

Study Abroad

2026-2027



A GUIDE FOR STUDENTS & FAMILIES



Global Education Office (GEO)
Reves Center for International Studies
William & Mary
www.wm.edu/studyabroad

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Students from W&M's Summer



Program in Florence, Italy, visiting the Verrazzano Vineyard

study abroad options

William & Mary Study Abroad Numbers (Approximate from AY 25-26)

- 825+ W&M students participate in study abroad programs each year through the Global Education Office (GEO)
 - ~220 students go on semester-long programs (fall, spring, or both semesters)
 - ~400 students go on summer programs
 - ~210 students go on winter and semester break programs
- Just under 60% of students graduate from W&M having completed an overseas experience for credit at W&M, making W&M the #1 public university for study abroad.

How Can You Go Abroad?

W&M FACULTY-LED SUMMER PROGRAMS – GEO coordinates short-term study abroad programs led by W&M faculty each summer. Students pay the fixed program fee and a \$75 application fee. Courses are taught by W&M faculty and/or faculty from host institutions abroad. Credits and grades earned are posted on the W&M transcript. Anticipated programs for this summer are:

Athens & Nafplio, Greece	Galway, Ireland	Santiago de Compostela, Spain
Beijing, China	Jeju Island, South Korea	St Andrews, Scotland
Bengaluru & Goa, India	Montpellier, France	Sydney, Australia
Berlin, Germany	Nova Scotia, Canada	Vilnius, Lithuania
Cadiz, Spain	Palugo, Ecuador	
Cambridge, England	Paris, France	
Cape Town, South Africa	Prague, Czech Republic	
Mason School of Business Global Business Minor in Dublin, Ireland		

W&M FACULTY-LED WINTER PROGRAMS – GEO coordinates short-term study abroad programs led by W&M faculty each winter. Students pay the fixed program fee and a \$75 application fee. Courses are taught by W&M faculty and/or faculty from host institutions abroad. Credits and grades earned are posted on the W&M transcript. Programs will vary from year to year. Anticipated programs for this winter are:

Geneva, Switzerland	London, England	Auckland, New Zealand
LaPlata, Argentina	Edinburgh, Scotland	Salvador, Brazil
Osaka, Japan	Incheon, South Korea	Heidelberg, Germany
Mason School of Business in Southeast Asia Cusco, Peru		

W&M TUITION EXCHANGE SEMESTER PROGRAMS – W&M currently has exchange agreements with universities abroad that receive William & Mary students and send their own students to our campus. Tuition exchange students pay their usual W&M tuition and fees, a \$575 study abroad fee (including application fee) to W&M; room and board is paid to the host university. Students are required to purchase CISI insurance for \$170 per semester for semester programs. Exchange programs are generally more financially desirable for in-state students. With a few exceptions, students can select courses from the entire course catalogue. Courses are taught by host university faculty and must be pre- or post-approved. Students earn transfer credit, and grades are not posted on the W&M transcript. *** Please note that exchange spots may be limited.*

Austria: Vienna University of Economics and Business

China: Tsinghua University, Beijing

England: University of Exeter

England: University of Nottingham

France: L'Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Lille (Sciences Po Lille)

France: Université Paul-Valéry, Montpellier **

Japan: Akita International University

Japan: Keio University, Tokyo

Netherlands: Leiden University

Scotland: University of St Andrews*

South Korea: Yonsei University, Seoul

Singapore: National University of Singapore

Wales: Cardiff University

*Assisted enroll available for St Andrews University

study abroad options

A Note on Tuition Exchange Semester Programs:

With the notable exception of St Andrews, W&M students will only be able to study abroad at one of our exchange partner institutions via the exchange option during the academic year (fall and/or spring terms). In keeping with the spirit of these collaborative agreements, exchange spots allow for more movement between these institutions and ensure that students will have the opportunity to study equally for years to come. These exchange relationships also ensure that all students on a given program receive the same access to things such as course registration, housing, academic programs, etc.

As such, students will not be permitted to enroll directly or through a third-party program on any of our current exchange partners *as long as the exchange option is available*. If you have any questions about this policy, please contact the Global Education Advisor for the exchange.

Exchange programs require a balance of sending and receiving students, therefore exchange programs may not consistently be available in the semester you are seeking to study abroad. Please inquire with the GEO Advisor for the most up-to-date information on your program choice and have some alternative programs in mind should the exchange program not be available or be competitive.

W&M SPONSORED SEMESTER PROGRAMS –GEO has collaborative agreements with four institutions abroad. Students attending these programs in Argentina, England, France and Spain pay the program fee and a \$75 application fee. Depending on the program, students may choose courses from a pre-selected curriculum or from the entire course catalogue. Courses are taught by host institution faculty and the programs are coordinated by local institutions. The course approval process differs by program. For Argentina and Spain only, some coursework receives William & Mary credit, and those grades do appear on transcripts. For all other sponsored semester programs, coursework appears as transfer credit and grades are not posted on transcripts.

Argentina: Universidad Nacional de La Plata

France: Université Paul-Valéry, Montpellier

England: Hertford College, University of Oxford

Spain: Universidad Pablo de Olavide

RECOMMENDATIONS – Some W&M program applications require **1-2 recommendations**. At least one (preferably both) should be from a W&M professor. Before requesting a recommendation, ask the professor if they are willing to write a recommendation and what materials are needed from you. Request the recommendation early – do not wait until a few days before the deadline.

THIRD PARTY OPTIONS:

Students may opt to go abroad through a variety of third-party providers, as outlined below:

ENROLL DIRECTLY IN A FOREIGN UNIVERSITY – Student pays study abroad fee and CISI insurance costs in addition to paying host institution tuition, room, and board.

ENROLL IN A PROGRAM ABROAD THROUGH A US UNIVERSITY OTHER THAN W&M – Student pays study abroad fee and CISI insurance costs in addition to paying the program cost directly to the university.

ENROLL IN A PROGRAM OFFERED BY A US ORGANIZATION SPECIALIZING IN STUDY ABROAD – Student pays study abroad fee and CISI insurance costs in addition to paying the program cost directly to the provider.

study abroad options

What Should You Take into Account as You Look for a Program?

- Current year of study
- Academic requirements
- Financial situation
- Language abilities
- Academic requirements
- Past experiences
- Level of independence/support
- Academic/professional goals
- Desired level of language proficiency, if applicable
- Personality
- Health
- Considerations around how host culture may view your gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, religion, nationality, or other personal factors that you should research prior to determining where you want to study abroad.

Why Do You Want to Go Abroad?

For example...

- To integrate a global perspective into any academic study
- To learn or improve fluency in another language
- To gain experience for a future career
- To have cross-cultural experience
- To challenge yourself
- To leave behind all cultural and personal “security blankets”
- To meet people from other cultural/ethnic backgrounds
- Enroll in classes not offered at W&M

What Are Your Own Objectives and Goals?

Now think about how a study abroad experience can help you achieve these goals...

- Why would a study abroad experience help you achieve these goals?
- When and where can you study abroad to achieve these goals?
- What can you do once abroad to achieve these goals?

planning checklist

I want to study abroad. What should I do first?

2-3 semesters prior to study abroad experience:

- ☐ Attend a Study Abroad Workshop in the Global Education Office (GEO) at the Reves Center (2nd floor) or at Swem
- ☐ Review the Global Education Office website at www.wm.edu/studyabroad
- ☐ Follow the Reves Center on Facebook www.facebook.com/internationalwm and Twitter @InternationalWM
- ☐ Check out the Study Abroad Fair, held during Family Weekend each fall
- ☐ Read weekly “Reves Digest” emails from the Reves Center for important study abroad updates.
- ☐ Meet with a Study Abroad Peer Advisor
- ☐ Narrow down your study abroad program options and watch the study abroad 101 workshop
- ☐ Review this handbook and program-specific literature
- ☐ If you have a disability, make this known early so that you can work with the Global Education Office staff and Office of Student Accessibility Services to find a program that will meet your needs
- ☐ Meet with a GEO Staff Advisor if you would like to talk more about study abroad in a specific region
- ☐ Choose the program to which you wish to apply

I know which program I want to apply for. What should I do next?

1-2 semesters prior to study abroad experience:

- ☐ Complete the program application
 - ☐ Search for your program on <http://studyabroad.wm.edu> to begin your W&M registration or application process.
 - ☐ For non-W&M programs, register your study abroad online at <http://studyabroad.wm.edu> by the appropriate deadline. Check website for specific deadlines. Registration fees are refundable if you are not accepted, or if certain other unavoidable circumstances prevent you from going abroad. If the program for which you are applying is NOT listed by name in the registration/application portal at <http://studyabroad.wm.edu> contact wmabroad@wm.edu before seeking course approval. This is to ensure that your intended program is eligible for credit transfer.
 - ☐ Submit the program application or registration before the due date. A \$100 late fee will be required if you apply for a W&M program or register for a non-W&M program AFTER the deadline. If you register after the deadline, you must petition the Committee on Exceptions. Contact wmabroad@wm.edu for details. Check the deadline of your desired program – they vary!
- ☐ If you plan to use financial aid
 - ☐ Make sure that you have completed the FAFSA by the deadline.
 - ☐ Submit a completed (the student section) Consortium Agreement to GEO by the registration deadline. It will then be sent to the host institution/program to have the costs listed. The form is available online on your application page.
 - ☐ Sign up with Student Accounts for e-refund, as this will make your financial aid available to you sooner. If this is not an option for you, then you will need to submit a completed Refund Disbursement Form to GEO by the registration deadline. This form is available online.
- ☐ Check with the study abroad staff, Financial Aid Office and GEO website for scholarships, travel grants, and financial aid opportunities.
- ☐ Other: Passport and Visa
 - ☐ Obtain or renew your passport at least 4-5 months before you plan to travel abroad; you may need to allow more time if applying for a visa. Your passport must also be valid for at least six months *after* you return to the U.S. Some countries require your passport to be valid for at least 18 months after your return.
 - ☐ Ensure that at least one guardian/immediate family member has a valid passport, in case of an emergency abroad.
 - ☐ Inquire about visa requirements for your desired host country at <http://travel.state.gov> and the specific country's embassy website.
- ☐ Students with disabilities should set up an appointment with Student Accessibility Services (757-221-2512)

I have been accepted to my program. What should I do next?

