

COUNTDOWN TO STUDY ABROAD

12 - 18 MONTHS AHEAD

- ∞ Discuss opportunities to study abroad with family, professors, advisers and program specialists
- ∞ Collect information from various programs and opportunities (especially deadlines)
- ∞ Consider what you can afford to spend for foreign study and how you will be able to afford to fund a study abroad program
- ∞ Look into financial aid and scholarships
- ∞ Talk to other students who have studied abroad for advice and suggestions
- ∞ Take any required exams
- ∞ Visit the Student Money Management Center to create a budget

6 - 12 MONTHS AHEAD

- ∞ Collect application forms for the program you are interested in
- ∞ Obtain any official transcripts and reference/recommendation letters that are required
- ∞ Complete application forms and apply for financial aid and scholarships
- ∞ Get official copies of birth certificate and documentation needed to obtain a passport and visa
- ∞ Retake any required exams if necessary
- ∞ Find out what kind of approval you'll need to get academic credit for overseas coursework

3 - 6 MONTHS AHEAD

- ∞ Apply for passport (<http://travel.state.gov/passport>)
- ∞ Check visa requirements for the country you plan to study in (<https://cibtvissas.com/visa-quick-check>)
- ∞ Make flight arrangements and purchase any other travel passes
- ∞ Attend any program-sponsored information sessions
- ∞ Arrange to receive any vaccinations needed to go abroad

1 - 2 MONTHS AHEAD

- ∞ Get an international student card to qualify for student discounts around the world
- ∞ Have a complete physical health exam with your doctor, if applicable
- ∞ Create a list of primary care physician and other specialists contact information, known food and drug allergies, medications and prescriptions
- ∞ Arrange for medical insurance while abroad
- ∞ Purchase travel insurance for personal possessions, lost or stolen money, airline and rail tickets, etc.
- ∞ Attend any program-sponsored information or orientation sessions

1 WEEK AHEAD

- ∞ Refill any prescriptions and collect any over-the-counter products that may not be available in your host country (check with your program to make sure they are legal)
- ∞ Get a doctor's note authorizing your use of prescription medications you are taking with you
- ∞ Make photocopies of all important documents, tickets, and travel passes
- ∞ Prepare a folder to hold all insurance papers, school registration papers, medical records and copies of documents such as birth certificates; make a copy of all documents to leave at home
- ∞ Get international access codes and passwords for bank and credit cards
- ∞ Exchange a small amount of currency to carry with you

1 - 3 DAYS AHEAD

- ∞ Pack, keeping in mind airline regulations on what you can and cannot put in your luggage and carry-ons
- ∞ Place your documents folder in a carry-on bag, BUT keep airline tickets and passport separate from copies, perhaps in a small purse, wallet or "fanny pack"
- ∞ Confirm airline and other travel arrangements
- ∞ Compile a phone/address directory or list to take with you, including: family, friends, program sponsor, school at home and abroad, home country embassy or consulate
- ∞ Make a list of bank and credit cards; keep one in your document folder and leave the other with a parent or family member in case of emergency

DEPARTURE DAY

- ∞ Take two forms of ID, at least one should have a photo, to the airport
- ∞ Make sure to leave an emergency contact phone number with your family
- ∞ Place luggage ID tags on each piece of baggage with your destination address
- ∞ Arrive at the airport several hours ahead if you have an international flight