

BEFORE YOU STUDY ABROAD 7 THINGS YOU CAN'T IGNORE



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DURATION

There are people who get more out of a 6-month program than others do in their 3-year program. What truly matters is your productivity during this time.

Study Abroad Duration	Advantages	Disadvantages
<p>Summer Winter Programs</p> <p>(4-8 weeks)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Often offer specialized or niche courses -Attract a diverse group of students from around the world -Fit into your academic schedule or other commitments without disrupting your regular coursework 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Missing out on campus life -Seasonal limitations -By the time you have settled into the host country's lifestyle and academic routine, it may be time to return home
<p>Semester Abroad</p> <p>(3-6 months)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -You can join student groups and clubs -Designed to fit well with the academic schedules of both your home and host institutions -It's a period where you can see the approaching end, which motivates you to make the most of your time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Leaving after a semester while others stay for a whole year creates a sense of missing out -There is no strong motivation to spend money on making your housing more comfortable -Seasonal limitations
<p>Academic Year</p> <p>(9-12 months)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Offer more housing choices, including on-campus, off-campus, and homestay options -Increased chances of making lasting friendships and connections -Integration into local community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -You no longer feel connected to your home university campus -Choosing housing for a full year requires careful thought -Extra packing due to the varying seasons (in a seasonal country)
<p>Full Degree Program</p> <p>(3-4 years)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Increased job opportunities and work visas -Deep understanding of the host country's education system and culture -A significant opportunity to fully learn a new language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Challenges in readjusting to the home country -Limited flexibility in terms of course selection and schedule -Can leave you feeling uncertain about your sense of home

DECIDING HOW LONG TO STUDY ABROAD IS EASIER WHEN YOU HAVE A CLEAR GOAL!

ACCOMMODATION

BEFORE DECIDING BETWEEN A DORMITORY AND RENTING A ROOM:

Compare the expenses of both options to see which one fits your budget better.
Consider how much personal space and privacy you need in your living situation.
Evaluate the chances of making friends and being part of a community in each setting.
Check the available facilities and services that each option offers.

Accommodation type	Advantages	Disadvantages
Dormitories	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Include study areas, laundry facilities, and security measures-Easier to make friends and create a community with other students-Close to campus facilities and resources, saving time and transportation costs-Have staff or resident assistants available to offer guidance and help with academic and personal matters	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Can be noisy and not ideal for studying or resting in a quiet environment-Usually have strict rules that limit your personal freedom and lifestyle choices-Getting a spot in a dormitory can be competitive or depend on availability, so you might end up on a waitlist
Renting a room	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-More privacy and personal space- Flexibility in terms of choosing the location and type of housing that suits your preferences- Potential opportunities to immerse yourself in the local community if you choose to rent a room in a shared housing arrangement	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Difficulties in finding suitable accommodation, especially in high-demand areas or during peak rental seasons-Responsibility for managing household tasks such as cleaning and maintenance-Financial responsibility for rental expenses, including monthly rent and utilities-Lack of built-in support services or community activities-Potential challenges in resolving conflicts with roommates or landlords

ARE DORMITORY RESIDENTS MORE LIKELY TO GET HIGHER GRADES?

LANGUAGE

There are two options: studying in a country where you already know the language or exploring a new language in a different country.

LET'S BREAK IT DOWN!

Study Language	Advantages	Disadvantages
<p>Studying in a Country with a Language You Can Speak</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Ability to easily communicate and understand daily life interactions -Feeling more at ease in daily life -It's easier to find and use local resources like libraries, research materials, and academic support services -You have more opportunities to meet and connect with local students, professors, and professionals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Missing out on learning a new language that could help your future career -Not experiencing personal growth that comes from overcoming the fear of making mistakes while speaking
<p>Studying in a Country with a New Language</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Opportunity to learn a new language through daily interactions -Building self-confidence and independence through overcoming language barriers -Opens up doors to international job opportunities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Stress associated with language difficulties, especially during initial stages of adaptation -Difficulty in fully enjoying local entertainment options such as movies, theater performances, or stand-up comedy shows

Living in a country where the language is spoken, such as visiting a local bakery to buy bread, provides opportunities to learn simple phrases. You greet the baker, ask for the type of bread you want, and say thank you. These small interactions allow you to gradually build your language skills, and the next time you visit the bakery, you can continue to learn and improve your language abilities.

AND DON'T WORRY IF YOU MISPRONOUNCE "BAGUETTE," "CROISSANT," OR "PAIN AU CHOCOLAT"!

LIVING EXPENSES

Moving to a country with a stronger currency can be tough, so it's important to research the job market and seek advice to ensure financial stability and career development in the long run.

Studying in a low-cost country may be advantageous initially, but what about the long term?