1 Semester prior to study abroad experience:

- ☐ Meet with your faculty advisor to discuss your course work abroad and how the courses may fit into your academic plan.

planning checklist

- ☐ Be sure you know how the host institution credits will convert to W&M credits. Be mindful that the maximum number of transfer credits that can be awarded each semester is 18, and you must enroll in (and complete) at least the equivalent of 12 W&M credits per semester.
- ☐ Obtain pre-approval transfer credit for as many of the courses you want to take abroad as possible. You will need to meet with the designated faculty member in each academic department for course approval. *Allow for several weeks to complete this task. See GEO website for specific instructions.*
- ☐ Make an appointment to meet with your financial aid advisor if you have questions about how your aid will transfer
- ☐ Register for on-campus William & Mary classes for the following semester during the class registration period. You will be dropped from these classes once your participation in the study abroad program is confirmed, but until that time, it is highly advisable for you to have the safety net of a full course load on campus for the coming semester.
- ☐ Make an appointment with the W&M Student Health Center to make sure all of your immunizations are up-to-date and discuss strategies for staying healthy while abroad.
- ☐ Check my.wm.edu and Banner Web to see if you have outstanding bills, *as your account must be clear of any holds before you may study abroad.*
- ☐ Verify with *Student Success* that you may study abroad. If you are on academic or disciplinary probation, *you must receive approval from Student Success before you may study abroad.* Notify GEO of any potential difficulties as they arise.
- ☐ Confirm your health coverage while abroad
- ☐ Declare your Major if over 54 Credits
- ☐ If you are currently in counseling, discuss with your counselor strategies for making your study abroad successful.
- ☐ Get a physical exam, including dental and vision. Check for legality and availability of prescriptions you will need abroad.
- ☐ Make sure you have personal property insurance coverage while abroad.
- ☐ If you plan to do a non-academic internship while abroad but would like to obtain credit, you must get it approved BEFORE you leave from the Dean of Undergraduate Studies. Also, make sure you apply for the correct visa to allow for an internship in the host country.
- ☐ Students studying abroad on a third-party provider must register their study abroad with W&M through the study abroad portal before going abroad. If the program for which you are applying is NOT listed by name in the registration/application portal at <http://studyabroad.wm.edu> and you must complete this Petition to Attend a Non-Approved Study Abroad Program, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE before paying any fees associated with the program or seeking faculty approval for the courses.
- ☐ Obtain an entry visa for your host country (<http://travel.state.gov> for entry requirements and visit the host country's embassy website in the consular/visa section). The program or school with which you will be studying abroad may also be able to give you visa advice.
- ☐ Forward your mail from the William & Mary post office to your permanent US address before you leave.
- ☐ Contact Residence Life. If you are going abroad Spring semester and plan to live on campus the following fall, remember to submit your housing deposit and assign a proxy before you leave campus. Students who will be abroad in the fall and returning in the spring are not required to submit a housing deposit before they leave.
<http://www.wm.edu/offices/residencelife/rsp/studyaway/index.php>
- ☐ Contact Parking Services. You may be eligible for a partial parking decal refund if you are abroad during the spring semester.
- ☐ If you plan to study abroad as a senior, remember transfer credit processing typically takes **3 months or longer depending on the host institution and could delay graduation.**
- ☐ Attend W&M Pre-departure Orientation
- ☐ Register your time abroad with the State Department; <https://travelregistration.state.gov> for U.S. citizens
- ☐ Attend all pre-departure meetings and read information provided. Keep this handbook with you while abroad.
- ☐ If you are on a W&M summer or sponsored program read that specific handbook and take it with you. The handbooks are also posted in Blackboard.
- ☐ Learn about your host country. For example: <https://travel.state.gov/en/international-travel.html>
- ☐ Notify your bank and credit cards of your travel dates & locations, so that use of your cards during your travels will not be flagged or blocked as suspicious activity. Inquire about the daily limits for you to withdraw cash while overseas and familiarize yourself with your bank's fees. Leave unnecessary cards and ID's at home.

planning checklist

- ☐ Make copies of passport, visa, credit/debit cards, insurance cards, etc. Leave set of copies with family and pack one set separate from originals.
- ☐ If you will be receiving financial aid and expect a refund to cover study abroad costs, make arrangements for how to access these funds.

I am currently studying abroad for a semester or year. What do I need to do?

- ☐ Check your William & Mary email often for information from GEO, Registrar's Office, Residence Life, and other on-campus offices, or have it forwarded to an address you will check regularly.
- ☐ Maintain full time enrollment in an official program for semester study abroad, which is equivalent of **12 W&M credits**. If you are receiving financial aid, you must be enrolled in at least 6 credits for a summer program.
- ☐ If studying abroad during the fall, spring, or academic year, have your full-time enrollment verified by your host institution or program and send a completed and signed Confirmation of Classes Abroad form to the Global Education Office **two weeks after your arrival in country**. This form is available on your online W&M application/registration. If you do not return the form, a hold will be placed on your student account.
- ☐ Register for William & Mary classes for the semester you plan to return to campus during your assigned registration period.
- ☐ Be mindful that the maximum number of transfer credits that can be awarded each semester is 18. Be sure you know how the host institution credits will transfer back to W&M.
- ☐ Save syllabi and coursework samples for any courses for which you will need post approval.
- ☐ Request that your host institution or program provider send a transcript to the Global Education Office, NOT to the Registrar.
- ☐ Obtain additional transcripts from your host institution for your future use, such as graduate school applications. **Have them sent to your home address, not the Global Education Office and leave them sealed.**
- ☐ Check the Reves Center website for reminders, detailed information, contact numbers, and events.
- ☐ Keep a journal or blog. This will help you remember events that you can talk about later in interviews with future employers or graduate school admission officers.
- ☐ Take photos and submit to the yearly photo contest.
- ☐ If participating in a W&M summer or sponsored program, check Blackboard on a regular basis for announcements, assignments, syllabi, reading lists, etc.
- ☐ Check your W&M student email account regularly for university communication information and important updates.

I am back at William & Mary. What do I do?

When you return to campus:

- ☐ [Obtain post-approval for courses](#) as soon as you have been notified by the Global Education Office that it is necessary.
- ☐ Allow enough time for these to be processed well before your graduation.
- ☐ Attend the Re-Entry Celebration! You will receive an email early in the semester when you return to campus.
- ☐ Volunteer at the Study Abroad Fair, held Family Weekend in the fall.
- ☐ Volunteer at pre-departure orientation or as an international orientation peer leader.
- ☐ Volunteer to help our office with Advancement events
- ☐ If a Reves Scholarship recipient, look out for ways that you can volunteer by submitting photos or video's for a program, attending info sessions, the Study Abroad Fair, and other events hosted by the Global Education Office.
- ☐ Share your study abroad experience, stories, and pictures with the Global Education Office. They may be posted on the website or in printed materials. Future students want to hear firsthand about your experiences.
- ☐ Integrate your study abroad experience into your on-campus activities and academic studies.
- ☐ Remain in contact with friends you made during study abroad.
- ☐ Become involved in student organization focused on international or regional activities.
- ☐ Attend career workshops offered by the Global Education Office and Career Center.



St. Andrews

financial aid

Remember that you **MUST** be enrolled **full-time** while abroad to receive financial aid (**the equivalent of 12 credits for fall or spring study, and 6 credits for summer**).

If you fail to maintain full-time status, your aid may be adjusted or canceled. Your financial aid advisor will determine the amount of aid you are eligible for during the time you are abroad. (Grant eligibility may decrease if the total cost of attendance is less than the standard cost of W&M attendance for the year; likewise, eligibility for loans may increase if your study abroad costs are significantly higher than your on-campus costs.)

Your financial aid advisor will explain financing options for your time abroad and your specific program of study. ***It takes time to work out the details, so please arrange to meet early in the semester before your departure, once you have completed the steps below.***

Step 1: Complete a FAFSA if you have not done so for the academic year

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) should be filed online by the relevant deadline for each upcoming school year, contact the W&M Financial Aid Office for details. An academic year begins with the fall semester and ends with the last summer session. It takes approximately one month for aid to be processed after a FAFSA has been filed. If you haven't filed a FAFSA but want to apply for financial aid for a summer program, contact the Office of Financial Aid in Blow Hall.

Step 2: Sign up for e-refunds: <http://www.wm.edu/offices/financialoperations/sa/refunds/index.php> if you haven't done so already. This will ensure that any financial aid that you may qualify for will be direct deposited into your (or your parents') checking or saving account. You will need the account number, the routing number, and other information common to direct deposit initiation.

Step 3: Complete and submit a Study Abroad Consortium Agreement

The Consortium Agreement is required of students who receive money awarded or directly processed by the Financial Aid Office. The form provides information on tuition, fees, and anticipated expenses, including airfare. This form should be submitted to the Global Education Office once you have completed the section identifying the program you wish to attend. It is sent to the institution/program, completed with estimated costs, and then returned to us by the host program for processing and forwarding to W&M Financial Aid. This form is available through your application/registration page at <http://studyabroad.wm.edu>.

Disbursement Process

For *W&M faculty-led summer and sponsored semester programs* financial aid is disbursed and transferred to the Global Education Office program accounts via student account charges.

For *all other programs*: financial aid is "refunded" to the student – W&M does not pay universities and third-party providers directly. For example; if the student is eligible to receive \$2,000 in financial aid that amount is deposited into the designated checking or saving account (through e-refunds) and the party responsible for paying tuition and program fees, pays the host university or program provider directly.

PLEASE NOTE: Disbursements are made on the start of classes for the regular W&M semester calendar or on the first day of the study abroad program, whichever date is LATER. Also note that loans and grants may be disbursed on different days. Students should be prepared to pay deposits, fees, airfare, etc. before receiving their financial aid disbursements. Many study abroad providers will accept payment of program fees after the published deadline if you contact them and submit the appropriate paperwork confirming your financial aid package.

Since tuition and program fees must be paid in lump sums by specific dates, **the W&M Tuition Payment Plan (TPP) can only be used to pay tuition for W&M exchange programs.** If you are a resident of the District of Columbia and receive **DCTAG funding**, please note that DCTAG **will not** award funds for any semester you choose to study abroad.

financial aid & pre-paid tuition (vpep)

Refer to the chart below to determine if you need to submit Financial Aid forms for non-W&M and exchange programs.

