Colby-Sawyer College Study Abroad FAQs

Study Abroad Quick Facts:
- Study Abroad is open to all Colby-Sawyer Students
- All students need a 2.8 minimum cumulative GPA
- Students must have sophomore standing
- All students must be in good academic and social standing

Below you will find some answers to questions you might have regarding studying abroad. The best way to answer your questions is to contact the Harrington Center directly at 526-3766 or 3765 or stopping by during walk-in hours: Monday-Thursday – 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Q. Why should I Study Abroad?
A. Studying abroad is an experience of a life time! It will enable you to gain experience and insights into another culture and see the world from a different perspective. You may also have the opportunity to learn another language. Living and studying abroad is a unique opportunity and now may be the best chance in your life to go abroad. You will undergo tremendous personal and intellectual growth impossible to achieve by staying at your home campus. Additionally, employers highly value effective cross cultural communications skills and critical thinking in prospective employees. An international experience is sure to enhance your resume. Spending time abroad does require a considerable commitment – academically, emotionally and financially, but the return on the investment is well worth it!

Q. Who can Study Abroad?
A. Any full time CSC student, currently in good academic and social standing with a clear conduct record, who has sophomore standing and studied at least 2 semesters at CSC are eligible. Student must have successfully completed the previous semester at CSC as a full time student. CSC requires a 2.8 minimum cumulative GPA at the time of application. Students from all disciplines are encouraged to apply. International students are also eligible to study abroad. Sponsored international students must provide a written clearance from their sponsor before being accepted; visa and immigration issues must also be considered and clearance from the International Student advisor is required.

Q. Where can I go?
A. You can choose to study in one or more countries around the world in Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, North and South America. Our third party program providers offer academic programs on every continent. CSC is currently associated with the following study abroad program providers: AIFS, API, TEAN, SFS and CIS. CSC does not approve studying in countries or regions of the world for which official Travel Warnings by the U.S. Department of State have been issued. Students are highly encouraged to investigate options carefully to determine which programs will suit best their academic and career goals and personal interests. By defining your goals, you will have a better chance of finding the most appropriate program. The Harrington Center can help guide you in identifying programs that are most related to your academic program requirements.
Q. **How long can I study abroad?**
A. You can study abroad for a maximum of two semesters, consecutively or not, plus one summer term. You can also choose to study a semester in one country and the next semester in another country.

Q. **Do I need to speak a foreign language?**
A. No, all of the third party program providers offer programs in English. Most international universities and academic programs in non-English speaking countries require an intensive class at the beginning of the study program. However, we urge you to take advantage of the unique opportunity to learn a new language or build upon your current foreign language skills by fully immersing yourself in a new culture abroad. CSC recommends that you plan to take a Rosetta Stone language elective in the language of your country of choice to prepare you for your experience.

Q. **How much will studying abroad cost?**
A. CSC would like to make studying abroad affordable to all students. You should be able to study abroad for approximately the same cost of studying on campus, plus your airfare and personal expenses if you choose a CSC approved program. The cost of attending a program will vary from student to student depending upon personal spending habits, and the currency exchange rate in the host country. Students will pay regular CSC tuition and room and board (regardless of the actual foreign program cost), during their semester study abroad. Depending on the study abroad program, the program provider and the location, students are responsible for the cost of their own meals, local transportations, entertainment, passport expenses, visas (if required), optional cultural travel, personal expenses and airfare to/from the host destination. You may also be required to pay a nominal fee to secure additional insurance for the experience. Room and board costs vary in different countries: UK and European destinations may cost as high as $6,500, and Asia and Latin America can be as low as $1,500 per semester. You may also want to budget about $3,000 for cultural travel. As part of the Study Abroad application all students complete a budget worksheet that calculates an estimated Cost of Attendance and a reasonable budget for their time abroad. There is a $225.00 application fee payable to Colby-Sawyer College Study Abroad program.

Q. **Can I use my Financial Aid and/or CSC scholarships and grant to Study Abroad?**
A. Yes, federal funds, including Pell Grants, Federal Supplemental Educational Grants, Perkins Loans, and Stafford Loans, awarded as part of your aid package are available to assist with study abroad costs on approved CSC programs. However, Federal Work Study can not be applied to studying abroad. Academic and institutional scholarships as well as State grants may also be used for study abroad. Once completed your approved Study Abroad Expense Budget Form, a document located in your Study Abroad application packet will be submitted to the Financial Aid Office so appropriate paperwork can be completed in a timely manner. If necessary, qualified students and their parents can take out additional loans to help offset the costs of studying abroad. Please note that additional borrowing cannot exceed the Cost of Attendance. Study Abroad scholarships are offered by the various program providers and by various educational and governmental sources. Scholarship deadlines come much earlier than program application deadlines. Check out scholarship and fellowship opportunities at StudyAbroadFunding.org. Also research the Benjamin A. Gillman International Scholarship and Boren Awards for International Study.

