

Independent Study Abroad Checklist

For students going on non-RIT programs

If you plan to study abroad on a program that is not affiliated with RIT, please complete the following:

- Verify Accreditation of Coursework**: In order for the credits you earn overseas to transfer back to RIT, the university/program you attend abroad must be able to provide you with transcripts from an ACCREDITED American university. Confirm with the Registrar's Office that your overseas transcripts will be accepted.
- Meet with Academic Advisors**: Set up a meeting with your academic and/or liberal arts advisor to discuss whether or not the courses you want to take will be applied towards your degree program and accepted by the appropriate RIT college(s). Make sure to mention that you are applying to a non-RIT program.

Prior to your meeting print out the Course Pre-Approval form (for independent programs) from the Study Abroad website. To complete this form, explore the course offerings in your program, choose several you are interested in and print off the course descriptions/syllabi. Make sure that you also include alternative courses, in case you are unable to register for your first choices. When the Course Pre-Approval form is complete and your overseas courses have been approved by your academic advisor(s), make three copies, one for your advisor, one for the Study Abroad & Fellowships Office and one for you to keep.

- Register/Login and Fill out application on the Compass**:
 1. Click the "Enter the Compass" link and login with your RIT ID and password.
 2. Click on the tab marked "My Profile" at the top and complete each section of your personal profile.
 3. Click "Search Programs" tab at the top.
 - a. Enter 'RIT' as the Program Provider and "independent" as a keyword. An 'Independent Study Abroad Application' should appear in the results.
 - b. Complete the online application (via the "Apply For" button). Make sure you are applying for the correct academic year and term.
 - c. Complete the process by contacting the RIT Global Office at (585)475-4466 or global@rit.edu to make an appointment with a Study Abroad advisor.
- Meeting with a Study Abroad Advisor**:
 - o Submit your signed Course Pre-Approval form.
 - o Financial aid information- students who choose to study abroad independently are not eligible for any RIT financial aid. If you would like information about third party scholarships, grants or fellowships, you can contact Claire.DelMonte (claire.delmonte@rit.edu) for more information.
 - o Discuss pre-departure meeting and other helpful travel resources.
- Attend Pre-Departure**: This informs study abroad students about important information that you need to know before you go overseas (i.e. health and safety, culture shock and emergency procedures). You will also have the opportunity to meet other students studying abroad. Final questions about grading and transcripts will be addressed. You will receive the details of the event via email.
- Attend Global Engagement Seminar**: This event will cover important information to help you highlight your study abroad experience on your resume and improve your interviewing skills. You will receive the details of this event via email.