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## Questions to Consider

*Below are some questions to help you define your goals and narrow down what study abroad program(s) will work best for you.*

### **Academics**

Have you discussed studying abroad with your academic advisor at Oklahoma Baptist University?

Do you know what courses you can/need/or want to take abroad?

Would you like to take courses in English, or courses in a foreign language?

### **Cost, Financial Aid, and Scholarships**

Do you utilize federal or state financial aid (loans, grants, other)?

Are you a recipient of any particular scholarship(s)?

Do you plan to secure additional financial aid to finance your term abroad?

### **Location**

Where do you want to study? Where do you NOT want to study?

Are you open to any location as long as you can meet your other objectives (academics, cost, etc.)?

Have you researched the health and safety environment in the countries in which you are interested?

How much traveling do you plan to do while abroad?

Do you prefer a big city or more of a small town location?

### **Timing**

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Are you fairly flexible as to when you study abroad, or is there a specific term in which you must go?

What is your ideal program length – a semester, an academic year, a summer, or a shorter program of a few weeks in length?

### **Extracurricular Offerings**

Would you prefer a program that plans excursions and field trips for you, or do you prefer to travel independently?

To what extent do you wish to immerse yourself in the local culture; i.e., participate in local events and projects, do volunteer work, join student organizations, and other activities that will bring you in contact with the locals?

### **Accommodation**

What type of accommodation do you prefer while abroad (host family, residence hall, student apartment)?

Would you like to live on your own, with a roommate, or in a more independent setting?

*Once you have considered the above questions, you will be better prepared to begin your program search.*

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## WHO do I talk to about starting this process?



Dr. Joy Turner is the Director of Global Mobilization and the adviser for Oklahoma Baptist University students wanting to study abroad.

Dr. Turner will assist you through the process. She will talk you through Study Abroad option that best suit your academic needs. She will also help to ensure that you stay on track with OBU Study Abroad requirements to make sure classes taken overseas will transfer into OBU.

Office Location: Montgomery Hall

Office Phone: 405.585.5705

OBU Box: 61143

Email: [joy.turner@okbu.edu](mailto:joy.turner@okbu.edu)

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## WHAT are my options for studying abroad?

### Study abroad:

ISA (International Studies Abroad)

Veritas Christian Study Abroad

Spanish Studies Abroad

CIS Abroad (Center for International Studies Abroad)

CAPA (Centers for Academic Programs Abroad)

CCCU Best Semester (Council for Christian Colleges and Universities)

CGE (Consortium for Global Education)

### Exchange programs:

Seinan Gakuin University in Japan

Kazakh-American Free University (KAFU) in Kazakhstan

### Mission Opportunity with College Credit:

Hands On through the International Mission Board (IMB)

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**ISA, Veritas, Spanish Studies Abroad, CIS Abroad** and **CAPA** are third-party organizations that have partnerships between with international universities. You apply directly to the third-party program of choice (i.e. Veritas) and they handle your application and tuition. In this case, you would not pay OBU tuition, but would pay tuition to whichever organization you choose. OBU institution scholarships **may not** be applied. Financial aid options include federal aid or scholarships not affiliated with OBU.

**CCCU Best Semester** and **CGE** partner with other American universities to send students abroad. In this case, you would not pay OBU tuition, but would pay tuition to whichever university or organization you choose. Oklahoma Baptist University institution scholarships **may not** be applied. Financial aid options include federal aid or scholarships not affiliated with OBU.

**Seinan Gakuin University** and **Kazakh-American Free University (KAFU)** are our options for international exchange. Every semester, we are eligible to send two of OBU students to either Japan or Kazakhstan and they each send two of their students to OBU. In regards to tuition, you pay standard tuition directly to OBU. OBU institution scholarships **may** be applied, as well as federal aid.

**Hands on through the IMB** is a semester-long mission opportunity for students to serve Christ with a missionary mentor. Depending on your degree, you take either an online or arranged course (up to 15 credits) through OBU while serving abroad. Apply through the International Mission Board, meet with Dr. Turner and coordinate with OBU professors regarding which courses to take. OBU institution scholarships **may** be applied, as well as federal aid.

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## **WHEN should I study abroad?**

Depending on your objectives and qualifications, you can study abroad at any point during your undergraduate program. This, however, depends on your four-year degree plan. The majority of students are able to study abroad their junior year. The ideal time to begin thinking about this process is during your freshman and sophomore year, as it can take anywhere from six to eight months. Overall, planning is key so meet with your study abroad and academic advisors as soon as possible!

There is a wide range of programs offered that take place during the summer, semester and academic year. We recommend you consider a longer periods of study, but any experience abroad is better than no experience abroad! The sooner you start planning to study abroad, the better.

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## WHERE should I study abroad?