Q. **Can I go abroad in the summer; what is the cost?**
A. The summer months provide an ideal time for students, who otherwise may not be able to go during the year due to work, sports or academic schedules to study abroad. CSC partners offer many summer options for study abroad. Students pay the program provider directly. Summer programs include, in many cases, overseas accommodation and cultural excursions as part of the program cost. Students are responsible to pay for their own airfare to/from the host country as well as entertainment, passport expenses, visas (if required), personal and additional travel expenses. Please keep in mind that in most cases Financial Aid does not apply to any summer study abroad program.
Q. **How many classes do I have to take?**
A. You must enroll in at least 12 CSC equivalent credit hours per semester to maintain a full time student status. The maximum number of credit hours students can enroll while abroad is 18 CSC credit hours, however we strongly recommend no more than 15 credits. Full time is defined by the host university or program provider. The number of actual courses taken will vary according to the program. In consultation with the Study Abroad Advisor, you can select a combination of courses towards major, minor, or elective credits.

Q. **How will my grades transfer to CSC?**
A. All courses are selected in cooperation with the Study Abroad Advisor and are approved by the Registrar prior to acceptance to the Study Abroad Program. All study abroad courses must be taken for a grade, not a Pass/Fail basis. All grades obtained overseas will be posted on your transcript with the course title and the number of credits earned. Your actual earned grades and GPA will return with you to CSC.

Q. **Will I still be enrolled at CSC while studying abroad?**
A. Students who choose to Study Abroad in a CSC approved program are still considered full-time, in residence students and will be enrolled for the semester designated as “Study Abroad” in the CSC system for the duration of their time abroad. Thus, students will maintain active student status and be eligible for financial aid, scholarships, CSC email accounts and all academic and student support services available. Upon successful completion of coursework abroad the host university or program will issue a transcript to the CSC Registrar’s Office. Once all transcripts are received the credits earned will then be included to become a permanent part of your CSC record.

Q. **Will studying abroad affect my graduation date?**
A. In most cases, it should not. All courses taken overseas must be approved prior to your enrollment in a study abroad program. Since all course work taken abroad transfers back to CSC you should not miss any time in your course sequence and you should be able to graduate with your class. It is suggested that you meet with your faculty advisor and the Harrington Center early on to discuss your plans to go abroad, so necessary accommodations can be made.

Q. **How do I choose a program?**
A. This will require some research, talking to other students who have been abroad, and self reflection. The Harrington Center will provide guidance to help you identify programs that will continue to advance you through your academic requirements. When selecting a study abroad program, there are many important questions you should ask yourself first: Where do I want to go? What do I want to study? What type and length of program do I want? Do I want to take courses with other Americans or enroll directly in a foreign university? Am I independent and willing to take risks? What are my career goals? Do I want to live with a host family or in a university residence? Will cost be an issue? How many credits taken abroad will count towards my degree? What types of course are offered abroad? Do I want to focus on learning a foreign language? How much integration into the foreign culture do I want? How will my decision to go abroad affect my family? By defining your goals early on, you will have better chance of finding a program that best fits your academic and personal needs. The Harrington Center can help you every step of the way!

Q. **What is the application process and when is the deadline?**
A. You must complete the CSC Study Abroad application on time and meet general eligibility requirements. In addition, you can expect to complete a second program or host university application for the specific program you are applying to. There are generally two CSC deadlines each year: March 5th for summer and fall programs, and October 5th for spring semester programs. Some foreign schools have
EARLY APPLICATION DEADLINES. It is always a good idea to pay close attention not to miss them as they do not necessarily coincide with the CSC campus deadline. Please note that CSC does not participate in all program provider offerings each semester. Check with the Harrington Center for current programs.

Q. Do I need health insurance when I go abroad?
A. Yes. There is a mandatory medical and accidental insurance requirement for all CSC students participating in the Study Abroad program. If international insurance is not provided by the program provider students will purchase insurance from Cultural Insurance Services International (CISI). CISI administers the plan for CSC students. You must purchase this insurance upon acceptance into the Study Abroad Program.

Q. Do I need a passport, visa, or an International Student ID card?
A. You must have a current passport (which must be valid for at least 6 months past the date of your return) in order to travel outside of the U.S. It is strongly recommended that you begin the passport application process early; if it is your first time, apply as soon as you begin looking into programs. The passport process could take more than 8 weeks from application submission to receipt of an issued passport. Application instructions and downloadable form can be found at www.travel.state.gov. Visas and/or residence permits are required for most countries. It is the student’s responsibility to obtain them however guidance and helpful information can be obtained in the Harrington Center and from your program provider. Some countries require travel to their closest U.S. consulate for a personal interview when applying for a visa and students must make plans accordingly and prepare the necessary documentation. Visa application information will be provided by your program provider in detail, after acceptance to a study abroad program.

Q. How do I get started?
A. The first step is to stop by the Harrington Center to see what options are available. Complete a Study Abroad Information Sheet to begin the application process. Submit a confidential judicial clearance form to the Associate Dean of Student Affairs and request an official transcript be delivered to the Harrington Center. When you schedule a meeting with the Harrington Center, we will determine how your time abroad might best fit your plans and your interest. Meet with your academic advisor to discuss how studying abroad would best fit your discipline. Attend a Study Abroad Fair and a Study Abroad Information Session help during the application process time. Stop by the Harrington Center during regular office hours and take a look through our reference materials or check out the study abroad website to select your best destinations.

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