

# Study Abroad Q & A

## **Why study abroad?**

- See the world, learn about another culture, begin or improve knowledge of a foreign language, meet new people and make new friends, all while earning course credit for graduation.
- Learn more about yourself.
- Take courses in your major, minor, or as electives with different settings, professors, and perspectives.
- Improve substantially your qualifications for your career, whether civilian or military.
- Help to internationalize the Norwich campus.
- Become a more informed citizen in an increasingly globalized world where there are many challenges and threats as well as opportunities; if the US is to lead the world, its citizens must understand the world.

## **What is study abroad?**

Undergraduate students study for course credit in other countries for a year, semester, during the summer or winter break, or with faculty on a study tour. Students study at universities or programs organized, in most cases, by US institutions.

## **Who can study abroad?**

Almost everyone! All majors can go abroad. You must be of at least sophomore standing, have a cumulative G.P.A. of at least 2.5 and not be on disciplinary probation. You should, however, discuss your interest in going abroad with your academic advisor (and, where applicable, your ROTC advisor) as early as possible. Degree requirements could affect both the timing and duration of your study abroad program. For more information, see the section on *Eligibility Requirements*.

## **Where can I go?**

To many countries in almost all parts of the world. You will, however, want to select a program that has a solid reputation. Norwich currently has a cooperative agreement with Lexia International (which runs programs in many parts of the world) and is in the process of considering others. Norwich also has exchange programs with the Australian Defence Force Academy, the German Federal Military University, and the St Cyr Special Military School in France. You are not, however, restricted to these programs.

## **How long can I study abroad?**

There are many options tailored to fit your interests, budget and time limitations. You may study abroad for anywhere from a few weeks up to a full year. Summer programs and other short-term programs are a great option for those who are tied to campus during the academic year. If you want to go abroad, you can make it happen!

The longer you are in another country, the more you will get to know the people, culture, language and yourself. Students going away for a semester often say that they wish they had chosen to go for a year as they are just getting settled and making friends when it is time to leave.

You may also choose to participate in more than one study abroad program. For example, one Norwich student spent the summer studying in China and the fall term in London. Another spent a term in China, a summer in Morocco, and the following fall term in Jordan.

### **How expensive is study abroad?**

There is a wide range of program costs. Depending on the program you choose, study abroad can easily fit into your student budget. In many cases, the cost of study abroad is comparable to studying at Norwich. Often, much of your financial aid will travel with you. Scholarships are also available. For more information, see the section on *Financial Aid*.

### **Will all my courses transfer?**

Yes, if you do the necessary work before leaving. Part of the pre-departure process includes researching courses that you would like to take abroad and discussing them with your academic advisor. You should provide as much detailed information about course content, including course syllabi, as possible so that your advisor can evaluate them against comparable Norwich courses. Both your academic advisor and the relevant department chair must approve your course selection prior to your departure.

In order to get credit for a course taken overseas, you must achieve a grade of C or better. Your grade will not transfer but your credit will. You will not receive credit for comparable courses already taken at Norwich.

### **How do I find the right program for me?**

What countries or cultures excite you? Make a list and do not hesitate to think outside the box. Consider studying Spanish in Latin America, French in Africa or Switzerland, History in Hungary or Thailand, or Business in Japan or Ireland. Think about your academic needs, course of study and personal interests as you narrow your search. Research your options in the Norwich Kreitzberg Library, the study abroad library in Ainsworth Hall, or online to get your ideas flowing.

### **How do I know which courses I should or can take?**

Your academic advisor will work with you in fitting a study abroad experience into your overall academic plan. He/she will help you plan for the best time to go abroad as well as advise you on which major, minor, distribution requirements, or electives you can take abroad.

### **Do you need to be fluent in a foreign language to study abroad?**

Not necessarily. You may be surprised to find that many programs in foreign language countries offer English-language courses as well as foreign language classes for beginners on up. There are also programs in English-speaking countries. However, do not be afraid to tackle a new language or a culture that differs significantly from your own. It can be the most rewarding experience of your life.

### **What housing options do programs differ?**

There are usually various housing options available. They may range from staying with a local family (homestay) to residence halls to shared apartments with other students. Research your options carefully to make the best decisions for your lifestyle.

**How can I get more information?**

Information on program opportunities can be found in the Kreitzberg Library, the study abroad library in Ainsworth Hall or online (e.g. [studyabroad.com](http://studyabroad.com)). You may also contact study abroad coordinator Jenifer Hasenfus (Wise Center; ext. 2582; [jhasenfu@norwich.edu](mailto:jhasenfu@norwich.edu)) or for students in the History & Political Science Department, Prof. Dart Thalman (Ainsworth 201; ext. 2031; [dthalman@norwich.edu](mailto:dthalman@norwich.edu))