Study Abroad 101

JUMP START YOUR INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE!
You’ll leave this meeting with…

**INFORMATION**
Basics about RIT Study Abroad.

**UNDERSTANDING YOUR PRIORITIES**
Starting to think more about what you want out of an experience.

**RESEARCH TOOLS**
To help you research programs and narrow down your choices.

**NEXT STEPS**
to make study abroad a reality.
Over 600 programs in 60 different countries!

Program lengths
- Short term (1-3 weeks)
- Summer (3-10 weeks)
- Semester (fall or spring)
- Academic Year
Cultural Immersion

- Study Center
- Live with other Americans
- Take classes in English
- Planned activities/excursions
- Enrolled in local University
- Home Stay
- Take classes in a foreign language
- Live and travel like a local
Program Types

RIT Global Campuses
- Croatia, Dubai, Kosovo
- Semester, Summer, Winter Break
- Easy, seamless study abroad

Faculty-Led
- Led by an RIT faculty member
- Usually shorter travel portion (1-3 weeks)

Affiliate
- RIT partner organizations that offer study abroad programs
- Variety of locations, lengths, coursework

Exchange
- RIT has direct partnership with international university
- Major-specific, more culturally immersive
Coursework

- **Study Abroad & Your Major**
  [rit.edu/StudyAbroad](http://rit.edu/StudyAbroad) > Study Abroad & Your Major

- **Minor, immersion, liberal arts, or free electives**
  - More program option available when your courses are flexible.
  - Try to save some electives or general education credits to take abroad

- **RIT Course Pre-Approval Process**
  - Ensures your courses abroad will count towards RIT degree program
  - Stay on track to graduation

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*Sweden*
Your Degree Requirements

Talk with your academic advisor:

- What degree requirements do you still have left to fulfill?

- If going for a semester you are likely taking between 12-18 credits
  - Knowing types of classes you need to take to stay on track is essential when researching programs.

- If choosing a short term program (3-9 credits)
  - Helpful to know where the credits you will take will fit in, but you will have more flexibility.
Beyond Academics

LANGUAGE
- Majority of programs don’t require foreign language skills
- If language learning is a priority, options are available

HOUSING
- Usually dorms or apartments (shared rooms)
- Homestays (live with a local family)
- Consider travel time between housing and classes

MEALS
- Meal plans typically not common abroad
- Likely to buy groceries/prepare meals, eat out

ACTIVITIES
- Planned excursions may be offered
- Availability of student clubs, sports teams, etc.
Program Costs

- All programs will charge:

  ✓ Tuition

  ✓ Program Fee  
    (housing, orientation, airport transportation, excursions built into program)

  ✓ Out-of-pocket expenses  
    (flight, personal spending money, meals (if not included in program fee), in-country transportation (bus pass, taxi, etc.)

A budget worksheet outlining all expected costs will be provided to you.
You may be able to use financial aid and/or scholarships towards study abroad program costs.

**REMEMBER … Everyone’s financial aid package is different**
To really know how YOUR aid will apply, must take copy of official study abroad budget worksheet to a meeting with financial aid.

**In General:**

**Full time while abroad** (taking 12 or more credits)
- May use RIT and federal aid and scholarships
- Semester programs, some summer programs

**Half time while abroad** (taking at least 6 credits)
- May use federal aid
- Summer programs

Study Abroad Scholarships are available – you can talk more about options with an advisor.
Your Priorities

Study Abroad Blueprint

A brainstorming and reflection tool to help you prioritize what you’re looking for in an experience.

Let’s work on Goal #2
Important Considerations

- **Health/Wellness**
  - Study abroad has the potential to heighten pre-existing health conditions or contribute to new ones.
  - Physical health, mental health, etc.
  - Consider your needs/support.

- **Your Identity**
  - Your diverse characteristics may be more or less embraced in the country you travel to.
  - Race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, etc.

**EXAMPLE**

If you have a chronic health condition that requires regular out-patient treatment – you may not want to choose a program in a remote location.

It is important to you that you attend regular religious services – research potential locations to see if those are offered.

You are LGBTQ+ - perhaps prioritize locations that have an active LGBTQ+ community and/or embraces LGBTQ+ individuals.
Researching Programs

MAIN TOOLS
• Study Abroad & Your Major website
• Your College Info. Sheet
• Compass (RIT program/application database)
• Affiliate Websites
Study Abroad & Your Major

[rit.edu/global/StudyAbroadMajor](rit.edu/global/StudyAbroadMajor)

- A good starting point to explore some programs.
- College info. sheet for your major
  - Highlighted programs based on your major
- Also look at other colleges of your minor, immersion, or area of interest.
The Compass is RIT’s study abroad program and application database

- Search programs in the **Compass**
  - Login with your RIT username and password
  - Use filters like ‘Destination’ or ‘Field of Study’ to narrow results (limit to 2 filters for best results)

- **Affiliate programs** – affiliate website will have additional information – visit affiliate link listed in program description

www.rit.edu/global/compass-search-programs-apply

In addition to being a search tool, the Compass is also where you’ll apply for study abroad through RIT.
Next Steps

(1) Finish your Study Abroad Blueprint
   ▪ We will email you some resources

(2) Check in with your academic advisor
   ▪ Ask them for a list of courses you still have left to fulfill towards your degree

(3) Research programs
   ▪ Start with your college info. sheet on the Study Abroad & Your Major website, Compass search
   ▪ Keep a Word/Google doc with your research and list of programs
Meet one-on-one with a study abroad advisor

Roseanne Hernandez (DiFlorio)
Advisor
Affiliate Programs

Maureen Shannon
Advisor
Global Campus and Exchange Programs

rit.edu/global/AdvisorMeeting

Make the most of your one-on-one meeting:
- Know what courses you still have left to fulfill at RIT
- Have 2-3 programs in mind that you’ve researched

For Faculty-Led programs, contact the faculty director

Portugal
Planning & Deadlines

General Planning Timeline:

- Start planning (and your applications) at least 6 months before you plan to go abroad.
- Start planning a year in advance if you plan on applying for scholarships.

RIT General Deadlines:

- Fall semester programs – March 15th
- Winter break programs – October 1st
- Spring semester programs – October 1st
- Summer programs – March 15th
  (Global Campus Summer usually mid-Feb.)
- Faculty-Led programs – typically mid-October and mid-Feb.