METHOD OF PAYMENT	Consortium Agreement	Payment Agreement
Loans, Grants, Scholarships	YES	N/A
Pending or unsure about Loans, Grants, Scholarships	YES	N/A
Personal or Family Funds	NO	N/A
All W&M Summer & Semester Faculty-Led Programs (La Plata, Sevilla, Montpellier, and Oxford)	Pre-filled YES	Yes

Types of funding can be used for the following study abroad programs:

	Grants FAFSA required	Loans FAFSA required	TPP	VPEP/529	Veterans Benefits	DC TAG
W&M Summer Programs	Typically not available	Yes	No	Contact the Bursar's Office (Student Accounts) ASAP at bursar@wm.edu for information regarding eligibility and amounts for 529 plans	Contact the Bursar's Office (bursar@wm.edu) ASAP to inquire if VMSDEP benefits might be applicable to your study abroad program Contact yabenefits@wm.edu ASAP to inquire if GI Bill benefits might be applicable to your study abroad program	Not available for use on study abroad
W&M Semester Programs	Yes	Yes	No			
W&M Winter Programs	No	Limited	No			
Tuition Exchange Programs	Yes	Yes	Yes			
Third Party Providers	Semester: Yes Summer: Not available	Yes	No			

scholarships

Scholarship applications are available through the Global Education Office website at:
www.wm.edu/studyabroad/funding

Global Education Office -Administered Scholarships

Reves Center Scholarships

Need-based awards for students participating in W&M-sponsored summer, winter and semester programs (\$1000-4,500). In applying to the Reves Summer Scholarship, applicants are eligible for the

Global Opportunities (GO) Scholarship, which covers the complete program fee plus \$1,000 towards other expenses.

Colin Powell Global Engagement Scholarship

Merit-based award to outstanding students, who demonstrate leadership abilities.

Critchfield Scholarship

Merit- and need-based awards for study in particular Arabic-speaking countries and particular countries in the Indian Ocean region.

Dublin Global Business Minor Study Abroad Scholarship

Need-based awards for students participating in W&M Dublin Global Business Minor program.

GEO Griffin Guarantee Scholarship

An assured \$4,000 scholarship for W&M students, who meet specific criteria.

Holmes Scholarship

Need-based scholarship for Art and Art History majors for study abroad in Florence, Italy. Preference is given to Art History concentrators in their Junior and Senior year.

Korea Scholarship

Merit and need-based awards for study in the Republic of Korea. Preference is given to students participating in the W&M Exchange – Yonsei University program.

Nance Scholarship

Need-based scholarship for undergraduate students who qualify for Federal Financial Aid. Preference is given to students studying abroad for a semester or academic year.

Mesarick Scholarship

Merit and need-based awards for study in Norway or other Scandinavian countries.

Meyers Stern Scholarship

Merit based award to a student studying Judaic Studies in Israel or other location with approval from Judaic Studies

Robert M. and Rebecca W. Gates Scholarship

Merit-based awards for outstanding students with a declared major in International Relations, Global Studies or Africana Studies.

Tepper Scholarship

Merit-based award for up to \$2000 for students participating in the Bosnia, W&M Prague, or W&M St. Petersburg programs.

Sell Scholarship

The Sell Scholarship is intended to support students studying abroad in Latvia, the Baltic States region generally, Czechia, and Slovakia. Preference will be given to applications for funding to study abroad in Latvia.

Sullivan-Fildes Scholarship

Merit-based award for study at particular institutions in the U.K., with a preference for year-long study (approx. \$20,000)

Zachary James Vaughn Memorial Scholarship

Need-based award for a student committed to public service and cross-cultural understanding (varies). Semester –only

scholarships

Other William & Mary Scholarships

Charles Center Summer Scholarships

The Charles Center offers a number of funding opportunities to support research during the summer. Unless otherwise noted, all awards are \$3000 and projects must be for seven full-time weeks of undergraduate research.

Guthrie Scholarship*

Scholarship available for summer or semester research in German Studies.

Harriet Mayor Fulbright Summer Fellowship in Peace Studies

Support for summer research in international peace studies and conflict resolution.

McCormack-Reboussin Scholarship*

Awarded to current French major juniors with the intent of supporting research to be conducted in a French-speaking country or region.

Tyler Summer Research Grant *

\$500-\$1000 grant to a junior or senior history major to fund related research over the summer.

Todd Weaver Study Abroad Scholarship*

\$2500 scholarship for Government and International Relations majors.

***Please contact specific department for details.**

Scholarship applications are available through the Global Education Office website at:

www.wm.edu/studyabroad/funding

Other Scholarship Opportunities

Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship

Available only to Pell Grant recipients. See the Gilman website for more details at

<http://www.iie.org/en/Programs/Gilman-Scholarship-Program>

British Universities Transatlantic Exchange Association (BUTEX) Scholarships

For semester or year-long study at BUTEX affiliated universities in the UK

Critical Language Scholarships for Intensive Summer Institutes

Critical Language Scholarships funded by the State Department for Summer Programs all over the world

DAAD (Deutsche Akademische Austauschdienst)

For study in Germany

Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO) Scholarships

For study in Japan

David L. Boren Scholarship

For non-western study abroad destinations

Many other scholarships exist for Study Abroad. Please plan ahead (up to a year or more in advance)!

The Advisors in the [Office of Undergraduate Academic Affairs](#) are available to help students complete applications and write essays for the following scholarships:

- Gilman, Boren, Critical Languages, Fulbright

For more information, go to: <https://www.wm.edu/as/ouaa/>

financial tips for study abroad

The cost of living abroad will inevitably vary from student to student and country to country, based upon individual living styles, budgetary habits, personal resources, and the fluctuating currency exchange rates. Consequently, it is difficult to estimate expenditures in preparation for a program. Students should be prepared to adapt their standards of living to their surroundings and approach the experience with financial responsibility.

Here are some financial tips to remember, in preparation for your time abroad.

Before You Go Abroad

Credit/Debit Cards

Contact your bank and credit/debit card companies to let them know when and where you will be abroad, so that your withdrawals are not denied or your credit card canceled. The credit card and/or debit card you plan to use while abroad must be in your name, not your parents'. (Most major lenders will, at the request of the cardholder, provide an additional card in the name of a dependent authorized to use the account.)

ATM Fees

Check with your bank for information about daily/weekly limits on withdrawals, and about fees charged for the use of foreign ATMs. When withdrawing money from an ATM abroad, you will likely be charged a fee at the foreign bank, in addition to your own bank's fee. Ask your bank before you go if they have a partnership bank in the country where you will be living; if so, you might be able to avoid ATM fees.

Foreign Currency

Buy some currency to have when you arrive. You may need money to get from the airport to your accommodation or school, and changing money in airports is often more expensive than at a bank. If you are unable to have local currency before you arrive, consider withdrawing money from the ATM at the airport rather than exchanging USD at an exchange counter.

Traveler's Checks

Be aware that traveler's checks are becoming increasingly difficult to cash, especially in Europe & the Middle East. They may only be useful as a last resort.

While Abroad

Security

Do not make a habit of carrying extra money and credit cards with you. If you are not planning on using them, leave them in the U.S. or in a secure place. The same holds true for your personal documents: IDs, driver's license, passport, etc. Always have a copy of your passport with you, but the original documents should stay at your residence unless your host country's laws require you to carry the actual passport or you anticipate needing it (to change traveler's checks or check into a hotel, for instance). Choose carefully which documents you bring with you. Some, such as your Social Security card, should be left at home.

Budget

Always carry your local student ID or International Student Identity Card (ISIC) with you, as many places offer students discounts or even free admission. Keep an eye out for student rates, and remember that it never hurts to ask! Youth rates are available to anyone under the age of 26 in many countries. Try to avoid eating out during the week; cooking for yourself and/or eating with your host family will save a lot of money for weekends, travel, souvenirs, etc. Avoid American restaurant franchises – they are more expensive. Local food is usually better and part of the experience!

Travel

When you arrive, consider buying a long-term bus, metro or train pass; monthly or multiple trip passes are likely a better value than daily passes. Make a budget for travel in addition to your weekly expense budget. Be aware of the current exchange rates in the countries you plan to travel to – this can greatly affect your travel budget.

study abroad registration

The Global Education Office at the Reves Center is the primary source of information to help you select, apply to, and enroll in a study abroad program. You are encouraged to make an appointment with a Global Education Office staff member to discuss your options before submitting a program deposit or registration materials.

All students MUST register with the Global Education Office at the Reves Center prior to going abroad, no matter the semester/term, or you will not receive credit for your courses! Registration also ensures that the Global Education Office will communicate your study abroad status to all appropriate departments to maintain your status as an active student. Even if you have studied abroad before, a separate registration is required for each program you attend. If you have applied to a W&M summer or semester program, you are automatically registered when you apply.

- ◆ To **search for program** and complete the **study abroad registration**, visit <http://studyabroad.wm.edu>
- ◆ For information on **fees and payment**, visit the Global Education Office website at <http://www.wm.edu/studyabroad> for the most up-to-date information.

Students applying to a **W&M summer, winter, and sponsored semester** program pay a \$75 application fee and are automatically registered with the Global Education Office **once** they submit an application to <http://studyabroad.wm.edu>. **W&M embedded programs** do not have an application fee and students will automatically be registered with the Global Education Office once they submit an application.

Students applying to **W&M tuition exchange partner universities**, are billed a \$575 application and off-campus fee (if accepted) and are automatically registered with the Global Education Office **once** they submit an application to <http://studyabroad.wm.edu>;

Students studying on **non-W&M programs** must apply directly with their study abroad provider/host institution AND register through <http://studyabroad.wm.edu>. They must commit to paying a \$575 registration and off-campus fee which will be billed to a student's account, and submit financial aid paperwork and a passport photo by the deadlines below:

- Spring/Winter study: November 2, 2026
- Summer study: April 1, 2027
- Fall/Academic Year study: April 1, 2027

The registration fee is refundable for students who apply to **non-W&M** programs but are not accepted, and in other special cases. For more information, please visit the Study Abroad Registration FAQs page at: <https://www.wm.edu/offices/revescenter/geo/studyabroad/resources/faq/>

If the program for which you are applying is NOT listed by name in the registration/application portal at <http://studyabroad.wm.edu> and you have to select the "Other Program" or "Other Program Travel Warning" category, you must complete the [Petition to Attend a Non-Approved Study Abroad Program](#) before seeking pre-approval or paying any fees. Click on the online link for access to the questionnaire. Please note that it may take 2-3 weeks for the Registrar's Office and the Global Education Office to determine eligibility. Allow sufficient time before the registration deadline.