Oklahoma Baptist University offers 10 programs that partner with over 100 universities scattered all over the world. The possibilities are nearly limitless.

Countries include:

- |                    |                |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Argentina          | Greece         |
| Australia          | Ireland        |
| Belgium            | Italy          |
| Brazil             | Japan          |
| Chile              | Jordan         |
| China              | Morocco        |
| Colombia           | New Zealand    |
| Costa Rica         | Oman           |
| Cuba               | Peru           |
| Czech Republic     | Puerto Rico    |
| Dominican Republic | South Africa   |
| Ecuador            | South Korea    |
| Fiji               | Spain          |
| France             | Thailand       |
| Germany            | United Kingdom |

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## WHY should I study abroad?

This is a once in a lifetime experience.

The connections and skills you acquire while studying abroad are invaluable.

Students have said studying abroad helped them focus their academic and career goals, taught them about living and working with people of different cultures, and even taught them more about themselves.

Obtain Oklahoma Baptist University credit for all approved academic coursework abroad.

Take the opportunity to break out of your academic routine; go abroad and still graduate on time.

Studying abroad is the most effective way to learn a language.

You will get to know another culture first-hand.

Develop skills and gain experiences a classroom setting will never provide.

Being in a new cultural setting gives you an opportunity to discover new strengths and abilities, conquer new challenges, and solve new problems.

Make friends and contacts around the world.

You will get to meet and mingle with the locals as well as other international students.

Return home with new ideas and perspectives about yourself and your culture. The encounter with other cultures enables you to see your own culture through new eyes.

Study abroad enhances employment opportunities.

To an employer, a student who has studied abroad is self-motivated, independent and willing to embrace challenges. Your experience in a foreign country will all set you apart from the majority of other job applicants.

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## HOW do I begin the process to study abroad?

### PROCESS FOR STUDY ABROAD:

Step 1: **Attend** the Studying Abroad Information Session on October 6, 2016.

Step 2: **Schedule** a meeting with our Study Abroad Adviser, Dr. Joy Turner, in the Spiritual Life Office.

Step 3: **Explore** the different programs offered through Oklahoma Baptist University. Please use the links above as resources.

Step 4: **Meet** with your academic adviser and with financial aid.

Step 5: **Apply** to your chosen program.

### AFTER ACCEPTANCE TO A STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM:

Step 1: **Passport**- If you do not already have a passport (or your passport will expire during the time in which you hope to be studying), get a new passport. Do this first, as this may take four to six weeks.

Step 2: **Deadlines**- Keep up with all deadlines. Oklahoma Baptist University, your study abroad program, the cooperating international university, airline tickets, immunizations, passports and visas all take time. This is about a 6-8 month process so it is crucial that you stay on top of all deadlines.

Step 3: **Orientation**- Attend the pre-departure orientation. This is a five-week, mandatory course. Dates and times will be provided upon acceptance into a study abroad program.

Step 4: **Visa**- Review student visa requirements for your program and begin getting this together as soon as possible. Visas take a minimum of 3 months to complete.

Step 5: **Academic Adviser**- Meet with your academic advisor to discuss which courses you will be taking abroad for transfer credits into Oklahoma Baptist University.

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Step 6: **Financial Aid**- Understand the financial aid requirements. Apply for scholarships specific to students studying abroad. Please use the links below as resources.

Step 7: **Medical**- Some countries or programs may require you to receive certain immunizations or shots. Check with your program coordinator and also consult your personal physician to learn of any recommended shots for the region in which you will be studying.

Step 8: **Health Insurance**- Oklahoma Baptist University does not cover students studying abroad. Talk with your healthcare provider regarding their policies for international travel.

Step 9: **Travel Safety**- It is highly recommended that you register your trip abroad with the U.S. Department of State using their Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP). Registering is a free service provided by the U.S. Government to U.S. citizens who are traveling to, or living in, a foreign country. Registration allows you to record information about your upcoming time abroad that the Department of State can use to assist you in case of an emergency.

Step 10: **Prepare**- Research resources you will use once abroad. I.e. cell phones, technology adapters/converters, currency, transportation, banks abroad, etc.

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## Frequently Asked Questions

### Program

*Q: Can anyone study abroad?*

A: Yes! There are certain eligibility requirements for different programs. Also consider that some programs may work better for your degree requirements.

*Q: What are the requirements to study abroad?*

A: Typically, each university through every program will require a certain GPA, foreign language proficiency, academic classification and perhaps an application deposit.

*Q: What is the minimum GPA to study abroad?*

A: For most programs a minimum of a 2.5 GPA is required. (Some programs may require higher) and you must be in Good Academic Standing.

*Q: Can I study at an international university that is not offered through any of these programs?*

A: No. There are 10 programs options and 100s of universities to choose from world-wide. Schedule a meeting with Dr. Joy Turner in the Spiritual Life office if you have any further questions.

