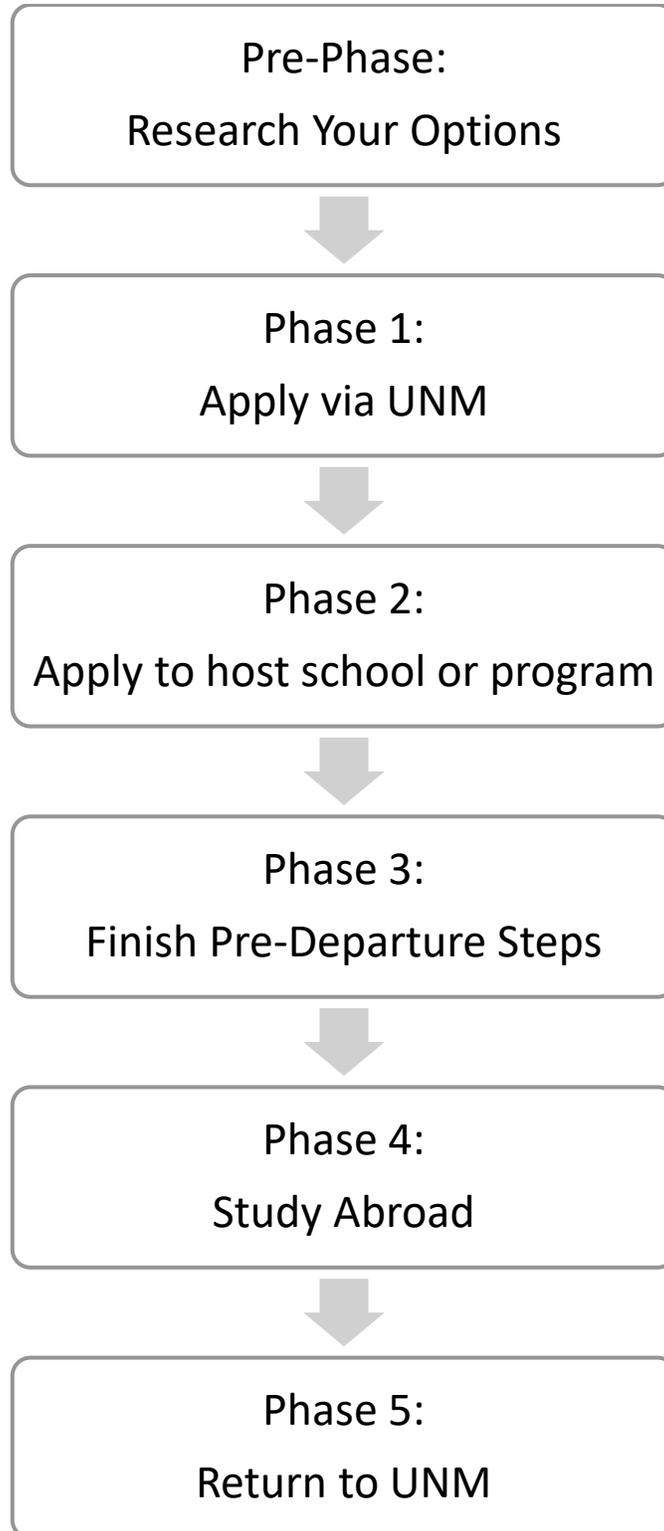


Study Abroad Overview



What to Consider Before Choosing Your Study Abroad Program

Program Considerations

- **Timing:** How long do you want to go abroad? When would you like to go abroad?
- **Location:** Do you want to learn more about a specific region or culture? Do you want to stay in a city or a small town? Climate preferences? Do you want to live with a host family, dorms, or apartments?
- **Costs:** You will need to budget for the financial aspect of studying abroad. Research costs and use our budget sheet to gain a good estimate of the funds you will need.
- **Your Goals:** What do you hope to gain from your time abroad? Language acquisition? A new perspective on your research? Consider your academic, personal, and professional goals.