A \$100 late fee will be required if you register **AFTER** the listed deadline.

IMPORTANT: If you do not register BEFORE going abroad, coursework will NOT be eligible for credit transfer.

Plan early!

department of state travel alert policy

The university strongly supports internationalization initiatives including international travel by students. The university also recognizes the risks to safety and security of students engaging in such travel, particularly the risks outlined by the U.S. Department of State when it issues a higher-level Travel Alert. The Travel Alert policy applies to all undergraduate student travel sponsored, organized, supported or recognized by William & Mary, including the Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences (the university). This policy establishes the circumstances under which student travel to countries subject to higher-risk designations is permitted. Details can be found at:

<https://www.wm.edu/offices/reescenter/geo/studyabroad/resources/healthsafety/>

The list of countries requiring petitions can be found at:

https://www.wm.edu/offices/reescenter/safety_health_security/travel_alerts_and_warnings/index.php

Students wishing to petition for approval to study abroad on a program in a country under a W&M Travel Risk Warning should contact the Director of Global Education Office & Global Partnerships, **Sylvia Mitterndorfer** smmitt@wm.edu, for additional information. As part of the application process, you will need to provide a valid explanation for your reasons for traveling to a country with an elevated travel alert, a detailed summary of your plans while abroad including length of study, housing arrangements and whether you have family or local contacts. Apply online at:

<http://studyabroad.wm.edu/?go=otherstudyabroadtravelwarning> Decisions are made on a rolling basis so we recommend submitting petitions several weeks before the deadline to allow sufficient time for review and registration.

Deadlines for All petitions for **study abroad in a country under a Travel Warning**

- Winter break activities: October 1, 2026
- Spring semester activities: November 1, 2026
- Summer activities: April 1, 2027
- Fall semester activities: April 1, 2027

(right)

National University of Singapore



Leiden, Netherlands (left)

travel documents & information

Before your departure, be sure to leave copies of all of your travel documents (passport, visa, ISIC card, credit/debit cards, student ID, driver's license, and immunization record) at home with your family. Make additional hard copies of each for yourself to carry separate from the original documents. Also, scan and email copies to yourself for an electronic copy. While traveling, keep your passport in a secure place with you at all times, not in a dangling purse or the back pocket of a backpack. Once settled in your host country, you can leave your passport in a secure place and simply carry a copy with you. (**Note:** some countries require you to carry your passport with you at all times – research the policies of your host country before leaving home.)

Passport

Your passport is the most important document you will have while traveling abroad. Any person who travels outside of his/her native country needs a passport; it serves as proof of citizenship, and is necessary to enter and return from almost every country in the world.

If you have a current passport, make sure it will not expire while you are away on your program; your passport must be valid for **at least 6 months after** your scheduled return to the U.S. At least one other adult member of your family should have a valid passport as well, in case an emergency arises.

Apply for a Passport

With new requirements implemented by the federal government, passport agencies may experience significant backlogs and long delays in processing passport requests (especially during the summer). You should therefore apply for your passport at least four months before your scheduled departure or even earlier if you need to apply for a visa. You can apply through a Passport Agency (in all major cities), a local issuing office, a Federal or State Court House, or a Class 1 Post Office. (**Note:** if you will also need a visa, you should apply for your passport and your visa at least six months before your departure.) Passport applications and instructions are on the Department of State website (http://www.travel.state.gov/passport/get/first/first_830.html).

Renew Your Passport

If you have a current, or soon expiring, passport, you may be able to renew by mail, provided your most recent passport meets certain conditions; if it does not, you will have to apply in person. Passport renewal applications and guidelines can be obtained from any Post Office or the Circuit Court Clerk's office in the Williamsburg-James City Courthouse. Start the renewal process early, especially if you will also need a visa, so as to allow enough time to resolve any problems that may arise.

Non US Citizens:

Note: The information regarding passports above is specific to U.S. citizens. Students who are not U.S. citizens and wish to travel abroad should check with their embassies and with the International Students, Scholars, and Programs Office to make sure their current visa allows them to leave and return to the U.S.

Visa

A student visa or residency permit may be necessary for you to enter and study in your host country. A visa is an official stamp or document issued by the foreign government and affixed within your passport. Typically, students planning to study 90 days or more are required to obtain a visa. However, some countries require **all students** to apply for a visa, regardless of the length of the program. Check the host country's Embassy website for the country you plan to study in for visa requirements. (**Note:** visa requirements vary by country of citizenship.)

Applying for a Visa

If your host country requires that you have a visa for the time you are planning to reside there, you will need to apply to your host country's regional consulate with jurisdiction over your home state. Information on which consulate serves your home state can usually be found on the country's embassy website. Depending on the consulate, you will need to apply either in person, or by mail. Each consulate sets its own timeline for accepting and processing student visa applications. Depending on your host country, you may not be **allowed** to apply more than 60 or 90 days before your program begins. (For example, if your program starts on January 15, the earliest you could apply for your visa in some cases could be November 15, or possibly

travel documents & information

October 15.) If the consulate says to apply “at least” 60 days before your program departure, this means **no less** than 60 days. For some consulates, this window can extend even to 120 days before departure. You should also know the latest date for submission. Check the website of your host country’s consulate for timelines and submit your visa application at the earliest possible acceptance date to avoid delays! The host university website may also have visa information for incoming international students. The Global Education Office can provide basic “guidelines” but the Consulate website is the best source of information.

Be aware that many consulates observe both U.S. and their own country’s holidays. Keep holiday schedules in mind when applying for your visa.

Consider applying for a year-long visa if you are going abroad for the fall semester and there is a chance that you might decide to remain for the spring semester. Some countries will not allow you to renew or extend your visa while abroad, which means you would have to come back to the U.S. to renew for the second semester.

You will need a valid passport in order to apply for a visa. Visas are usually stamped or attached to the inside of your passport, so be prepared to surrender your passport to the consulate, temporarily. You will NOT be able to travel outside of the United States until your passport is returned.

Traveling and Visa Requirements

If you plan to travel while you are abroad, you should find out whether tourist or student visas are required for the countries you intend to visit. If so, they may be obtained from each country’s embassy or consular office. It is wise to investigate visa regulations before you depart the U.S., so that you are aware of how much time to allow for the process. GEO does not advise on visa regulations for students studying abroad, but your host institution or program abroad will often have more information about the visa application process and requirements.



Hertford College, Oxford University

course credit policies

Receiving Course Credit for Study Abroad

William & Mary students can earn academic credit for coursework completed abroad. The type of credit depends on the program:

- **W&M faculty-led summer and winter programs** and some courses taken through the **W&M programs in Seville (Spain) and La Plata (Argentina)** award **W&M credit**. Grades appear on your transcript and count toward your GPA.
- **All other programs** award **transfer credit**. Courses appear on your transcript with a “T” grade and do not affect your GPA.

Students on third-party semester or academic-year programs must transfer back at least **12 W&M credits per semester** (or all credits earned during winter/summer programs). Transfer requirements must be completed within one semester of returning to campus to avoid a registration hold.

To Receive Credit for Courses Taken Abroad

You must:

1. **Register with the Global Education Office (GEO)** by the appropriate deadline at studyabroad.wm.edu.
 - a. If your program is not listed, contact wmabroad@wm.edu to register your program and gain program approval.
2. Complete all required applications, forms, fees, and questionnaires by published deadlines.
3. Obtain required **course approvals** from the appropriate academic departments.
4. Submit a **Course Confirmation Form** after arriving abroad and finalizing your schedule.
5. Complete the required **Reflection Essay** after your program.
6. Earn the equivalent of a **C or higher** in each course.
 - a. Pass/Fail courses are not eligible for transfer credit.
7. Arrange for an **official transcript** to be sent directly from the host institution to GEO either digitally or hard copy.
 - a. Digital Transcripts can be sent to abroadtranscript@wm.edu
 - b. Hard copy transcripts can be mailed to:
GEO Study Abroad Transcript Coordinator
Reves Center for International Studies, William & Mary
PO Box 8795
Williamsburg, VA 23187-8795 UNITED STATES

Important Credit Policies

- Maximum transfer credit: **18 W&M credits per semester**
 - Exception: Hertford College full spring program (20 credits total for two trimesters).
- Minimum transfer credit for semester programs: **12 W&M credits**.
- Summer/Winter Program should transfer all credits.
- Credits are posted only after GEO receives:
 - Your official transcript
 - All required course approvals
 - Your reflection essay

Note: If a transcript is mailed to you, do **not** open it. GEO can only accept transcripts received directly from the institution or in a sealed envelope.

Course Approval

Pre-Approval (Recommended)

Students should seek approval for intended courses before departure through the study abroad course approval process.

General steps:

1. Review department requirements.
2. Identify the faculty approver.
3. Email the faculty approver the required course materials.
4. Complete the docusign form for each course.

Allow: **2–3 weeks** for faculty review and **Up to 4 additional weeks** for GEO processing.

Students in W&M faculty-led summer and winter programs and some Seville/La Plata courses do not need pre-approval because courses are already approved.

Post-Approval

If a course was not approved before departure, you may seek approval after returning.

Keep copies of: Course descriptions, Syllabi, Reading lists, Papers and exams, other course materials

Departments may deny credit if sufficient documentation is not provided.

Credit Conversion Guidelines

Because international credit systems vary, GEO determines final W&M credit awards after receiving your transcript.

Typical contact-hour conversions:

- 24–36 hours = 2 W&M credits
- 40–45 hours = 3 W&M credits
- 50–60 hours = 4 W&M credits

ECTS Conversion

- 4 ECTS = 2 W&M credits
- 5 ECTS = 2.5 W&M credits
- 6 ECTS = 3 W&M credits
- 8 ECTS = 4 W&M credits

UK Credit Conversion (except St Andrews)

- 10 points = 3 W&M credits
- 15 points = 4 W&M credits
- 20 points = 5 W&M credits
- 30 points = 7.5 W&M credits

St Andrews Conversion

- 10 points = 2.5 W&M credits
- 15 points = 3.75 W&M credits
- 20 points = 5 W&M credits
- 30 points = 7.5 W&M credits

Additional Policies

- Courses may count toward major, minor, or elective requirements, subject to departmental approval.
- Study abroad courses generally **cannot fulfill Core or COLL requirements**, except:
 - **COLL 300**
 - Certain pre-approved W&M summer and winter courses
- Students with **54 or more credits** should declare a major before studying abroad.
- Internships do not automatically receive academic credit and require separate approval through the course approval process.