Study Destination Costs	Advantages	Disadvantages
High-cost country	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Better infrastructure, healthcare, and public services-More job opportunities and higher wages-Prestigious universities and educational institutions-Access to top-notch education and research opportunities-Lower crime rates and a safer environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Strain on your budget due to the high cost of living-Higher tuition fees for international students-Limited affordability for travel and recreational activities
Low-cost country	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Lower cost of living, making it more affordable-More affordable recreational activities and entertainment-Exposure to diverse cultures and perspectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Possible lower quality of infrastructure and public services-Potential limited access to advanced facilities or resources-Limited job opportunities or lower wages-Possibility of lower quality education

DON'T FORGET TO CHECK FOR SCHOLARSHIPS!

Besides looking for scholarships in your own country, also explore scholarship opportunities provided by other countries for students from your country.

DISTANCE

Studying in a country that is close in distance, such as a neighboring country or one within a short flight or train journey, offers the benefit of familiarity. But does it still align with your dreams?

Accommodation type	Advantages	Disadvantages
Studying in a Country that is Close in Distance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Easier travel and shorter flights, allowing for more frequent visits to family and friends- Similar time zones, language, and cultural similarities may ease the transition and adaptation process- Reduced expenses for transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Less exposure to new cultures-Reliance on family and friends for support and assistance-Limited exposure to different lifestyles and societal norms
Studying in a Country that is Far Away	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Being in a completely new environment and experiencing a different culture-Exposure to new perspectives, ideas, and diverse cultures-Access to prestigious universities or specialized programs that may not be available locally	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Initial difficulties in understanding lectures, coursework, and interacting with locals-Increased expenses for flights, visa applications, and travel-related expenses-Challenges in coordinating with family, friends, or academic institutions due to time differences

Indeed, studying further from home doesn't always guarantee a better experience. Studying in a nearby country can have its own advantages, including the opportunity to establish lasting connections and networks that can be highly valuable for future collaborations and professional opportunities.

ALIGN YOUR DECISION WITH YOUR LONG-TERM GOALS

LOCATION OF UNIVERSITY

The pace of life tends to be slower, allowing for a more relaxed and peaceful environment when universities located in rural areas.

City center universities buzz with energy and diversity.

Accommodation type	Advantages	Disadvantages
In City Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Convenient access to transportation, amenities, shops, restaurants, and cultural attractions -Exposure to diverse cultures, arts, museums, theaters, and vibrant city life -Opportunities for socializing, meeting people, and participating in various social and extracurricular activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Generally, city centers have a higher cost of living, including accommodation, transportation, and dining -Increased noise levels, traffic congestion, and potential disruptions due to city events or construction -Increased competition for internships, job opportunities, or housing due to the popularity of city center locations -Less access to green spaces, parks, or natural surroundings within close proximity
Outside the City Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -A quieter and potentially more peaceful environment away from the hustle and bustle of the city -Potential access to parks, open spaces, or scenic areas for relaxation or recreational activities -Lower cost of living, including accommodation and daily expenses, compared to city center locations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Potentially fewer options for shopping, dining, entertainment, or cultural experiences compared to city centers -Limited public transportation options or longer commute times to reach city center areas -Limited access to city life, events, or a vibrant social scene compared to city center universities -There may be occasions where you miss out on city center events or activities due to factors such as laziness or time constraints

The decision of where your university is located may not be the most crucial factor influencing your choice.

BUT IT WILL UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE AN IMPACT!

SOLO OR TOGETHER?

Imagine this: You and your best friend have always dreamed of studying abroad together. Finally, the opportunity arises, but your friend backs out at the last minute.

WOULD YOU STILL GO ALONE?

Studying abroad alone is like becoming your own best friend. You learn to rely on yourself, tackle everyday tasks independently, and grow as an individual.

	Advantages	Disadvantages
Studying Abroad Solo	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Allows you to develop self-reliance and independence-Personal growth, as you learn to adapt to new situations, manage your finances, and overcome challenges independently-Allows you to have complete control over your schedule and academic choices, enabling you to tailor your experience according to your preferences-Encourages greater interaction with locals and immersing yourself in the local culture, language, and customs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Can lead to feelings of loneliness and homesickness, especially during challenging times-Lack of Support-Limited Social Network-May raise safety concerns, as you might need to be more cautious and aware of your surroundings-Inability to share accommodation with familiar individuals, increased risk of living with strangers

Finding your routine abroad makes everything easier. Don't hesitate to continue doing the things that brought you happiness back home, such as baking pancakes or asking questions in class. Keep up with your morning runs if they give you energy.

WHEN YOU ENGAGE IN ACTIVITIES YOU TRULY LOVE WHILE BEING ALONE ABROAD, YOU NATURALLY ATTRACT THE RIGHT PEOPLE WHO SHARE YOUR INTERESTS AND VALUES!

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