



Advising Hours
MONDAY – FRIDAY
9 AM – 4 PM

**Office of International
Programs**
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GLBT FRIENDLY STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS AND LOCATIONS

BENEFITS OF STUDY ABROAD

- Expand your cross-cultural communication and problem-solving skills
- Learn international perspectives
- Prepare you to work in an increasingly diverse and international workplace
- Globalize your world view
- Improve your language skills

Study abroad is an exciting way to discover new approaches in your field and build your professional skills. You can study in your major, pick up a second language, complete research on a special topic of your, do an internship while overseas, or find one program with a combination of these components. Spend a mini-mester, the summer, a semester or an academic year abroad to enhance your cross-cultural skills, language ability, or professional experience.

STEPS TO STUDY ABROAD

Attend an Information Session or Consult the Web. Information sessions are held regularly. You may attend a brief, one-hour session or consult the website listed below to learn more about study abroad.

Research, Research, Research Investigate potential study abroad locations based on your interest and personal goals for an international experience. Do you want to improve your second language skills? Are you looking for a guided experience or are you more independent? Do you want to be with lots of other students from the U.S. or would you like to be “one of the crowd” with host country students?

Requirements UTSA requires a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or above. You should generally have at least 30 credit hours at the time of application. Check language requirements for non-English speaking countries.

Consult the Study Abroad Library. Check out the resources at the Office of International Programs (MB 1.210) for more information on program details, costs, and other information.

Consult your Advisor. Speak with your academic advisor to determine whether credits from your desired program will transfer back to UTSA. You will need to gather descriptions of courses in which you are interested in taking while abroad and meet with your advisor. He/she will help you determine if you will be able to receive credit for the experience.

Apply! Complete the necessary application(s) for UTSA and your chosen program. You must submit your documents and pay required fees by the established deadlines.

Attend Pre-Departure Orientation. All outgoing students must attend the Pre-Departure Orientation given by the Office of International Programs. You will be given the date and time well in advance and must make plans to attend. If you cannot attend, you must contact your Study Abroad Advisor and make arrangements.

Scholarships and Financial Aid The University of Texas at San Antonio offers scholarships to students studying abroad. These scholarships range from \$300 to \$3,600 per student. Application forms are available in the Office of International Programs. Many students are surprised to learn that their existing financial aid, including their federal aid, is frequently transferable to studying abroad. UTSA allows students to use all federal, state and institutional aid for study abroad programs. Generally, federal financial aid requires that you earn academic credit toward your degree program while you are abroad in order for the experience to be eligible for aid. So volunteer programs, for example, are less likely to be eligible for aid. If you already receive financial aid and have already completed your FAFSA form for the academic year in which you intend to study abroad, you won't need to submit another one. However, if you've never submitted a FAFSA form before, you should leave yourself plenty of time to do so.

APPLICATION DEADLINES

**International Education Fund and Study Abroad application at UTSA.*

Spring-Oct. 15

Summer-Feb. 15

Fall-Mar. 15

PROGRAMS:

SIT Study Abroad: Amsterdam, Netherlands

SIT offers a program in the Netherlands. Here students can study the history, cultural norms, and political structures that help shape attitudes towards sexuality and gender. Pragmatic, socially liberal Netherlands is known for its tolerance and openness, but issues of gender and sexuality are now a visible fault line between cultures in this increasingly multicultural society. Internationally, the Netherlands promotes gender as a crucial aspect of economic and social development, and provides material support to women's and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) organizations in Asia, Africa, and Latin America. For program details, dates and class information please visit <http://www.worldlearning.org/323.htm>.

Center for Global Education at Augsburg College: Cuernavaca, Mexico

Only a 90-minute drive south of Mexico City, Cuernavaca offers more than eternal spring. Because of its progressive atmosphere, Cuernavaca has held three Pride marches and currently hosts various organizations dedicated to promoting queer rights; local activists fighting for the passage of a new domestic partnership law in the state of Morelos; several gay and lesbian bars and nightclubs; and a queer-friendly community! For more information on the program details please visit <http://www.augsburg.edu/global/>.

New York University Study Abroad Programs

NYU offers several different study abroad program options that have been recommended by other GLBT students who have traveled and studied there. These countries include Germany, Italy, Argentina and China. For program details and class information please visit <http://www.nyu.edu/studyabroad/>.

Arcadia University

Arcadia University and the Arcadia Center for Education Abroad are committed to ensuring equal opportunity to all persons and to respecting diversity, which includes all sexual orientations, and the lifestyles associated with them. Our university and center welcomes lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) students and encourages them to apply to our programs. They offer programs in a variety of places including England, France, Greece and Wales. For more information please visit <http://www.arcadia.edu/abroad/>.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

NAFSA: Association of International Educators Rainbow Special Interest Group

This site offers extensive resource information to help students better understand the benefits and challenges of studying, traveling and living in a new culture.

<http://www.indiana.edu/%7Eoverseas/lesbigay/student.htm>

Damron

This site offers a searchable online database of world-wide gay and lesbian travel listings, including accommodations, hotels, resorts, bars, nightclubs and more.

www.damron.com

National Center for Transgender Equality – Air Travel Tips for Transgender People

This document offers travel tips for transgendered people who have endured the increased scrutiny harassment and discrimination while trying to travel due to the heightened airport security.

<http://www.nctequality.org/airtravel.pdf>

International Lesbian and Gay Association

This site is a world-wide network of national and local groups dedicated to achieving equal rights for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender and intersex people everywhere. This offers a country-by-country survey of the legal position for LGBT people.

www.ilga.org

PREPARING TO STUDY ABROAD

Studying abroad is a golden opportunity to live another culture, soak-up a second language and transform yourself as a citizen and as a human being. If you're lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex or an ally this could include experimenting with and expressing different identities both sexual and non-sexual.

Take that into account when you choose a study abroad location and program. Of course you'll want to satisfy your academic or extracurricular needs, but also evaluate the aspects of the environment that could affect how you express your sexual orientation and gender identity. GLBT life exists almost everywhere, but the degree to which it's visible at first glance varies. As you get to know the people and places more intimately, you'll usually find a plethora of welcoming institutions and hangouts. Approach expressing your sexual and gender identity as just another cross-cultural challenge.

Be positive and flexible and use sensitivity and openness in every interaction, and your time abroad will be the most satisfying of your life.

WHILE YOU'RE ABROAD

You will find that attitudes and tolerance toward gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender issues vary from country to country, and even within the U.S. Some countries are more welcoming and legally protective than the U.S., while others may be less accepting and more restrictive. All students need to be aware of the legal issues related to sexuality and gender in other countries. GLBT students need information regarding the receptivity and social climate of the host country.

Take time to learn about:

- GLBT organizations and support resources
- Laws of the host culture
- Norms/styles of behavior in the host culture
- GLBT media
- General attitudes toward GLBT persons
- Meeting places

Please note your study abroad options are not limited by the programs listed here. For more information on additional study abroad opportunities such as intensive language programs and/or internships in your field please contact the International Programs Office. A majority of the information provided in this brochure is taken verbatim from the websites and catalogues of various program providers. We give full credit to each agency that provides accessible material for the general public.