For the most current departmental requirements and policies, consult the Global Education Office Receiving Course Credit website.

department-specific regulations

Certain academic departments have special requirements and regulations for credit approval, and some may only issue post-approval of course credit. Students should be aware of department-specific policies so that they can make necessary arrangements before departure and bring back the materials (course description, syllabi, papers, exams, etc.) required for credit evaluation. Check the Global Education website for the most up-to-date information at:

<https://www.wm.edu/offices/reescenter/geo/studyabroad/coursecredit/departmentalandprogramrequirements/>

academic policies

Academic Policies

When studying abroad, students are responsible for attendance at all classes and scheduled activities. For semester programs, students must be enrolled in a full academic course load in a program that issues transcripts from an accredited institution. All William & Mary academic regulations apply while students are enrolled in a study abroad.

If you are abroad during the summer (or winter), you are not required to study full-time. However, if you are planning on using financial aid, you must be enrolled in the equivalent of at least 6 W&M credit which is considered full-time enrollment for the summer. Courses are not available for audit or pass/fail. All courses must be taken for a letter grade, this includes the one-credit prep course for W&M faculty-led winter and summer programs. Non-degree seeking students are ineligible for study abroad.

Transfer Credit Registration Hold

You will have one semester back on campus at W&M to complete your transfer credit requirements. All students are required to transfer back all eligible coursework. Semester students need to be enrolled in at least 12 credits while overseas. If after one semester back on campus this requirement is not complete, a registration hold will be placed on your account. This is means academic year, spring and summer students will have the following fall semester to complete transfer credits and fall and winter students will have the following spring semester to complete the requirement.

Probation, Suspension, Medical Withdrawal, or Underload

You must be an active W&M student in good standing, not on academic or disciplinary probation during time abroad, and eligible to take classes at the William & Mary Williamsburg campus, to be eligible to study abroad. Please note some programs are only open to undergraduate or full-time students.

If you are not an active W&M student in good standing and eligible to take classes at the W&M Williamsburg campus, you may not study abroad unless you (1) are reinstated through the **The Advising Center (TAC)** before the appropriate registration deadline of your study abroad, and (2) register your study abroad through the Global Education Office. Non-active students or those not in good standing are not eligible to receive scholarship administered through the Reves Center.

Students who need to withdrawal from a study abroad will need to work closely with their study abroad advisor in the Global Education Office, their host institution or program, and complete any necessary **W&M withdrawal/clearance requirements**.

Students who need to take less than 12 W&M credits or would like to transfer back more than 18 W&M credits (with the exception of the sponsored Oxford program) will need to receive approval from W&M prior to the start of their study abroad. Students can read more about the process and complete the petition to the **Committee on Academic Status**. This process can take some time and should be started early. Students should also notify their study abroad advisor and pass along any over/underload approvals for transfer credit processing.

Credits & Grades

While abroad during the semester, you must enroll in the **equivalent of at least 12 credits** in order to maintain full-time status. With the exception of those who complete the two-term spring semester at Hertford College, you cannot transfer more than 18 credit hours per semester from a study abroad program. Of the 120 credits required to graduate from W&M, at least 60 must be credits earned as W&M credit, not transfer credit. Transfer and other students with large amounts of transfer credit should discuss their options with a Global Education staff advisor.

Courses taken on W&M faculty-led summer and winter programs earn both grades and credit that will appear on your William & Mary transcript and be calculated into your GPA. W&M's sponsored semester programs in Seville (Spain) and La Plata (Argentina) earn direct credit from the courses taken at Centro MundoLengua (Spain) and at the Comision Provincial por la Memoria (Argentina) but will receive transfer credit from courses taken at the Universidad Pablo de Olavide (Spain) and Universidad Nacional de La Plata (Argentina). Academic work completed on all other programs, whether through William & Mary or not, will count as **transfer credit only**, will not carry a grade, and will not be factored into your GPA. In order to receive transfer credit, you must earn a grade of (or equivalent to) at least a C. There is no pass/fail option for these courses.

academic policies

Pass/Fail

You may exercise your pass/fail option only on W&M sponsored La Plata and Seville semester programs for only 1 course that is taken for direct credit, and then in accordance with the restrictions outlined in the W&M course catalogue under “System of Grading: Pass/Fail.” No other overseas courses, including those taken on W&M summer programs, may be taken pass/fail.

Allowable Use of Transfer Credit

Approved study abroad transfer credit counts towards the graduation requirements of up to 120 academic credits. Keep in mind, especially if you are a transfer student, that 60 of the 120 required credits must be W&M credits and not transfer or AP/IB credits. Courses taken abroad may count towards a major, minor, and any electives.

Major Requirements

Prior to departure, discuss your course options thoroughly with the department chair in your intended field or with your academic advisor to understand how the approved courses will fit into your intended degree program. The concentration advisor should review your degree plan with you to make sure everything is in order.

When course credit is posted to your record in Banner, any courses that fulfill major requirements will automatically appear on your degree evaluation. If a course does not appear on the degree evaluation, send an email to DegreeEval@wm.edu with your name, ID number, and the error or omission you found.

COLL Requirements and Additional Attributes

Excluding W&M faculty-led winter and summer programs, the Committee on Degrees will consider a course taken abroad meets the criteria for a COLL or attribute and it deals substantially with the country or region where you studied abroad. COLL and attributes eligibility cannot be approved prior to your study abroad but must be requested upon your return and no requests will be considered without a detailed course syllabus and copy of Course Approval Form. To submit a request, complete and submit a Petition to the Committee on Degrees: [Request for Exceptions to Degree Requirements](#).

COLL 300

Courses taken abroad at an accredited institution, approved and worth 3 or more credits can fulfil COLL 300 requirement, provided students have received the equivalent of a C or better if transferring the credits. No special petition process is required and your study abroad courses will be designated as COLL300.

Host Institution Transcripts

Remember that even though you may only receive transfer credit at W&M for your courses, your grades will nonetheless be recorded on the transcript of your host institution abroad. While in some cases the W&M transcript showing your transfer credits from abroad may suffice, many graduate/professional schools require original transcripts from study abroad host institutions in addition to other application materials. If original transcripts from your study abroad experience are required, you will have to request them directly from the institution abroad or the program through which you studied. It's a good idea to obtain multiple copies of your transcript from your host institution while you are abroad, as it is often difficult and costly to obtain transcripts once you return to the U.S. Some graduate schools will recalculate students' GPA with courses taken abroad. So even though you only need a C to obtain W&M transfer credit, grades earned abroad will be very important when applying to graduate or professional schools in the future.

Internships

Study abroad program internships range widely in terms of delivery method and content. Some internships are NOT eligible for transfer credit or may otherwise fall short of requirements for transfer credit, which can impact full-time enrollment status and/or financial aid eligibility. If you are potentially interested in pursuing an internship, please make an appointment with the applicable W&M Global Education Office regional study abroad advisor, as soon as possible, to discuss your plans before proceeding. Just as any other course taken abroad, internship courses must meet all requirements (receive a letter/number grade, take place in-person course, etc.) and receive course approval from the appropriate academic department.

academic policies

If you plan to do an internship while abroad which is not part of a course, it must be approved **before you leave**. Students will need to follow the instructions outlined by W&M Undergraduate programs

(<https://www.wm.edu/as/undergraduate/explore-create-connect/internships/>) and the required forms from the Advising Center (<https://www.wm.edu/as/advising/academic-forms/#coursework-forms>).

Independent Study

Arrangements for earning independent study credit through William & Mary must be made in advance, in consultation with a faculty member. Credit for the independent study project must be awarded in the term following your return to campus by the faculty member who is grading your work. Receiving credit from William & Mary and another program simultaneously would constitute dual enrollment, which is not generally allowed by the university.

Seniors /Graduating Students

The most important thing that studying abroad during your senior year may affect is your graduation date. The Global Education Office is not able to process any study abroad transfer credits until we receive your official transcript from your host institution or program and all required faculty approval forms. Official Transcripts, especially hard copy transcripts, can take up to 6 months to arrive, although they usually arrive sooner. If your transfer credits are not able to be processed prior to the required date for graduation, you might need to delay your graduation. This may affect your ability to attend graduate or start a job if you are required to have matriculated by a certain date. For example, a student who is planning to graduate in spring may need to delay their graduation until August. This student could still walk in the Spring ceremony; however, they would not receive their official degree until August. Please make sure you discuss this with your study abroad and academic advisors.

If credits are needed from study abroad in order to graduate, students will not be approved to study abroad during their final semester, as transcripts are never received in time for May graduation. Depending on the country or host institution, it can also be problematic studying abroad the second-to-last semester. Obtaining the official transcript and then seeking post-approval for courses that were not pre-approved in order to graduate after the following semester can be challenging and time-consuming. The same is true for winter break study abroad. *For these reasons, it is best to study abroad prior to your last two semesters.*

Academic Year/Semester Programs

All students studying abroad for an academic year/semester program must transfer back at least 12 W&M credits minimum and cannot bring back more than 18 W&M credits.

Summer Study Abroad and W&M Summer Courses

Students may only take up to 8 credits per summer term. If you are studying with a W&M Summer program, you cannot register for W&M summer courses that occur at the same time as your study abroad (even if they are offered online).

Winter Study Abroad

Students who study abroad with a third-party program for winter break need to transfer back all study abroad credits. Your winter program must end 2 days prior to the start of the spring semester and must begin after the end of W&M's last fall exam day.

residence life

Students Studying Abroad During Spring Semester/Academic Year

Students who plan to live on campus when they return for the fall semester must sign a housing contract to be eligible to select a space during the Returning Student Room Selection Process. You are encouraged to still participate in the Room Selection Process if your study away plans are not finalized. This allows you to secure housing in case your plans fall through.

More details on the Room Reservation Deposit, the Room Selection Process, and Proxies can be found on the Office of Residence Life's website, under Housing Options: <https://www.wm.edu/offices/residencelife/housing/>

Students Studying Abroad During Fall Semester

Students who are studying abroad during the fall semester should contact the Residence Life Office in early October to discuss housing arrangements for the spring semester: <https://www.wm.edu/offices/residencelife/about/>

Housing for Students with Special Needs

Students with a documented medical need will have to present appropriate medical documentation; if approved, students are guaranteed a space in the residence halls. More details on this process can be found on the Office of Residence Life's website <https://www.wm.edu/offices/residencelife/housing/room-assignment-process/#housingaccommodations>

Special Interest Housing

Living in international-themed housing allows you to extend your cultural immersion once back on campus, provides the opportunity to live with other international students and other students interested in the same culture, and secures your on-campus housing before the lottery process.