Demographic Considerations

- **Are you a freshman?** We recommend students complete a full term here at UNM before considering studying abroad (and many programs require a number of semesters completed before attending).
- **Are you a graduating senior?** Please note that program transcripts may take up to 2-3 months to be issued after your program is over. This may impact your graduation date, so please consult with your academic advisor.
- **Are you a student athlete?** Many programs have semester dates that do not match our own. Please check the program website for current dates, and review with your team schedule.
- **Are you a veteran?** It is possible to use veteran's benefits to study abroad, but please check with your advisors about the process & eligibility.
- **Are you a non-U.S. citizen?** Please check with ISSS or your country's embassy to specify the requirements for your travel.

Academic Considerations

- **Are you on a scholarship with credit or GPA requirements?** Great! You can typically maintain these awards while studying abroad, but you must still satisfy their requirements.
- **Are you on academic probation?** Students must be in good academic standing to study abroad. Once you are back on track, you can pursue an international experience.
- **Do you have specific courses for your major that you must take during your time abroad?** Just let us know. Often we can help you find a program that meets your needs, or at least find a good solution for traveling at another time.

Health Considerations

- **Do you have a disability, chronic illness, or other condition that has you concerned about studying abroad?** If you are comfortable disclosing, please let your advisor know. We will be happy to work with students needing special accommodations and are ready to support YOU.

Study Abroad – Benefits & Responsibilities

Study abroad is a rewarding experience that enhances your education, provides invaluable learning opportunities, and can help you develop your intercultural competency.

Benefits to Studying Abroad:

- Cultural learning – students who study abroad have the opportunity to learn about different groups of people and strengthen their intercultural communication skills
- Educational depth – exposure to new topics, methods of study, and instructors can deepen your understanding of your areas of interest
- Language skills – if you choose to pursue language study abroad, you will likely see a quicker learning rate during an immersion experience
- Career opportunities – studying abroad helps you stand out as a job candidate and broaden your network for potential job opportunities
- Personal development – students often credit study abroad for helping them develop greater independence, enhance problem-solving skills, and establish new interests & relationships

Participation in study abroad requires commitment and dedication. Your study abroad advisor is here to help, but it is important that YOU follow-through with the steps required to make your study abroad dream a reality.

Your responsibilities:

- Choose a program that meets your academic needs (review your degree plan and courses available in your program)
- Coordinate with your academic advisor regarding course equivalencies
- Confirm your scholarship or financial aid eligibility and requirements
- Complete study abroad program applications accurately and on time
- Acquire a passport and visa
- Create an accurate budget, obtain the necessary funds, and pay your program expenses
- Book your flight and purchase international health insurance
- Communicate with your host institution or program regarding application questions, housing, registration, and other local concerns
- Request assistance from your advisor if issues arise throughout the process

Study abroad advisor responsibilities:

- Coordinate with exchange partners and providers to develop and promote study opportunities
- Advise you on the study abroad process
- Review student application materials
- Promote scholarship opportunities
- Provide resources for health, safety, and travel-preparedness
- Assist as possible in case of issues or emergencies
- Oversee transfer credit process alongside Registrar, Financial Aid, academic advisors, and you

Study Abroad Action Plan

This action plan outlines each step on your path to studying abroad. Don't get overwhelmed - You can do it!

Pre-Phase: Research Your Options

	Brainstorm the type of Study Abroad (SA) experience you would like to have. Think about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Academic Focus/Goals ● Timing ● Location ● Costs – some locations are more affordable than others! Browse numbeo.com for cost of living. Compare programs using our online Study Abroad Budget template.
	Discuss with parents, guardians, friends, and other family members. Remember: you are the one who makes the ultimate decisions, but input from key stakeholders in your education can be helpful!
	Review your Academic Plan: When is the best time to go abroad and what will you need to take? Consult with your Academic Advisor.
	Apply for a passport . Do this early! It can take anywhere from 4-8 weeks to get the passport once the application is submitted, and you may need an additional 4-8 weeks for visa applications. Visit the UNM Passport Office at the UNM Bookstore. <i>Are you an <u>international student</u> or <u>green card holder</u>? Consult with the ISSS regarding your travel.</i>

