

# THROUGH THE HOME UNIVERSITY **VS.** DIRECTLY TO A FOREIGN UNIVERSITY



**#PROS&CONS**

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If you want to study abroad, one of the first things you'll need to figure out is whether to go through your own university's study abroad program or apply directly to a foreign university.

It might sound a bit overwhelming, but don't worry —each option has its own advantages, and understanding them can help you make a decision that suits you.

# THROUGH YOUR HOME UNIVERSITY

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## PROS

### YOU ARE JOINING FORCES

When you team up with your home university's study abroad office, you're joining forces with a group of advisors who know all about studying in other countries. They can help you with stuff like applying, picking the right program, and sorting out the important details.

### STRUCTURED ARRANGEMENTS

Many home universities have connections with foreign schools. They've got these organized setups for studying abroad that easily fit with your usual studies. The courses are usually checked in advance, so you don't have to stress about your credits not counting.

# FEELING AT HOME

Studying abroad through your own university can make you feel connected. Even when you're far away, you still have that link to your home school, which can be pretty comforting.

# BUILDING CONNECTIONS

You'll get the opportunity to link up with other students from your home country who are on the same journey or who have already done their exchange there and can give you some tips about the dormitory, places to see, the public transport system, or anything else you have questions about!

## CONS

### LIMITED FLEXIBILITY

Some university programs might have limited options for destinations and courses. If you're looking for a specific program or location, you might find the choices restrictive.

### LIMITED SPOTS

Popular study abroad programs from home universities can be competitive, resulting in limited spots. This could potentially affect your chances of getting into your preferred program or destination.

### SCHOLARSHIP CRITERIA

Some scholarships might have specific eligibility criteria that you need to meet, such as a certain GPA, field of study, or destination country. If you don't meet these criteria, you might not qualify for certain scholarships. If you miss the application window, you could lose out on potential funding.

# DIRECT APPLICATION TO FOREIGN UNIVERSITIES

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## PROS

### DIVERSE OPTIONS

Applying directly to foreign universities opens up a world of diverse study abroad programs, locations, and academic offerings. You have the freedom to choose what best aligns with your interests and goals.

### ENROLLMENT BENEFITS

Studying directly at a foreign university can grant you access to special programs and opportunities that are usually reserved for full-time enrolled students. This might include research projects, extracurricular activities, workshops, and events that provide a deeper connection to the university's academic and cultural environment.

# CULTURAL IMMERSION

Studying directly at a foreign university offers a deeper level of cultural immersion. You'll be fully integrated into the local student community, allowing you to experience daily life, customs, and traditions firsthand.

# STRONG BOND AND GRADUATION JOURNEY

When you directly enroll in a foreign university, you and your classmates become like a team. You're all on the same adventure, aiming to graduate from that university. This shared journey can create a strong connection that lasts. You'll face the same rules and standards from teachers. This can make you feel like you're all part of one group. The fact that you're all in a new country can also make you feel like you really fit in at the university. You're not just visiting – you're part of the student community.

## CONS

### APPLICATION COMPLEXITIES

Applying to foreign universities can be more complex due to varying admission processes, language requirements, and administrative procedures. This might require additional research and paperwork.

### CREDIT TRANSFER UNCERTAINTIES

If you plan to transfer credits back to your home institution, you might face challenges in terms of credit equivalencies, approval processes, and fitting foreign courses into your degree plan.

### FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Applying directly could involve extra costs, such as international application fees and potentially higher tuition rates for international students.



# LIMITED SUPPORT

While foreign institutions often provide support for international students, the level of assistance may not be as extensive as what you'd receive through your home university's study abroad program.

# YOU MISS OUT ON HOME UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS

Applying directly to foreign universities might limit your access to scholarships specifically designed for international students. Many home universities have study abroad scholarships that you might miss out on if you don't go through their programs. Scholarships offered by foreign universities might have different eligibility criteria that you need to meet. It might be more challenging to find scholarships that align with your background, field of study, or specific circumstances- some of them might require proof of language proficiency, which can be an additional hurdle to clear if the foreign university's language is different from your native language.

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