If you are interested in living in special interest housing, such as one of the eight Language Houses (Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Japanese, Italian, Russian, and Spanish), the Africana House, the Mosaic House, etc. when you return to campus, applications are due the end of January. See Special Interest Housing at <https://www.wm.edu/offices/residencelife/community/living-learning/>



Piazzale Michelangelo, Florence, Italy

student conduct code

Personal & Academic Responsibility

While you are abroad, you will be viewed as an unofficial ambassador of William & Mary, the United States, and/or your country of citizenship; you should therefore conduct yourself in a manner that befits that position and reflects well upon William & Mary and upon yourself. In registering to study abroad, you agree to abide by the behavior expectations outlined below. Students who are on Disciplinary Probation or Deferred Suspension status are ineligible to study abroad during their first full semester in such status. If a sanction endures beyond one full semester (15 academic weeks) and you have had no further conduct or honor violations (or pending investigations), the student may contact the Director of Student Accountability & Restorative Practices and request verification be sent to Global Education. If you are placed on probation or suspension at any point before or during your program, support for your study abroad may be withdrawn.

As a visiting student in a foreign country, you are subject to the laws of that country, and to the academic and disciplinary rules and regulations of the institution and/or residential program with which you are engaged. You should act in a manner that is respectful of your host culture.

As a participant of study abroad, understand that you are still considered a William & Mary student. As such, you are required to abide by:

- The rules and regulations set forth in the *William & Mary Student Handbook*, including the Student Conduct Code and Honor Code: <https://www.wm.edu/offices/communityvalues/sarp/studenthandbook/>
- All instructions presented by program faculty or staff members, whether written or oral;
- All ground rules as covered in the trip participant orientation sessions;
- The Study Abroad Behavior Expectation Agreement signed online.

Failure to comply with the conduct restrictions enumerated may result in disciplinary action. W&M reserves the right to dismiss any participant from its programs for reasons of unacceptable behavior. Such dismissal will be without refund, and any expenses incurred for return transportation will be the responsibility of the student. Dismissal from a non-W&M program may also result in academic or financial consequences, which are solely the student's responsibility.

We cannot stress strongly enough that while you are abroad, you simply are not an isolated individual. Whether you would wish it or not, you are responsible for the reputation of your country and your school, and you should strive to be the best citizen diplomat possible.

Alcohol & Drugs

Prior to your departure, familiarize yourself with both the laws in your host country regarding alcohol and drug use **and** the rules of your study abroad program. While you may be allowed to consume alcohol under the laws of your host country, be aware that any alcohol-related incident abroad will be treated by W&M just as it would be here on campus. If you have any questions about alcohol use in the host country, please consult with your global education advisor, program director and/or local program staff.

W&M students are expressly forbidden from using drugs, regardless of whether drugs are legal in your host country. In addition, many countries have more severe punishments regarding drugs than those in the United States, and while abroad, you are subject to the punitive measures of your host country. **Should you be arrested on drug charges, there is nothing that the U.S. government or W&M can do to exempt you from your host country's legal process.** Keep in mind that while U.S. law dictates "innocent until proven guilty," many other countries do not adhere to the same standard and may have **harsher penalties.**



W&M summer program in Galway, Ireland

preparing to go abroad

Students with Special Needs

If you are a student with special needs, make sure to prepare in advance, as countries have varying standards of accessibility and the capacity to accommodate disabilities varies. Students should register with Student Accessibility Services and meet with the Director of Global Education prior to choosing a program to ensure a successful study abroad experience. Students seeking accommodations for a disability must provide Student Accessibility Services with recent documentation of the disability ideally 9 months prior to the intended term abroad to ensure the needed support is available.

Health and Travel Insurance

It is important to ensure that you have adequate health insurance coverage that is valid abroad and in the U.S. while you study overseas.

Students enrolled in William & Mary's student health can continue this coverage while abroad if they wish. Students covered by their family's insurance policy should check with the provider to see if they still have coverage while abroad; it is often possible for your parents to add a rider to the family plan in order to give you full overseas coverage. You should continue any coverage you currently have under your W&M or family plan to ensure that you will still be covered upon your return, including if you were medically evacuated back to the US during your program, and avoid the possibility that current coverage of pre-existing conditions will lapse. Contact the Health Center to discuss your insurance options.

All students are automatically enrolled under the World Class Coverage Plan through Cultural Insurance Services International (CISI). CISI offers insurance that is specially designed for the needs of students abroad, and includes coverage for emergency medical and security evacuation, repatriation, and emergency medical family reunion. CISI Insurance is \$170 per semester and \$65 per summer. For more information, visit the Global Education Office at the Reves Center's website at <https://www.wm.edu/offices/revescenter/geo/studyabroad/resources/healthsafety/healthinsurance/>

In almost all cases you will have to pay for minor medical services when they are rendered abroad and file a claim with your insurance provider upon your return to the U.S. For this reason, it is important that you **save all receipts and documents pertinent to your medical expenses and record the names, addresses, and phone numbers of any doctors or medical centers visited**. More information on medical needs and emergency assistance abroad can be found on the Department of State website (travel.state.gov).

Travel insurance is also highly recommended, especially for cancellations. Here are a few things to remember:

- Most travel insurances include basic medical and accident coverage, baggage loss or delay, and trip cancellation, interruption or delay. Specialized insurance policies can vary from country to country, so remember to always make sure you know exactly what your policy covers.
- Make sure that your travel insurance is valid for the entire duration of your stay abroad.
- Bear in mind that if you need to make a claim, most travel insurance companies require you to have purchased the insurance policy **before** you leave on your program.
- If you need insurance to cover you for high-risk activities such as winter sports, scuba-diving, or mountain climbing, please ensure that you mention this at the time of purchase and take out extra insurance coverage if necessary. Many insurance policies exclude such activities.

Personal property insurance is also strongly recommended to cover the possible loss or damage to such items as your laptop, iPad, cell phones, camera, etc.

- Just as is the case on campus, W&M's university insurance does not reimburse for personal property of others, including students, faculty and staff, and encourages you to ensure you have your own coverage. Coverage for personal property can usually be found under an individual's homeowner's policy.
- Students living on campus or studying abroad should purchase their own renter's insurance if not covered under their family's homeowners' policy.
- Leave valuables at home; bring only what you really need!

preparing to go abroad

Department of State Travel Information

The Department of State website has useful information and resources on health and safety abroad, as well as up-to-date travel warnings and precautions. Please take the time to look over the information before your departure at travel.state.gov and www.osac.gov. Select “International Travel” for information before you go on specific countries, while abroad, and emergencies.

Health Tips & Resources

Before you leave to study abroad, it is wise to have dental, vision, and physical check-ups. If you wear glasses or contact lenses, be sure to take extra pairs, along with your prescription. People with medical problems which are not readily recognizable (e.g. diabetes, allergic reactions to antibiotics or bee stings, heart conditions, epilepsy, etc.) should consider obtaining a medical alert identification tag from a doctor or pharmacy as they are more likely to be internationally recognized.

If you need medical help while abroad, contact your host university health center, program provider, insurance company, or the U.S. Consulate for a list of local doctors who speak English. If you have a chronic health problem, create a treatment and emergency plan with your physician before going abroad.

Food

Everyone reacts differently to new foods, eating habits, and new environments. Remember it may take a few weeks for your body to adjust to the new cuisine you will be eating. Tasting new foods is half the fun of learning more about the culture, though you may want to carry a few over-the-counter medications from home such as aspirin, Tums, Pepto Bismol, or Lactaid if you are lactose intolerant. Read the food section of any travel guide for recommendations of national dishes to try, but be aware of standards of cleanliness and water quality. Especially in developing countries, eat where others are eating, avoid street food, drink sealed bottle water, avoid drinks with ice cubes, eat only cooked vegetables, and fruits that you can peel.

Immunizations

Foreign countries often require certain immunizations that you would not normally have during a physical examination in the U.S. For information about which immunizations are needed for specific regions of the world, please contact the Center for Disease Control National Immunization hotline at (800) CDC-INFO (232-4636) or online at www.cdc.gov. Travel Health of Williamsburg (757) 220-9008 is also qualified to give up-to-date, expert advice on recommended immunizations for all parts of the world. You may also wish to check the World Health Organization for detailed listing of problems in specific countries.

It is a good idea and sometimes necessary to make sure that your childhood vaccines for measles, mumps, rubella, and diphtheria are current before going abroad. It is advisable to carry a copy of your immunizations at all times in case of emergency. *Please schedule a meeting with the W&M Health Center prior to study abroad to review your immunization records and discuss health and wellness while on study abroad.*

Medications

If you know you will require medication while traveling abroad, speak with your doctor about your travel plans and obtain a full supply before you leave. Make sure you have enough to last for the duration of your stay because you may not be able to find the same medication overseas. You should carry up-to-date prescriptions and a statement from your doctor, especially if you will be carrying insulin, a syringe, or any narcotic drug. In addition, it is useful to know the generic names or compositions of your medicine as they may be sold under a different name in your destination country. Check with the embassy of your destination country about the legality of bringing medicines with you. **Keep all vital medicines in original packaging and documentation in your carry-on luggage.** This will ensure a constant supply if your luggage is lost or delayed. You may want to buy a medical alert bracelet if you have a specific medical condition that requires regular injections or allergies to certain medications.

Quick Reference Resources

Center for Disease Control and Prevention: www.cdc.gov

World Health Organization: www.who.int

International Association for Medical Assistance for Travelers (IAMAT): <https://www.iamat.org/general-resources#planningtools> This website will direct you to English speaking physicians around the world.

preparing to go abroad

Sexual Health & Relationships Abroad

American understanding of sexuality, sexual activity, dating, and relationships is informed by dominant social and cultural norms. It is important to keep in mind that other cultures have varying perspectives on what constitutes normative sexuality and dating, some of which may differ significantly from what you are used to in the United States. Take some time to do a little research about the laws and cultural norms in your host country surrounding relationships, dating, and public displays of affection, among both same-sex and opposite-sex couples.

