

Faculty Advising for Study Abroad

WHAT YOU CAN DO BEFORE STUDENTS APPLY

- During your first few meetings with a student/with you class, mention the variety of program options available through the CGE and encourage students to come to a General Information Session to get a comprehensive overview of their options before settling on something
 - Emphasize any major specific info that you may have developed over the years in terms of program, location, internship opportunity, etc.
 - Encourage for-credit internships abroad for juniors/first semester seniors
 - Highlight that they can go any time from the second semester of their freshmen year to the first semester of their senior year
- Completely eliminate the question: “*Where do you want to go?*” from your dialogue on study abroad; instead encourage the student to search for an opportunity/program that would be a good fit based on their academic/career goals and interests as well as their personality (*i.e.*, “*What do you hope to gain from studying abroad?*”)
- Underscore that planning early is essential to making sure study abroad can fit into an individual’s degree plan. The earlier they plan, the more flexible their options are
- Have a sense of which semesters and program options might be the best fit for an individual based on 1) your department’s requirements/course sequencing, 2) the student’s goals, and 3) when they express their interest
- Consider having students write or verbalize a brief “coherence statement” on how they think their decision to study abroad will enhance their learning/success at MU and connect to their future career goals
- Studying abroad for a semester costs about the same (sometimes less if you include housing and cost of living) than a semester at Marymount – there are also hundreds of scholarship opportunities to be taken advantage of that are offered on a wide diversity of levels: merit, need, location, language immersion, LGBTQ, etc. – guide students to CGE website and creative opportunities for funding
- Do know that any students that come to our office to express a legitimate interest in study abroad (whether for a week or a semester) are immediately told to go tell their advisor about their desire to go abroad so that everyone is on the same page. If it is for semester-long study/internship, this is the ideal time to bring up when will be the best time will be for them to go – be prepared for this and please encourage them!

WHAT YOU CAN DO DURING THE APPLICATION PROCESS (applies only to semester-long/year-long study)

- After selecting a program and a semester to study abroad with your approval, your advisee will begin the MU online application process for study abroad, which requires them to submit TWO faculty recommendations
 - Be prepared to be one of these recommenders and speak up as soon as possible if you have concerns about a particular student studying abroad
 - The CGE is in close contact with Student Access Services about all students applying for study abroad; that said, not all students have identified themselves as needing extra support – if you think so, speak up so we can accommodate them by encouraging specific program options
- Once accepted by the CGE, the next step that the student will need to complete is to select their courses at their host institution.
 - Whenever possible, do this process together (or at least talk beforehand) with your student to ensure that they are selecting courses that will fit into their degree plan and keep them on track for an on-time graduation once they return. In order to do this, please:
 - Review the student’s academic plan and anticipated graduation date so that you are aware of any remaining degree requirements that may be completed abroad.

- Discuss any other issues related to participation in a study abroad program that may impact the student's degree progress/course sequencing (i.e., perhaps a required course is only offered one semester)
 - Discuss what criteria/specifications will be required by MU to grant equivalent credit for any courses the student may want to complete abroad.
 - Determine how many credit hours the student has left to meet the minimum 120 required to graduate. How many of those must be upper level/major required?
 - Provide advice on any degree requirements that might be easily fulfilled abroad (e.g. upper division electives, general studies, major, or minor courses)
 - Find out if there are any MU courses that students cannot receive credit for abroad, even if they take a similar course.
- Students should be providing you with the course syllabi and/or course descriptions for the courses they are interested in taking abroad so that you are able to knowledgeably decide upon an MU equivalent, which you will indicate on the CGE Course Approval Form.
 - While students must take 12-15 credits while abroad (no more, no less), we encourage the students get several (at least 3) more courses approved on this form so that, if they are not able to get into their first choice courses when registration comes up, they will have pre-approved alternatives to select from
 - If you student has not brought you several additional courses to approve as back-ups, please make sure that you remind them to have some alternatives on the list as well – the reason for this is to reduce the back and forth with students, advisors, and CGE staff to get courses approved while students are abroad and, more importantly, prevent students from signing up for a class that they expect to come back as one thing and then, when they return, realize it comes back as another
 - Lastly, when meeting with students to support their course selection, talk about the selection of courses as it relates to the courses they will need to take the semester they return from study abroad
 - Decide on which courses the student will want to register for the semester they return from study abroad to stay on track for graduation; since they will be registering for classes while abroad, it will make things much easier for you and them and remove the need to communicate with them while abroad
 - The CGE informs students that they are eligible to register for courses when course registration opens, but students will be emailing YOU to get the hold released from their account (a hold is placed on their account as a result of them studying abroad) – please be ready for this when course registration time comes around and be responsive to the students
 - After completing the course approval form, talk with your student about being aware of differences in the academic systems they may encounter in their host country while abroad – while we do discuss this with them
 - Grades: Unlike at MU where a D- or better is a passing grade, when students study abroad through a non-MU faculty led program, they MUST receive a C- or better to receive credit for the courses they take abroad
 - While the CGE staff does regularly communicate with students abroad, it is always great to have faculty express interest in the students experiences while they are abroad... consider dropping them a line once or twice throughout the semester to show your interest!

HOW TO SUPPORT STUDENTS AFTER THEY STUDY ABROAD

- Engage the student on their time abroad by asking questions to help them articulate the impact of their international experiences

- What changes can they identify in themselves? (abilities, values, outlook, attitude)
- What intercultural competencies did they gain from their time abroad?
- How did their time abroad clarify things for them personally and professionally?
- How did they gain a global perspective on their education and how can they continue to incorporate that into the rest of their academic career at Marymount?
- Encourage them to stay connected to their international experience by mentioning on-campus and off-campus options that will serve as a continuation of their engagement abroad
 - International studies minor – many students don't know about this option, but either 1) realize they already have many of the requirements need to declare the minor or 2) have a new found interest in international studies after spending time abroad
 - Global Ambassadors
 - Global Scholars program
 - Local to global events
 - International internships & jobs
 - Another study abroad experience
 - Graduate school abroad
- Ask them to speak to other students who advise or in one of your classes