

# UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAM

## Study Abroad FAQs

### Why should I study in another country?

Exploring other cultures can enrich your educational experience by giving you a different perspective on the world. Learning about how other people deal with issues and problems will expand your thinking and open your mind to new ways of seeing as a global citizen.

### How do I start getting ready?

Andrea Gomes, Assistant Director of Undergraduate Global Programs is available to assist Business students find the right program or exchange. Contact her for an appointment at [goabroad@u.washington.edu](mailto:goabroad@u.washington.edu), call 206.616.9565, or visit [http://foster.washington.edu/ciber/ug\\_stabroad.shtml](http://foster.washington.edu/ciber/ug_stabroad.shtml).

The International Programs and Exchanges (IPE) office also has a number of resources to help you plan your journey: pick up materials at the IPE Office in 453 Schmitz Hall; explore their website at: <http://www.ipe.washington.edu/>; and/or make an appointment with an IPE adviser by calling 206.221.4404.

### What countries can I go to?

The Foster School offers students access to exchange programs and internship programs through the world. The Global Business Center has complete listings of all the Foster exchanges and programs arranged with universities all over the world. IPE also lists non-business exchange programs organized by various departments. Foster students are encouraged to look at all the possibilities for study abroad, not just those related to the Foster School.

### When can I start my study abroad?

We encourage you to start planning for your international experience or study abroad early in your college career. Foster School academic advisers are happy to talk with you about your educational plan, including study abroad, at any time. The earlier you decide to go abroad the more options you'll have.

### How long can I study abroad?

The Foster School believes strongly that the international experience is a valuable part of undergraduate education. With advance planning, a year-long program may be feasible given residency requirements. If not, we will work with students to incorporate a semester-long study abroad into an educational plan.

### Do I have to speak a foreign language?

Not necessarily. Many programs offer the opportunity to study business and non-business courses in English. However, you might take advantage of the opportunity of being in another country to further your study of a language or take classes offered in the native language.

### How should I choose my classes?

We encourage you to meet with a business adviser as part of your plan for studying abroad. He or she will help you sort out Foster School residency requirements that limit how many of these classes you can apply to business degree requirements. Also, an adviser can assess the courses you plan to take and advise you on how they will *probably* transfer to the UW. Be aware; even with all the planning, the classes you are able to register for may differ from what you planned to take.

When you return, the classes you've taken need to be evaluated for transferability. Keep syllabi and coursework from classes taken during your study abroad so we can determine the equivalency to core or option requirements.

### What are the residency requirements I need to be careful of?

There are restrictions on how many credits towards your business degree can be taken elsewhere. Even though the credit earned through a UW-sponsored program or concurrent enrollment will be counted as *University* residence credit, *Foster School* residency is another matter.

The *Foster School* residency requirement refers to how much of the Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration (BABA) degree must be done *on* the Seattle campus with our faculty:

- 6 of the 9 BABA upper-division core required classes must be done on the Seattle campus
- 40 of the 53 required upper-division business credits must be done on the Seattle campus
- The capstone course (MGMT 430) must be done at the Foster School, Seattle campus; it may not be completed while abroad. The Foster School faculty want the majority of your business courses to be taken at Seattle for the degree.

The *University* residency requirements are:

- at least 45 credits of a UW undergraduate degree must be taken on the Seattle campus
- 45 of the final 60 credits of a degree must be done on the Seattle campus. Concurrently enrolling in a UW approved study abroad program, or receiving preapproval for classes to be taken abroad can make almost any credits count for this rule.

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### **What if I need advising help while I'm studying in another country?**

While you are abroad, you can e-mail the adviser you've worked with directly or you can e-mail [bizinfo@u.washington.edu](mailto:bizinfo@u.washington.edu) and we'll answer your question within two business days.

### **How do my credits get transferred back to UW?**

The first step is making sure that the transcript is sent to the IP&E office for evaluation. After you return, visit IP&E to pick up the evaluation form which will require signatures from advisers. Make appointments to see a business adviser and/or an adviser in any other department from which you may need an evaluation/signature. Bring to the appointment(s): evaluation form and transcripts, your class syllabi, papers or exams, and any other class materials.

### **How will the grades count?**

Grading systems vary widely across the globe. The IPE will 'translate' the grades when the transcript is evaluated. This depends on whether it's a UW-sponsored program or not. For a UW sponsored program, the grades will be calculated into the UW GPA and the classes will appear on the UW transcript in the quarters for which they are evaluated. Credits earned while studying abroad in a non-sponsored program will be detailed under transfer credits on the UW transcript. Those credits are considered out-of-residence and are not calculated into the UW GPA.

### **I'm a CISB student who was admitted as a junior with only one year of foreign language. How can I complete a second year of my language and study abroad during my senior year plus meet Foster School requirements?**

It will take careful planning. You may need to incorporate summer quarter courses and you will be limited to semester-long study abroad programs but you can meet your educational goals. See a business adviser.

### **Who is my contact in the Foster School?**

Andrea Gomes in the Global Business Center can help you find the right program either through the Foster School, greater UW, or an unaffiliated program provider. To make an appointment, contact Andrea at [goabroad@u.washington.edu](mailto:goabroad@u.washington.edu).

Any business adviser in the Undergraduate Program Office is happy to help you plan how an international experience fits into your educational plan. To make an appointment, contact us at 206.685.3400.

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