Dating Culture

In other cultures, dating rituals may be different than what you are used to. For example, dating in groups is much more common in some cultures than individual dating, which is reserved for serious, long-term relationships. Sex may or may not be a common component of dating in your host country. As in the United States, acceptance of interracial couples or same-sex couples varies by region and religious affiliation; some places are very accepting, while others do not widely accept either. A little research in advance will give you a general sense of dating practices in your host country and may help offset possible misunderstandings and uncomfortable or unsafe situations.

Safer Sex

Sexually-active students should request extra supplies of birth control/contraception from your healthcare provider to cover your entire stay abroad. If you are unable to do so, you should research a local physician/pharmacy in your host country. Make sure to inquire about cost and prescription requirements, etc. Contraception may not be as readily available or reliable abroad, and it's best to arrive prepared. In America, condom production and packaging is monitored by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. This is not the case in all countries, so it's best to bring condoms from home. Do not plan to have birth control medication sent to you abroad, as it will probably be confiscated.

As in the United States, STI/STDs and HIV/AIDS exist abroad. Be aware that in some regions, HIV/AIDS is more prevalent than others. There are countries in which well over 25% of adults are HIV-positive. In some regions, STI/STDs and birth control are not discussed publicly and are widely misunderstood. Safer sex practices are not as prevalent in many countries and that this makes it even more important to discuss with potential partners before getting in an unsafe position. You may find it challenging to find a healthcare center that offers STI/STD testing, so conduct research ahead of time, and keep yourself informed.

Even though these suggestions lead to safer sex, the only guaranteed form of prevention for STI/STDs and pregnancy is abstinence. If you choose to be sexually active while abroad, please take control of your sexual health; only you can keep yourself safe. Country/region statistics can be found at: <https://www.avert.org/global-hiv-and-aids-statistics>.

If you or someone you know has been sexually assaulted while abroad, please contact: W&M Police at +1-757-221-4596. You will be transferred to someone at the Reves Center, who is not a confidential responder. We will work with you to find a confidential resource on campus.

- ☐ **Your resident director, program provider, or international office at the host university**
- ☐ **The Global Education Office (Monday-Friday, 8 am to 5 pm EST) +001 (757) 221-3594**
- ☐ **W&M Campus Police (24/7) +001 (757) 221-4596**

In addition, you can find immediate resources on [W&M's Survivors of Sexual Violence - Information and Resources website](#). [The Counseling Center](#) also has counselors on call 24/7 who are there to help. During non-W&M office hours, you can also reach the afterhours ProtoCall system at +001 (757) 221-3620. Students can also contact [The Haven](#), a confidential, welcoming safe place for those impacted by sexual violence and harassment at 1-757-221-2449 or thehaven@wm.edu. The Haven provides trauma-informed crisis response and support.

safety while abroad

Studying abroad will expose you to all kinds of new and exciting experiences. Though this is a time of broadening your horizons, we ask that you exercise caution in order to be as safe as possible while overseas. Please ask the Global Education Office staff before your departure if you have questions concerning safety abroad.

Travel Advisories

When the Department of State issues a travel warning for a specific country this indicates a level of risk that is of concern. Please contact the Director of Global Education smmitt@wm.edu if you are considering applying to a Department of State level 3 or 4 country to find out about processes and limitations. Students wishing to study abroad in a country with a level 3 or 4 travel advisory must apply to W&M and receive approval of their travels prior to going abroad. Without approval, students may not register to study abroad and cannot receive credit for study abroad, should they go independently. Visit our website: <https://www.wm.edu/offices/revescenter/geo/studyabroad/resources/healthsafety/index.php> for more details.

Before Departing the U.S.

Before you leave home, you should make copies of your passport, driver's license, CISI card, traveler's checks, health insurance cards, and credit cards, making note especially of their customer service numbers, including the number to call from the country you will be in. Keep the copies and information separate from your wallet. Also, be sure to leave copies of all documents at home with family. Bring only those documents which you will need abroad and leave unnecessary ones at home. Leave a detailed itinerary with family or friends in the U.S., so they can contact you if necessary. Remember to back up your laptop before going abroad. If you work with sensitive research or if you will be traveling to a country where internet security is a cause for concern, consider taking your laptop to the IT department to have it "scrubbed" before and after your travel.

The Global Education Office strongly recommends purchasing/ensuring personal property insurance for laptops and other valuables. Try not to bring unnecessary valuables with you abroad; however, if you do, be sure to pack them in your carry-on bag.

While Traveling

When traveling to, around, or outside your host country, please remember the following tips:

- Do not leave luggage unattended.
- Do not accept packages from strangers.
- Airline regulations require that checked luggage remain unlocked or be locked with a universal lock that can be opened by airport security. Before checking and after picking up your luggage, keep it locked and have your name and address clearly labeled on each piece. Place labels on the interior and exterior of your bag.
- Be aware of weight limitations on checked bags for all flights.
- Know at least key phrases in the local language, so that you can ask for help or assistance when you need it. If you have food allergies, be sure you know how to communicate these in the local language.
- Carry a bank/debit card in addition to a small amount of cash in the local currency.
- Always be aware of your surroundings and avoid areas that may be particularly unsafe.
- Pay attention to the safety advice given to you in your host program or university's orientation.
- Speak to your on-site program coordinator or resident director about which areas to avoid.
- Always leave detailed itineraries at home and with host families, friends, and program organizers when traveling outside of your host city, even for a day or weekend trip.

Petty Theft

Petty theft is always a problem in urban locations around the world, but there are common sense precautions that you can take to minimize your risk of being targeted.

- Try to blend in. Foreigners are favorite targets of pickpockets; the less conspicuous you make yourself, the less attractive they will find you. In particular, t-shirts, shorts, baseball caps, and speaking loudly in English in public can act as markers that you are a student from the U.S.
- Do not make a habit of carrying extra money and cards with you. If you are not planning to use them, leave them in a secure place. The same holds true for your personal documents: IDs, driver's license, passport, etc. Always have a copy of your passport with you, but the passport itself should stay at home unless required by local law or you anticipate needing it (to check into a hotel, for instance).
- Never keep all your funds and/or valuables together in one place.

safety while abroad

- Carry your valuables inside your clothes, never in your back pockets. Particularly when you are in a crowd or public transit, purses can be snatched by thieves on mopeds, purse and camera straps can be easily cut, and backpacks can be slit and emptied without you even noticing.
- Do not leave bags unattended. When you are seated at outdoor tables, keep purse or pack straps looped around an arm or an ankle to keep them from being easily snatched.
- Be on guard if groups of people act strangely around you. Thieves often work together and try to confuse or distract their target. Don't be fooled by appearances. Some professional thieves look quite respectable, and some are children!
- Keep in mind that thieves often wait near night clubs and bars popular with foreigners, particularly Americans, and target individuals who've had too much to drink.
- When residing in a hotel, always keep your door locked. When staying in a hostel, keep your valuables under your pillow or in a money belt around your waist while sleeping – not in a bag on the floor. Carry a lock with you, as many hostels provide lockers for their residents.
- Be aware of your surroundings at all times, especially when talking on your cell phone; alcohol use also increases your risk.

Be aware that loss of property, whether through negligence, theft, or fire, is your own responsibility. William & Mary cannot replace lost, damaged, or stolen money or goods. Purchasing personal property insurance prior to your study abroad trip is therefore very important.

Being Abroad as a Woman: Avoiding Harassment

Know that other countries have varying cultural, social, and legal issues concerning gender roles, social relationships, and dating rituals. Women traveling abroad, in particular, may receive unsolicited attention in certain countries, such as being followed and heckled by strangers. There is a negative stereotype that American women particularly are promiscuous. These encounters are usually more uncomfortable than unsafe, but it's best to be aware as to be prepared. Here are some general safety tips to keep these annoyances to a minimum.

- Dress conservatively, in a less obviously American fashion. Take note of how local women dress and interact with strangers and copy their dress and demeanor.
- Move briskly and avoid eye contact or smiles with men you do not know. This may seem rude but being friendly with strangers can result in unwanted attention.
- Be firm and assertive in your language. Do not try to be polite, as this may encourage unwanted advances.
- Respect your instincts; if you have a bad feeling about a place or situation, avoid it, even at the risk of seeming rude.
- Travel in groups with male students, especially in unfamiliar parts of town. When meeting friends, arrange to meet at a public place (e.g. a café or a store) in order to avoid having to stand idle and alone. If you find yourself in such a situation, such as at a train station, stand near groups or families.
- Never go out at night alone (or even in small, all-female groups). Make your arrangements for getting home safely ahead of time.
- Ask a female who you trust in your host family or host institution for advice on social norms, etc.
- Please do not accept drinks from strangers. Do not leave your drink unattended.
- Speak with your onsite program coordinator or contact the Global Education Office if you have questions or concerns.

safety while abroad

Emergency Contact Information

We hope that you have a rewarding and safe experience while studying abroad but know that sometimes emergency situations do occur. In the event of an emergency, call the equivalent number of 911 for your host country (unless otherwise instructed by your program), then contact:

- Your resident director or host university
- The Global Education Office (Monday-Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. EST) +001 (757) 221-3594
- W&M Campus Police (24/7) +001 (757) 221-4596

Keep these numbers in your wallet or with you at all times so you will have them when needed. W&M numbers are on the emergency card given to you at pre-departure orientation. If you are studying in a non-English speaking country, please translate “I wish to call the US Embassy” (or your country’s embassy if not a US citizen) in the host country language on the front of the card.

William and Mary **Emergency Contact Card**



William and Mary Police Department (24 Hrs)

Emergency calls directed to appropriate contact

757-221-4596

Global Education Office (8am to 5pm, weekdays) 757-221-3594

I wish to call the US Embassy (translation) _____

while abroad

Confirmation of Courses Form (Semester or Year Students Only)

Soon after you have registered for your courses, you must complete a Confirmation of Courses and Address Verification form from the post-acceptance portion of your study abroad registration, at <http://studyabroad.wm.edu>. The form not only indicates the courses for which you are registered and confirms your status as a full-time enrolled student, but also provides us with your contact information at your study abroad location. It is important for you to complete the form, obtain your Program Director's signature, and then email, scan, take a photo with your cell phone, upload to the student portal, or mail it as soon as possible so that we are able to contact you in the event of an emergency. **If you do not return this form promptly, a hold will be placed on your W&M account, and you will be unable to register for the following semester's courses.**

Full-Time Course Load Requirement (Semester or Year Students Only)

Undergraduate students studying abroad are required to take and complete an equivalent full-time course load unless they have been approved by the Dean of Students for an under load. A full course load is the equivalent of 12 W&M credits (US credits) per semester and it is your responsibility to understand how the credits at your host institution convert to W&M credits (US credits).

Registering with the U.S. Embassy

If you are a U.S. citizen, it is recommended that you register with the U.S. Embassy or Consulate prior to arrival in your host country. Registration makes your presence known and enables a consular official to contact you in case of an emergency. Registration is especially important for those who will be traveling to a country that is experiencing civil unrest, has an unstable political climate, or may experience a natural disaster such as an earthquake or a hurricane. Your whereabouts will not be released to inquirers without your written authorization. Register at <http://travelregistration.state.gov>. If you are not a U.S. citizen, please register with your home country's embassy. If you plan to travel to other countries, be sure to register online, even for short trips.

Cultural Adjustment & Coping Strategies

Culture shock affects different individuals in different ways and with varying degrees of severity. Its manifestations may include some or all of the following symptoms: homesickness, boredom, withdrawal, loneliness, irritability, excessive sleep or inability to sleep, compulsive eating or drinking, not eating, stereotyping of host nationals, hostility towards host nationals, unexplained fits of weeping, and an inability to work effectively.

Know that what you are feeling is a normal part of cultural adjustment. Varying degrees of these reactions are common, and will pass with time. Meanwhile, here are some strategies to help you cope with the symptoms of culture shock:

- Research customs and traditions of your host country. The more you understand your host culture, the smoother your transition will be.
- Accept that daily life will be different. Daily experiences like navigating public transportation and grocery shopping may seem uncomfortable and frustrating but try to go with the flow and appreciate the differences.
- Embrace the difficult moments as learning experiences. This can be difficult, but we grow most in our moments of discomfort, so take time to reflect on what's bothering you.
- Try not to reinforce negative stereotypes of Americans. Many cultures consider Americans to be loud, obnoxious, presumptuous, and unable to drink sensibly. Observe how the locals interact with one another, etiquette, rules, and dress codes. Blending in will make you feel more comfortable and less like an outsider.
- Talk to other students, your resident director, or the local staff at the host university about your feelings, but not to the extent of dwelling on them.
- Bring some of "home" with you, such as your favorite books, movies, and music, pictures of loved ones, your favorite recipe and non-perishable items you may need to create it. Be aware of custom regulations in your host country for bringing food.
- Maintain a healthy "social media" balance. Limit the amount of time checking social media and on fnds and family at home.
- Make new friends! Try not to insulate yourself only with Americans.
- Be open to new experiences.
- Keep track of how you are feeling and what you are learning. You can do this by maintaining a journal or blog, corresponding with friends from home, using other media such as photography, drawing, or painting to express your feelings. Try to make this activity a regular part of your daily routine.
- Try to maintain important elements of your daily routine from home; if you exercise regularly, try to find a place where you can continue that regimen, etc.
- Please consider using TimelyCare, an online therapy site available 7 days a week/24 hours. www.timelycare.com
- If you continue to struggle with adjusting to your host country and culture, talk with your resident director, program provider or international office staff member at your host university to find out what resources are available for you.

while abroad

Living with a Host Family

Life with a host family in a foreign country can be one of the most elucidating and immersive components of a study abroad experience, as long as you keep an open mind and remember that you are a guest in someone's home. Try always to be polite, respectful, and helpful. Here are some tips to keep in mind:

- Take note and be respectful of your family's customs, mealtimes, and hours.
- Greet your host family upon arriving home; ask about their day, etc.
- Do not walk around in your bare feet if others do not. Wear shoes (if your host country's customs allow), slippers, or flip-flops.
- Some cultures have specific customs about using certain rooms in the home, particularly in the kitchen. Make sure you understand and follow their rules.
- Electricity and hot water can be very expensive and unreliable. Do not leave the lights on if you are not in the room and try not to take long showers. In many areas, using multiple electric items at once (hair dryer, laptop, etc.) will blow a fuse. In many countries, laundry is also expensive and done less frequently. Be sure to understand your options and family's customs.
- In some cultures, it is not common to have guests over; people tend to socialize in cafes, bars, and restaurants. Make sure you ask permission to bring guests over to your host family's home, or simply agree to meet friends elsewhere.
- Make the most of your time with your host family to practice the language, learn more about the culture, etc.
- Be respectful of your family by letting them know where you are going and when you plan to return, especially if it is overnight, a weekend, or several days, or simply if you'll miss a meal.
- Always leave your space in good order; it is considered a sign of great disrespect to leave beds unmade, clothes on the floor, the bathroom in disarray, etc.

Registering for Next Semester Courses (Semester or Year Abroad Students Only)

Registration for W&M courses while you are abroad (for the semester you return) operates the same way it does when you are on campus. Using the PATH system, you will be able to register during your registration block just as if you were on campus.

Check Your Registration Status

Check your registration status in prior to registration. Ideally, you will have taken care of any holds on your record prior to departure. In the event that holds still exist, contact the office that placed the hold, and meet the conditions of the hold as soon as possible so that it does not prevent you from registering for classes. DegreeWorks will also show you how many institutional and transfer hours you currently have, as well as your current curriculum.

Procedures for Registration

PATH registration information will be sent to students' W&M email accounts approximately two weeks prior to the beginning of registration, but you can read about the process ahead of time on the University Registrar's website. Registration for fall semester takes place in late March or early April; registration for spring semester will happen in late October or early November.

Course Schedule

The course schedule (www.wm.edu/offices/registrar/coursecatalogschedules/courseschedules) is a live course listing, meaning you will be able to see course changes as they are made by academic departments. Changes include, but are not limited to, instructor, capacity, location, and/or course cancellation.



Celebrating July 4th with ice cream in the W&M 2013 Cape Town program

returning to W&M

Post-Approval of Course Credit

If you take a course abroad that was not approved before you left, you will need to request **post-approval** to receive William & Mary credit. This may happen if you change your schedule abroad or if a department is unable to review a course before your program begins.

Follow the same process as pre-approval.

Ensure you save all course materials from the class, including: Course descriptions, Syllabi, Reading lists, Papers and assignments, Exams, Any other course-related materials

Final Transcripts

William & Mary cannot evaluate or post transfer credit until an official final transcript is received from your host institution.

Arrange for an **official transcript** to be sent directly from the host institution to GEO either digitally or hard copy.

- Digital Transcripts can be sent to abroadtranscript@wm.edu
- Hard copy transcripts can be mailed to:

*GEO Study Abroad Transcript Coordinator
Reves Center for International Studies
William & Mary
PO Box 8795
Williamsburg, VA 23187-8795
UNITED STATES*

If your transcript is mailed to your home address, **do not open the envelope**. Bring the sealed envelope to the Global Education Office. Opened transcripts cannot be accepted, and you will need to request a new official transcript from your host institution.

Get Involved

Whether you have just returned to campus from time overseas or are looking forward to the day you study abroad, you can promote your own international education right here at William & Mary. We encourage you to get involved in some of the many international opportunities offered at W&M and meet others who share your passion for international education.

There are several volunteer and paid opportunities in the Global Education Office, including but not limited to; study abroad peer advisor, study abroad student advisory board (SASAB), peer orientation leader for international students, assistance with the Study Abroad Fair during Family Weekend, mentoring future study abroad students by helping with pre-departure orientation and participating in information sessions for the country or program where you studied.

In addition, the Reves Center always welcomes photographs, and videos. Contact kjhoving@wm.edu for more information.

returning to W&M

Reverse Culture Shock

Be aware that you may also experience culture shock upon your return home; indeed, for many students this transition is more difficult than the adjustment to life abroad. For some students, this process begins even before leaving their host country. Feelings of loss are common, as you prepare to leave your friends and life abroad. Readjusting to life at home may be difficult, and you may feel isolated since people at home may not be able to relate to or express much interest in your experience. You may also struggle with an idealized view of home, expecting everything to be exactly the same as when you left, which may not be a reality. It is also common to feel a loss of independence and to miss life abroad intensely.

If you experience reverse culture shock, it is important to remember that, in time, things will slowly fall back into place and you will feel more at home in your home country and at W&M. To ease your transition, look for ways to pursue your international interests and meet people who have had experiences similar to your own. Get involved in some of the many internationally focused clubs, organizations, and programs William & Mary has to offer.

Contact the Global Education Office at the Reves Center to learn about re-entry programming and the opportunities we have to offer for you to put your international experience to good use! Consider applying for a Study Abroad Peer Advisor position or Study Abroad Student Advisory Board. Typically, applications are available in late February or early March for work during the following academic year. Contact your study abroad advisor for more information.

Nevertheless, you may still find that you see things differently after studying abroad... which, in fact, is the purpose of the experience. Time you spend abroad – and the people you meet while there – have the power to change and challenge your attitudes, beliefs, and perspectives; embrace these changes and find ways to integrate them into your life.

Keeping Up With the Reves Center for International Studies

Like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter!

Facebook: www.facebook.com/internationalwm

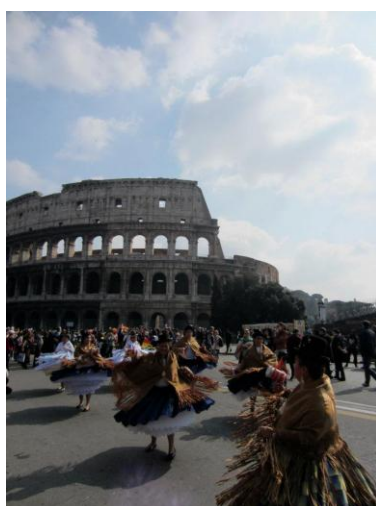
Twitter: @InternationalWM

Instagram.com/wmabroad

Youtbe.com/RevesCenterWM

Pinterest.com/wmreves

What in the World?! Weekly Email Digest: <https://lists.wm.edu/wws/info/reveslistserv>



university contacts

W&M Global Education Office in the Reves Center

P.O. Box 8795
Williamsburg, VA 23187-8795
200 S. Boundary Street
Williamsburg, VA 23185
Phone: 001 (757) 221-3594
Fax: 001 (757) 221-3597

Campus Police: (24/7): 001 (757) 221-4596

Campus Police will always know how to reach the on-call staff member from the Global Education Office and Reves Center at any time.

www.wm.edu/studyabroad/

Program selection questions: peeradvisors@wm.edu

Global Education/Study Abroad Staff

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