as their first option.

Students receiving Erasmus+ funding pay the same tuition fees they pay at AUB. In addition, Erasmus+ funding covers students’ travel costs (round-trip ticket) and grants them a monthly stipend which helps cover part of their living expenses abroad.

PLANNING AHEAD

To start preparing for Study Abroad, students should:

• Research university options and available courses.
• Discuss study abroad plans with their Academic Advisors.
• Schedule an advising meeting with an OIP Study Abroad Advisor.
• Apply to the university program.
• Keep track of OIP and host university deadlines.

Getting in Touch with Us

• Attend our Study Abroad Fair at the beginning of every Fall semester.
• Pass by our office in West Hall, 3rd floor, room 320 during office hours.
• Book your private advising meeting through our website.
• Attend university-specific info sessions and department-specific info sessions.
• Find us at the Study Abroad booths around campus.

OIP DEADLINES

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<th>Spring Term</th>
<th>Summer Term</th>
<th>Fall Term</th>
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<td>2019-2020 Exchange nomination</td>
<td>Mid-April</td>
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<td>Mid-November</td>
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<td>AUB Study Abroad Course Approval Application</td>
<td>Mid-October</td>
<td>Mid-March</td>
<td>Mid-April</td>
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<td>Final Clearance Form</td>
<td>Mid-November</td>
<td>End of April</td>
<td>End of May</td>
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<td>Exchange Confirmation Fee</td>
<td>2 weeks after nomination notification</td>
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### STUDY ABROAD TIMELINE

**12-6 MONTHS BEFORE**
- Start thinking of possible destinations and what term you want to go
- Renew your passport

**12-4 MONTHS BEFORE**
- Attend an OIP Study Abroad 101 session
- Plan courses you will take at AUB and those you might take abroad
- Research and pick your top program/s

**12-4 MONTHS BEFORE**
- Check application, nomination, and scholarship deadlines
- Discuss plans with your Academic Advisor
- Meet with OIP Study Abroad Advisor

**12-3 MONTHS BEFORE**
- Submit applications for study abroad to host university & OIP by OIP deadlines

**5-2 MONTHS BEFORE**
- Get your courses approved at AUB

**3-1 MONTHS BEFORE**
- Apply for visa (as applicable)
- Book travel and housing

**2 MONTHS BEFORE**
- Attend OIP Pre-Departure Meeting
- Submit all final forms to AUB & host university

**1 MONTH BEFORE**
- Ensure all payments are settled
- Talk to your doctor

**2 WEEKS BEFORE**
- Call your bank
- Pack
- Collect important documents

**HAVE A GREAT STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCE!**
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: Why hasn’t my GPA changed since studying abroad?
A: Courses taken during the Study Abroad Program transfer back to AUB and appear on your transcript on a pass/fail basis and do not affect your GPA. Therefore, your GPA before studying abroad will remain the same after your return.

Q: Will the courses I take abroad transfer to AUB?
A: Yes, they will transfer back to AUB as long as you have had them approved before going abroad. Students who take courses abroad which were not pre-approved will have to petition for them upon their return.

Q: If I am receiving financial aid from AUB, which program should I apply to?
A: You should apply to the Exchange Program so that you continue to benefit from financial aid.

Q: If I am on financial aid, can I apply to the Erasmus+ Exchange Program?
A: Students receiving financial aid from AUB are eligible to apply to the Erasmus+ Exchange Program. In fact, students who are receiving financial aid from AUB are prioritized over those who are not when it comes to Erasmus+ nominations.
General contact details for further assistance

Office of International Programs at the American University of Beirut
aubabroad@aub.edu.lb