### Cost, Financial Aid, and Scholarships

*Q: How much does it cost?*

A: Costs vary. When going through a study abroad program/organization, program fees include tuition to your cooperative university. Keep in mind your Oklahoma Baptist University scholarships will not apply for this fee. Your federal aid, however, can be applied. When studying as an exchange student, you pay your tuition to Oklahoma Baptist University - as you normally would. In this case, your OBU scholarships may be applied.

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## Academics

*Q: What classes will I take?*

A: Classes vary. Look at the program options, research the cooperative universities and meet with your academic adviser to determine which courses would act as acceptable transfer credits.

*Q: Do I need to know a foreign language to study abroad?*

A: Not always. If you know the local language, you can take courses in that language. If you don't, in many cases you can take classes in English or learn the language while you are there.

*Q: How do I transfer credits to Oklahoma Baptist University from my study abroad?*

A: Please follow the instructions on this website:

[https://www.okbu.edu/content/legacy/academics/course\\_substitution\\_waiver\\_application.pdf](https://www.okbu.edu/content/legacy/academics/course_substitution_waiver_application.pdf)

## Travel

*Q: What is the difference between a passport and a visa?*

A: Anytime you travel to another country, you need a passport. This is the booklet that is used for personal identification whenever and wherever you travel abroad. A visa gives you permission to enter the host country (and either travel or study). You must apply for a visa and either set-up an in-person appointment OR (if you are lucky) send your passport to the country's embassy or consulate for them to apply the visa stamp. Some countries require all international guests to obtain a visa, but there are many countries that do not require a visa for entry. In many countries, you only need a visa if you are staying longer than three months. ***Always check with your program contact person and the country's embassy or consulate to be sure.***

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## Outside Scholarships

This is not an exhaustive list of non-institution scholarships. However, this is a good place to start when thinking about the financial aspect of studying abroad.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship Program                                     | New Zealand University Study Abroad Excellence Awards  |
| BUTEX North American Scholarships  | Phi Kappa Phi Study Abroad Grants                      |
| Education New Zealand  | Rotary International                                   |
| DAAD Scholarships  | Shawn Carter Foundation Scholarship                    |
| Fund for Education Abroad  | STA Travel Start the Adventure Scholarship             |
| Athletes Abroad Scholarships   | Tortuga Backpacks Study Abroad Scholarship             |
| Freeman Awards for Study in Asia   | Turkish Coalition of America Study Abroad Scholarships |
| Fund for International Service Learning                                    | United Negro College Fund                              |
| Go Overseas  | University Language Services                           |
| Go Overseas and Education Ireland  | US-Japan Bridging Foundation Scholarships              |
| Go Overseas and Education New Zealand                                      | The Anglo-Jewish Association Scholarship               |
| Generation Study Abroad New Zealand Universities Excellence Awards (NZUEA) | The Fulbright U.S. Student Program                     |
| Hispanic College Fund  | Got Scholarship  |
| HI USA Explore the World Travel Scholarships                               | Humane Studies Fellowship                              |
| Live Like Ally Foundation  | Margarian Scholarship                                  |
| Lord Acton Memorial Scholarship  | Marshall Scholarships                                  |
| The National Italian American Foundation (NIAF)                            | Postgrad Solutions Study Bursaries                     |
| The National Italian American Foundation awards scholarships and grants    | Raymond Davis Scholarship                              |
|  | Varsity Tutors College Scholarship                     |

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## Resources

Oklahoma Baptist University Study Abroad  
[www.okbu.edu/academics/study-abroad.html](http://www.okbu.edu/academics/study-abroad.html)

International Studies Abroad (ISA)  
[studiesabroad.com](http://studiesabroad.com)

Veritas Christian Study Abroad  
<http://www.veritasabroad.com>

Spanish Studies Abroad  
[www.spanishstudies.org](http://www.spanishstudies.org)

Center for International Studies (CIS)  
<http://www.cisabroad.com>

Centers for Academic Programs Abroad (CAPA)  
[www.capa.org](http://www.capa.org)

Council for Christian Colleges and Universities (CCCU) Best Semester  
[www.bestsemester.com](http://www.bestsemester.com)

Consortium for Global Education (CGE)  
[www.cgedu.org](http://www.cgedu.org)

Seinan Gakuin University Study Abroad  
[www.seinangu.ac.jp/eng/study\\_abroad/international\\_division.html](http://www.seinangu.ac.jp/eng/study_abroad/international_division.html)

Kazakh-American Free University (KAFU)  
<http://www.kafu.kz/en/>

Hands On through the International Mission Board (IMB)  
[http://www.imbstudents.org/programs/handson/HandsOn.aspx#.V\\_bDKfkrLcs](http://www.imbstudents.org/programs/handson/HandsOn.aspx#.V_bDKfkrLcs)

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