



Study Abroad

Taking your studies abroad will open a range of new experiences and opportunities to you while seeing the world and furthering your career prospects. You will need to do an incredible amount of planning, and you must be willing to do much of the legwork yourself.

In pursuit of higher education, the world has become a global classroom offering an array of opportunities for students to explore new horizons, and access to the right information can make all the difference.

You should begin with your research 12-18 months before you travel - this will give you enough time to sort out your applications, any funding required, student visas that may be required to study in your chosen country, course fees, any study exchange programmes and more. It is vital that you think about the important, bureaucratic things that will help make your time abroad run as smoothly as possible.

Read on to look at the study abroad checklist:

Choose where you want to study - decide where you would like to study and research all your shortlisted educational establishments to discover which ones would be right for you by visiting university websites, looking at social media and talking to teachers/lecturers, family, tutors, and your career practitioner.

Choose your course - to help you find the right course to study abroad, think about what subjects you enjoy studying at school/college or sixth form. You could consider your hobbies, could this be something you would like to study at university? Think of your career goals - if you know what you want to do after you graduate, choose a degree course that will provide you with the academic knowledge and skillset to progress.

Paperwork – when you are ready to apply to a university overseas, there are several documents you will need to get together to make your application. These include your results certificates (if you have not received them, you should give your predicted grades). A letter of recommendation or reference, usually from one of your teachers/lecturers, and your personal statement that outlines your interest.

When getting prepared it is also a good idea to make copies of all of your personal identification including your passport and travel documents, insurance information and so on. Ensure you also have a supply of ID sized photos to take with you which may come in useful for student cards and travel passes abroad. It is also good practice to keep the contact details for your course provider and contact information for the British embassy or consulate in your chosen overseas destination in case you need any support, or your plans change.

Passport - you need to ensure that your passport will remain valid for the duration of your study abroad programme. Many countries will require you to have at least six months extra on your passport beyond the end of your studies, so make sure you allow for your study time, any additional travelling time, plus an additional six months.

Visa – To study abroad you will likely need a student visa. Some schools will assist with the visa process but if you are unable to get help make sure you secure a student visa yourself as soon as possible. If you are obtaining a visa yourself, you will need to contact the embassy or consulate of your country of study and get advice on the application process. Requirements of a student visa will vary from country to country and the duration of your time so be sure to check University websites and the national immigration and visa agencies. In some cases, you may also need a residence permit. Some good information can be found on the UCAS website:

<https://wwwucas.com/undergraduate/what-and-where-study/studying-abroad/general-visa-and-immigration-information-studying-abroad>



Finance - Overseas tuition fees vary widely, with some countries charging very high fees for international students. Discuss funding options with your chosen university as there may be scholarships and bursaries available to help with the costs. Do not ignore your living expenses and travel (including airfares) - these things should be factored into your finances. Some university websites provide estimates of your outgoings so use these resources to your advantage.

Some universities also take advantage of the Turing Scheme which can also help with funding if you are eligible. This can help with travel costs and tuition fees are expected to be waived by host universities (or in some cases universities pay part of your tuition). This will differ from university to university, so it is worth double checking to be sure. It is also important to note that while scholarships, bursaries, and schemes can help with funding, you should expect some personal cost and careful planning is key. For more information on the Turing Scheme see: <https://www.turing-scheme.org.uk/>

Before you leave it is worth double checking you have the details for your UK bank accounts and if your bank account will charge for overseas transactions. Currency cards or 'travel cards' are another popular option with students studying abroad – these are similar to a debit card but are pre-loaded with the currency you will need abroad and you are able to pay for goods this way directly with no foreign exchange fees.

Cultural Awareness/Research - The first thing to do is research your destination. Speak to people you know who have visited the country, read about the country and seek tips and advice from the university website. It can be helpful to learn the cultural values of the country you are going to study in. Learning some of the country's basic history, politics, national events and what the weather will be like can all help with cultural adjustment in your new home. Learn some language basics e.g. 'hello', 'goodbye', 'please' and 'thanks you'.

Health & Insurance - Visit your doctor for a full medical check-up before you go, making sure you've had any required vaccinations. Ensure you sort out ongoing prescriptions with your GP too. Many universities around the world require proof of your insurance before you arrive in the country. There are options available - from essential cover to more extensive alternatives. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/study-in-the-european-union>

International Student Identity Card - If you are a full-time student you can apply for a student card with ISIC. ISIC offers both virtual and plastic cards, allowing students around the world to instantly prove their official student status and access over 150,000 student discounts and offers worldwide.

Useful Websites:

<https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/international/studying-abroad>

<https://www.thescholarshipub.org.uk/blog/study-abroad-scholarships-uk-students>

<https://www.topuniversities.com/student-info/studying-abroad>

<https://www.studyoptions.com>

<https://www.britishcouncil.org/study-work-abroad>

<http://www.fulbright.org.uk>

<https://www.astarfuture.co.uk>

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/postgraduate-study/study-abroad>

<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/what-and-where-study/studying-overseas>

<https://www.goabroad.com/study-abroad>

<https://studee.com/discover/the-ultimate-guide-to-studying-abroad-as-a-uk-student>

<https://www.gov.uk/global-health-insurance-card>

<https://www.worldtrips.com/blog/Posts/study-abroad-checklist>

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