

EDUCATION ABROAD Frequently Asked Questions

1. How much does it cost to study abroad?

The cost depends on many factors, including:

- location (cost of living on-site; distance)
- length (short-term, summer, quarter, semester, year)
- UC program or other university

In general, shorter, closer, UC programs are less expensive than longer, more distant, non-UC programs. But every program will provide a summary of approximate costs, including travel, housing, and meals. Then you sit down with your budget to see what the difference is between studying at UC and studying abroad. Sometimes, it costs less to go abroad!

2. Are there grants available?

Of course! All continuing UC students are eligible to apply for the IGSA grant. Other UC grants may available depending on your discipline. Outside grants may also be available for longer-term study. Check with us for advice.

3. Does my financial aid apply?

Yes, as a general rule, it does apply for approved programs. But verify your situation with Student Financial Aid, to be sure. Cincinnati, for example, can be used for one study abroad experience.

4. Can I use tuition remission?

Yes, for accredited programs.

5. Do I have to be able to speak another language?

That depends on the program. If you go to an English-speaking country, the answer is "no." If you go to a country where English is not an official language, the program may require you to have a basic knowledge. Then you can take classes in the language there. Exchange students must have a level of language proficiency that will allow them to take regular classes in the abroad university.

6. How can I fit it into my academic plan?

Many courses you take abroad will meet some academic requirement, whether in your major or as part of Gen Ed. Once you've identified a program, your academic advisor can help ensure that non-UC courses will transfer.

7. Can I study courses toward my major?

Yes. Many departments at UC already hold short-term programs abroad for their majors. For non-UC programs, work with your academic advisor to approve your curriculum abroad.

8. I've never been abroad; can you help me get prepared?

Of course! We can help you identify a program, advise you on grants, orient you to health and safety issues, and provide support once you're abroad.

9. What if I get sick and have to come home?

Before leaving UC you will purchase the International Student Identity Card (ISIC), which provides emergency evacuation for medical reasons. You will also have UC or parental insurance that will reimburse you for many medical expenses abroad.

10. What is the lead time for study abroad?

We hope that you'll start thinking about study abroad during your first term at UC! But, in reality, the preparation time you will need depends much on where and for how long you will be going. Some things to keep in mind:

- academic approval
- passport
- visa (if required)
- financial statement (visa requirement for long-term programs)
- Travel Evaluation (University Health Services) and required inoculations
- program application
- grant applications

Your pathway to the World begins here. Let IGSA help you get on track!