Phase 1: Apply via UNM by deadline

	Complete the preliminary steps listed on the Study Abroad 101 page on our website. After completing the advising application, you can begin a study abroad application to a specific program.												
	Search for UNM and/or non-UNM programs on our website : Use the filters to organize options by country, major, language, etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● If you don't find what you're looking for on our site, keep looking elsewhere! Generally, you can attend any program that grants course credits through an accredited college or university. 												
	Determine your top choice program. Have 1-2 alternate options, as well.												
	Complete your "Pre-Decision" application items on your UNM study abroad account. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Submit your Study Abroad Application questionnaire ● Pay the credit transfer fee ● Complete your Coursework Planning Draft – know what types of courses you'll need to take while abroad and whether your program of choice typically offers these courses ● Research and complete your Financial Aid and Budget Questionnaire: this is for your own reference - start saving up! ● Read and electronically sign all "signature documents" 												
	<p>Deadlines: For semester and year programs, we review applications twice for each term. Submit by the priority deadline for best consideration in the program of your choice.</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Term</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Priority Deadline</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Final Deadline</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Fall and Academic Year</td> <td>November 15</td> <td>February 15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Spring and Calendar Year</td> <td>June 15</td> <td>September 15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Summer</td> <td>n/a</td> <td>March 1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Term	Priority Deadline	Final Deadline	Fall and Academic Year	November 15	February 15	Spring and Calendar Year	June 15	September 15	Summer	n/a	March 1
Term	Priority Deadline	Final Deadline											
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	Look out for an email notice regarding the decision on your application within two weeks of the deadline for which you applied. Login to your study abroad application system to view the decision.												
	Research scholarships on our website & complete applications by their listed deadlines.												

Phase 2: Apply directly to your Host University or program

	<p><u>Exchange/Direct Enrollment Program Students:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once you are accepted by UNM to study abroad, you will receive info about your next steps. • You will receive instructions by email regarding your application to your host institution • Application requirements may include: online or paper form, coursework plan, passport copies or additional passport photos, resume/cv, official transcript and letters of purpose or intent. <i>The completion of this application is your responsibility.</i>
	<p><u>Non-UNM Program Students and Independent Study Abroad Students:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once you are accepted by UNM to study abroad, <u>apply directly</u> to your program through their website. Contact your program sponsor if you need guidance.
	<p>Receive notice of <u>acceptance</u> from your host or program and upload a copy to the UNM application.</p>
	<p>Go to your UNM application & change your status to “<u>Committed</u>” - meaning you’re committed to go!</p>

Phase 3: Finish Pre-Departure Steps

	<p>Attend a MANDATORY Pre-Departure Orientation organized by UNM in the semester before you depart. Optional workshops will be available too – see our Important Dates and Deadlines page.</p>
	<p>Check on <u>visa</u> requirements and apply. Acquiring a visa is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visit the consulate website for the country you’re travelling to so you have the most up-to-date information on the process! • Note: You will need to submit a document provided by your program to apply for a visa.
	<p><u>Register for the study abroad placeholder class</u> to ensure you remain enrolled and active as a UNM student. This step is NECESSARY to maintain your Financial Aid. To enroll, search by the term you will be abroad and the subject “Internatnl Stud Xchange Prog.” Register for one of the listed classes, based on the type of program you are participating in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exchange program - Register for ISEP 888 • Non-UNM program - Register for ISEP 999, sec 1. • Intensive language program - Register for ISEP 999, sec 2.
	<p>Complete other Post-Decision steps on your UNM account prior to your departure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upload a copy of your passport • Smart traveler (STEP) Registration • Health Insurance Requirements & Proof • Proposal for Coursework Abroad – this should expand on your Coursework Planning draft, and include courses offered through your program. Signatures from academic advisors are <u>optional</u>, but may be helpful if you have an important class to take that you must get credit for. • Register for classes at your host institution/ with your program provider • Travel Health Consultation form • Flight Itinerary • Contact Information While Abroad
	<p>Update contact information for emergencies. Double check that the information in your application profile is correct. Login and on your Home Page, navigate to the Profile box. Click Edit Profile.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under the Profile tab, please make sure you provide your SMS Phone Number and Info. We will text you only in the case of a Wellness Check. • Under the Address Info tab, make sure your Emergency Contact Info is up to date.
	<p>Review your visa, insurance, and program requirements regarding Medical Records and Preparation. In most cases, a general Travel Health Consultation at the SHAC or another healthcare provider will suffice, but some travel plans will require additional appointments to obtain records, receive</p>

