



AMERICAN  
UNIVERSITY  
OF BEIRUT



OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

# WHY STUDY ABROAD

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## WHAT STUDENTS ARE SAYING

"The experience as a whole enriched my knowledge and view of the world. Being in Sweden, and in close proximity to Copenhagen, exposed me to a lot of new technologies and methods of architecture, not to mention learning more about the Scandinavian culture which influenced me in the best way possible."

– **Reem A., Lund University**

"My semester overall was a very enriching experience and was one that I wish would have lasted longer than just the summer. I met people of different backgrounds and learned things that I may not have in Lebanon. I got exposed to various things and this made me experience self-growth and reflection."

– **Jinan M., University of California, LA**

"Last summer, I decided to experience New York city in the context of a study abroad summer term at NYU. Not only has this experience exposed me to new teaching methods and contributed to my professional development, but it has also impacted my personal development in more ways than one. I came back with a feeling of fulfilment that is usually hard to find!"

– **Yara C., New York University**

"In my opinion, every single thing I did there will forever be cherished in my mind and my heart, it was an experience of a lifetime and I wish I can do it over and over again."

– **Mariam B., Universidad Carlos III de Madrid**

"It was my first time living alone, so the experience as a whole was new to me and I don't have just one memorable experience but many."

– **Hassan I., University of California, Berkeley**

"Academically, I felt like I was constantly learning since I took a Spanish class which I could easily practice in my everyday life, and an Art class, which I could relate to walking in the street of Barcelona and visiting museums."

– **Roland Khalil A., Barcelona School for International Studies**

# WHY GO ABROAD

## WHAT FACULTY ARE SAYING

Tens of our students go to study abroad every year and I follow up with each and every one of them. All of them return with a big boost in their self-confidence. They become more aware about diversity, are exposed to different teaching styles and different cultures, and strengthen their academic skills. Many are able to join top universities abroad for graduate studies. They all describe the experience as life changing. If it was up to me, I would make the study abroad program mandatory for all students given its many benefits.

– **Wassim El Hajj, professor, Department of Computer Science and Rector at AUB Mediterraneo**

Expand your network, gain new perspectives, try out a potential grad school, or just have fun... all great reasons to spend a semester abroad.

– **Issam Srour, associate professor, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering**

Studying abroad provides students an exceptional range of opportunities to grow intellectually, mature, and build their character, beyond the familiar settings they cruise within.

– **Mona Harb, chairperson and professor, Department of Architecture and Design**

Why studying (or doing an internship) abroad may be a life-changing experience for you? Because moving abroad for a long period of time will force you into a new environment, new rules, new lifestyles. Only this way can you truly broaden your horizons, discover a different country, culture, learn another language, and make new friends. Studying and working abroad is much more than just traveling to a new country for holidays. Going abroad is your chance to grow and change, for life.

– **Marco Bardus, former assistant professor, Department of Health Promotion and Community Health**

In this transformational journey that is education, study abroad is increasingly becoming an inevitable piece and catalyst of a life-changing experience.

– **Victor Araman, professor of business information and decision systems and associate dean of programs, Olayan School of Business**

I encourage each and every one of our students to spend a semester studying abroad. It is rewarding on so many levels – socially, culturally, and intellectually; it's truly an unparalleled and unique experience.

– **May Farah, assistant professor of media studies, Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Media Studies**









## STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS

Seize the opportunity that AUB offers students to study abroad during their undergraduate, graduate, and PhD studies. Study Abroad programs are enriching, life-changing experiences that enhance students' academic, personal, and professional development. Office of International Programs (OIP) study abroad advisor can assist students in thinking through their options and in applying to the university of their choice.



## STUDY ABROAD AND YOU

There are many advantages to studying abroad...

### **EXPERIENCE A NEW CULTURE**

The best way to learn about a new culture is to fully immerse yourself in it. Spend time abroad getting to know a new culture while also receiving credit for the courses you take at an international university. Take advantage of the opportunity to be part of a large international community of students. Graduate having established lasting friendships with people based in many different countries, which is great for future trips, and a good basis for an international professional network.

### **ENHANCE YOUR CV**

Impress prospective employers and graduate school admission committees by including your study abroad experience in your CV. Having a study abroad experience on your CV will demonstrate your cross-cultural skills and shed light on your ability to adapt to new settings.

### **STUDY AND LEARN DIFFERENTLY**

Oftentimes students who study abroad will experience a completely new way of learning. Each country has its own unique style of teaching. Studying abroad can help you expand your academic horizons and develop the capacity to adapt to various educational settings.



## GEAR UP FOR YOUR CAREER EARLY ON

Studying abroad is highly likely to enhance your career prospects.

“Employers are looking for graduates who have international experience either by studying or working abroad.”

– **Lauren Welch, head of advising for the US-UK Fulbright Commission in London.**

The most basic benefit is that it will give you something to talk about during your interview. More importantly, it will show your potential employer that you can make it on your own, you are a team player, and you are flexible and can fit in when placed in new environments.

## GET READY FOR AN INTERNATIONAL WORKPLACE

Studying abroad helps you expand your circle of connections and allows you to network with prospective employers.

“Students are more open to new knowledge and expertise when abroad, and that knowledge is often more easily applicable and adaptable to situations requiring international interaction; thus, one can expect to be more competitive in today’s era of globalization.” - Sarah Han of the Department of International Cooperation at the Korean Council for University Education.

## SEE YOUR OWN CULTURE THROUGH A NEW LENS

Living in a foreign country can help inform your point of view on your own culture, allowing you to develop your own views rather than accepting your home culture as absolute. You will also be able to represent your university and country wherever you go and act as a cultural ambassador to those who are not familiar with your country.

## BECOME TRULY INDEPENDENT

Students are likely to gain gradual independence through their university experience in general. But studying abroad takes that a step further, challenging you to really develop as an individual. While studying abroad, you will have to cope on your own, look after yourself and take care of your own affairs—perhaps the only way to become truly independent.

## DEVELOP YOUR LANGUAGE SKILLS

Traveling to a country you are trying to learn the language of is a great way for you to practice your skills in an organic environment. You will get to experience a dynamic way of learning a new language by having conversations with locals.

## TRAVEL MORE WIDELY

Studying abroad is a chance to travel more widely and discover the world and region in which you are based. Students often have the time and opportunity to travel within the country they are studying in. Depending on where you are based, you will get the chance to discover the regions around your area and even go country-hopping!



# DIFFERENT WAYS TO STUDY ABROAD

## SINGLE-TERM, SUMMER, AND YEARLONG PROGRAMS

Students are encouraged to start planning from their first term at AUB in order to stay on track. Students should research options and narrow down their choices before selecting the most suitable program for their objectives. Check out the detailed timeline under “Plan Your Study Abroad Experience” for more information.

## AUB ELIGIBILITY

- Undergraduate students must complete 24 credits at the sophomore level before applying to study abroad; graduate students must complete 6 credits.
- Undergraduate students may take up to 30 credits abroad.
- Students are required to take a minimum of 12 credits per term at the undergraduate level and a minimum of 3 credits per term at the graduate level.
- All students should spend their last term at AUB before graduating.
- Students must have a minimum GPA of 3.0/4.

## COURSE TRANSFER

- Students must submit a “Study Abroad Course Approval petition” for each proposed course before going abroad.
- Transferred credits taken during a Study Abroad Program do not affect students’ GPA.
- Upon returning, the host universities must submit the students’ official transcripts to the Office of International Programs.

For more information, go to the “Frequently Asked Questions” section.

## WHERE CAN I GO?

Students may study abroad at one of AUB’s partner universities (through the Exchange Program), or at any other university (as free movers).

Search for programs by type, location, and/or term by visiting [aub.edu.lb/oip/pages/search.aspx](http://aub.edu.lb/oip/pages/search.aspx)

For additional Study Abroad search engines, visit [studyabroad101.com](http://studyabroad101.com) and [goabroad.com](http://goabroad.com)

## EXCHANGE PROGRAMS

Exchange programs give AUB students the opportunity to spend up to a year at one of AUB’s partner universities, while paying AUB’s tuition. As part of the Exchange Program, students are required to submit an application directly to OIP and sit for an interview. Successful applicants are nominated to the host university. Students who plan to go on exchange should have a minimum cumulative average GPA of 3.0/4 to be eligible to apply. Exchange programs are only available during the fall and spring terms.





## EXCHANGE THROUGH ERASMUS+

Some partner universities in Europe offer students in need of financial assistance additional funding through the Erasmus+ Exchange Program. Students need to be nominated by OIP in order to be considered for the funding. Students who are currently receiving financial aid at AUB have a priority over others.

## STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS

Students have the chance to apply as visiting, free-mover students to non-partner universities under the Study Abroad Program. Students should apply through the host university of their choice directly, as each university has its own requirements. Tuition fees vary according to the host university's rates.

## SUMMER PROGRAMS

Summer Programs are considered Study Abroad Programs.

AUB partners with a number of universities that grant students either preferential application processes and/or tuition rates.

- University of California, Berkeley (UCB)
- Stanford University, International Honors Program
- Boston University (BU)
- University of Pennsylvania (UPenn)
- University College London (UCL)

## AUB STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS IN NUMBERS

Covering **six continents**

More than **45 Exchange Programs**

**Countless** Study Abroad Programs

**88%** of students are from FAS and MSFEA

**76%** of students go through Study Abroad opportunities

**93%** of students are undergraduates

**63%** go to North American/Canada

**32%** go to Europe

## RETURNING STUDENT TESTIMONIALS

**86%** reported personal growth

**70%** reported making long-lasting connections and friendships

**60%** reported increased cultural awareness

**60%** reported academic growth and enrichment

**55%** reported higher self-responsibility and independence





## COST AND FUNDING

Student financial aid is applicable only under the Exchange Program, and not the Study Abroad Program. For this reason, it is recommended that students receiving financial aid at AUB consider partner universities as their first option.

Students receiving Erasmus+ funding pay the same tuition fees they pay at AUB. In addition, Erasmus+ funding covers students' travel costs (round-trip ticket) and grants them a monthly stipend which helps cover part of their living expenses abroad.

## PLANNING AHEAD

To start preparing for Study Abroad, students should:

- Research university options and available courses.
- Discuss study abroad plans with their academic advisors.
- Schedule an advising meeting with the OIP Study Abroad advisor.
- Apply to the university program.
- Keep track of OIP and host university deadlines.

# GETTING IN TOUCH WITH US

- Attend our Study Abroad Fair at the beginning of every Fall term.
- Pass by our office in West Hall, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, room 320 during office hours.
- Book your private advising meeting through our website.
- Attend university-specific and department-specific information sessions.
- Find us at Study Abroad booths.

## OIP DEADLINES

	SPRING TERM	SUMMER TERM	FALL TERM
<b>EXCHANGE NOMINATION</b>	Mid-April	N/A	Mid-November
<b>AUB STUDY ABROAD COURSE APPROVAL PETITION</b>	Mid-October	Mid-March	Mid-April
<b>FINAL CLEARANCE FORM</b>	Mid-November	End of April	End of May
<b>EXCHANGE CONFIRMATION FEE</b>	2 weeks after nomination notification	n/a	2 weeks after nomination notification

## STUDY ABROAD TIMELINE



## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **Q: Why hasn't my GPA changed after studying abroad?**

A: Courses taken during the Study Abroad Program transfer back to AUB and appear on the student's transcript on a pass/fail basis, without affecting the GPA. Therefore, the student's GPA before studying abroad will remain the same after they come back.

### **Q: Will the courses I take abroad transfer to AUB?**

A: Yes, they will transfer back to AUB as long as you had them approved before going abroad. If you take courses abroad which were not pre-approved, you will have to petition for them upon your return.

### **Q: If I am receiving financial aid from AUB, which program should I apply to?**

A: If you are receiving financial aid, you should apply to the exchange program as you will pay the same tuition you are paying at AUB.

### **Q: If I am on financial aid, can I apply to the Erasmus+ Exchange Program?**

A: Students receiving financial aid from AUB are eligible to apply to the Erasmus+ Exchange Program. In fact, students who are receiving financial aid from AUB are prioritized over those who are not when it comes to Erasmus+ nominations.



## STUDY ABROAD FAIR

The Office of International Programs is always working on forming diverse agreements that best suit students from different faculties within AUB. OIP's annual Study Abroad Fair is aimed to all AUB students, faculty, and staff taking part in, or exploring programs abroad. This event offers students the chance to meet representatives from partner universities and funding agencies and connect with study abroad alumni. The Study Abroad Fair serves as a tool to attract more students to spend their terms abroad.

## TO GET STARTED

Visit our website: [www.aub.edu.lb/oip/AubAbroad](http://www.aub.edu.lb/oip/AubAbroad)

## FOR MORE INFORMATION



OIP's Facebook: [/oip.aub](https://www.facebook.com/oip.aub)  
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