	immunizations, process medical screenings, etc.
	Secure housing abroad. Some locations will offer homestays or student residences. If you are not sure if your program offers accommodation, please review information from your school/program.
	Purchase flights and upload your itinerary to UNM application under Flight Itinerary. Check the Resources tab for tips on purchasing flights. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure to carefully read the acceptance letter from your program so you do not miss orientations or other important dates.
	Register for classes at your host institution or program.
	Make a copy of your itinerary, contact information, insurance information, passport, and other important documents and leave with your emergency contact. Make sure your contact person's info is up to date in your UNM account.

Phase 4: Study Abroad

	Update your "Contact Information While Abroad" with your local address, email, and phone number. Make sure your Cell Phone and Emergency Contact info is up to date (see above).
	Respond to Wellness Checks. UNM will contact you if there is an incident in your area. You may be contacted through email, phone, or text. If we don't hear from you, we will contact your school and/or emergency contact. To make this process easier, please: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Check your UNM email daily.</i> This is the first place we will contact you for urgent matters. • <i>Respond ASAP</i> if we contact you – we want to know if you are ok, or need help!
	Adjust your courses as needed when you arrive. Double check that you are enrolled in enough credits at your host to bring back 12-15 credits to UNM.
	Pay attention to your grades and retain all syllabi and coursework for transfer credit review. REMEMBER: only <i>passing</i> credits transfer back!
	Enjoy your destination and learn as much as you can about the local culture. Seek out a local "culture mentor" who can help answer questions about things you don't understand.
	Be prepared for possible challenges regarding health or mental health. Keep your CISI information with you and seek support for any ongoing or new symptoms.
	<u>IF YOU ARE STUDYING ABROAD FOR MORE THAN 1 SEMESTER:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remember to register for your ISEP course for the second semester to maintain Financial Aid eligibility. • Check with your host institution to ensure that they send a transcript from your first semester to UNM, so that we can maintain your financial aid eligibility.
	<u>IF YOU WISH TO EXTEND YOUR STUDY ABROAD:</u> Please contact GEO as soon as possible and then work with your host institution to verify availability.
	<u>IF YOU MUST CANCEL YOUR STUDY ABROAD:</u> Please contact GEO and, if you are on a provider or independent program, your program organizer. While it is not refundable, your application fee may be transferrable, depending on the conditions of your withdrawal.

Phase 5: Return to UNM

	<p>Your host institution or program will send a transcript of your coursework to UNM, or (rarely) to you directly. GEO will send it to the Registrar's office for processing and notify you of the transcript's arrival. This may be up to 2-3 months after the end of your term abroad.</p>
	<p>Check your LoboTrax about 1-2 weeks after we receive your transcript. The Registrar will add pass/fail credits to your Transfer audit.</p>
	<p>GEO will send you a copy of your transcript and attach a <u>Course Equivalency form</u>. If you would like your courses to transfer back as courses with grades, work with your academic advisor(s) to complete the Course Equivalency form. Your academic advisors may request your syllabi or coursework. Ask your academic advisor to follow the instructions on the form, and submit it to the Registrar via email.</p> <p>NOTE: If you took courses from multiple departments, you will need a course equivalency form for each corresponding UNM department.</p>
	<p>Complete your Returnee Survey and let us know what you liked and didn't like about your experience! Log into studyabroad.unm.edu, click on your program, and complete the "Returnee Survey" questionnaire. Email or visit GEO to provide additional feedback.</p>
	<p>Stay involved with study abroad:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attend our returnee workshop to learn how to market your Study Abroad experience to graduate programs and future employers! Check your email for your invite.• Participate in a study abroad fair and promote your destination.• Join the LoboFriends program and connect with international students on campus.• Check out our Returning Students webpage for information about international opportunities and careers.

Notes: