



**N** Northeastern University  
Global Experience

# Academics in Traditional Study Abroad Resource Guide



**Pre-Departure**







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# Pre-Departure



## Benefits of Study Abroad

There are numerous benefits to studying abroad. If you're reading this, you may already be aware of some of them. Begin your study abroad journey by clearly defining your goals, which may include the following benefits:

- ▶ **Studying abroad improves creativity:** Studies indicate that studying abroad enhances creativity by stimulating new and diverse ways of thinking.
  - Are you hoping to gain creativity, expression, and flexibility while abroad? If so, map out some goals.
- ▶ **Studying abroad can lead to improved career prospects, time to graduation, GPA, and other positive personal and professional outcomes:** A recent large-scale study, sponsored by the Institute of International Education, showed that studying abroad contributed to these favorable outcomes.
  - Are these your goals? If so, think about how you will achieve them while also achieving other goals.
- ▶ **Studying abroad improves personal development, relationship building and intercultural and diversity learning:** Several studies have examined gains for individuals and groups in these areas.
  - Are these your goals? If so, how will you achieve them?



## How to Start Planning for a Global Experience

At Northeastern, you have many opportunities to participate in a global experience, and it can be overwhelming to know where to begin. This guide is specifically about Study Abroad and Exchanges (SAE), but know that there are many other options such as Dialogue of Civilizations and Global Co-Ops.

When you participate in a traditional study abroad program at Northeastern, you can study during the fall term, spring term, or the two summer terms. Remember, the academic courses you'll undertake during your time abroad are as crucial and integral to your experience as those you take at Northeastern.

Before we get started, here are some basics to keep in mind:

### Course Availability and Relevance

Your academic degree plan should guide your choice of study abroad programs. In the following section, you'll find instructions on how to use our course equivalency database to find programs and courses that meet your academic needs. This will help keep you on track for academic progression and graduation.

## Cultural and Academic Adaptability

Grades and grading structures vary around the world. Some universities use a 4.0 GPA calculator, while others use 5.0 or even a 20-point scale. Some study abroad programs offer all of their courses in English even in places where English is not the primary language, while others offer intensive language courses or allow you to take courses in another language where you have prior proficiency. At Northeastern, there's an expectation that your courses will feature a combination of formative (small assignments and check points) and summative assessments (big exams and projects at the end of a term or unit), while in other countries it's common for a course to only have one or two cumulative exams. When you start looking at study abroad options available to you through Northeastern, take a moment to consider the academic grading, rigor, and assessment structure at your program of interest along with your learning style, strengths, and weaknesses as a student, and personal, professional, and academic goals. By properly researching the educational systems abroad and by setting clear and achievable goals, you can set yourself up for a successful term abroad with long-lasting benefits.

## Course Equivalencies

Each course taken at your host institution needs a Northeastern equivalency. If there is no existing equivalency, you must submit the course for evaluation to determine how the host course will be transferred into your Northeastern academic record. Northeastern uses a one-to-one course equivalency philosophy where each course that is taken abroad must be evaluated by a faculty in the relevant department and assigned an equivalent Northeastern course. Each equivalency is then added to the [course equivalency database](#) and is relevant for all students who take the course abroad. Later in this document, there are instructions on how to use the course equivalency database.

Please note that some courses do not have a parallel academic program at Northeastern University, so these courses may be deemed “no transfer.” Northeastern students are not approved to take courses deemed “no transfer;” therefore, you should not register for a course listed as “no transfer” while abroad.

## Grades and Credit Conversions

Each course that you take abroad is assigned a grade and a number of credits, just like they are at Northeastern. These courses and credits will count toward your academic degree plan, and your grades factor into your Northeastern GPA. However, because universities around the world award grades and credit in a variety of ways, the credit and grades for your courses abroad are converted to the Northeastern credit and grade system. The good news is that we've already done that for you! You just need to check out the “academics” tab on the SAE programs search database to understand how many Northeastern credits your courses abroad are equal to and how the grades that you earn abroad will be converted to Northeastern grades to be calculated into your Northeastern GPA. All courses on your study abroad transcript must be transferred back to Northeastern; this includes courses in which you earn failing grades and withdrawal grades.

## Important Notes:

- ▶ Courses deemed “no transfer” will not factor into this full-time credit load.
- ▶ If you take an overload of credits your billing will be updated accordingly.
- ▶ The university views courses taken on an approved study abroad program as residency credit and these credits count toward the minimum of 64 Northeastern semester hours to receive a bachelor’s degree. Northeastern does not treat study abroad credits as transfer credits.

## Differences in Program Types

There are different program models for studying abroad. Programs are grouped based on the model of student exchange and the amount of support and services provided to Northeastern students while abroad. Keep in mind that within the categories of program types, there can be significant variation. When choosing a program type, it is important to align your goals, interests, comfort level, and available courses with the programs you identify.

**Exchange Programs:** The programs are established between Northeastern and host universities using bilateral or multi-lateral agreements. A specific number of Northeastern students are approved to “swap” spaces with students at a host university. These programs have limited spots available and may be more competitive than other program types. Generally, exchange programs serve students who are more independent, self-starters, and comfortable advocating for themselves. In this type of program, students handle a significant number of administrative tasks, including applying for the program, securing a visa, choosing courses, and (sometimes) finding housing. Students take classes with local and full-degree students, with access to university services and spaces. Learning occurs within local academic policies, grading styles, and teaching philosophies. Grades and credits are transferred back to Northeastern using the course equivalency database.

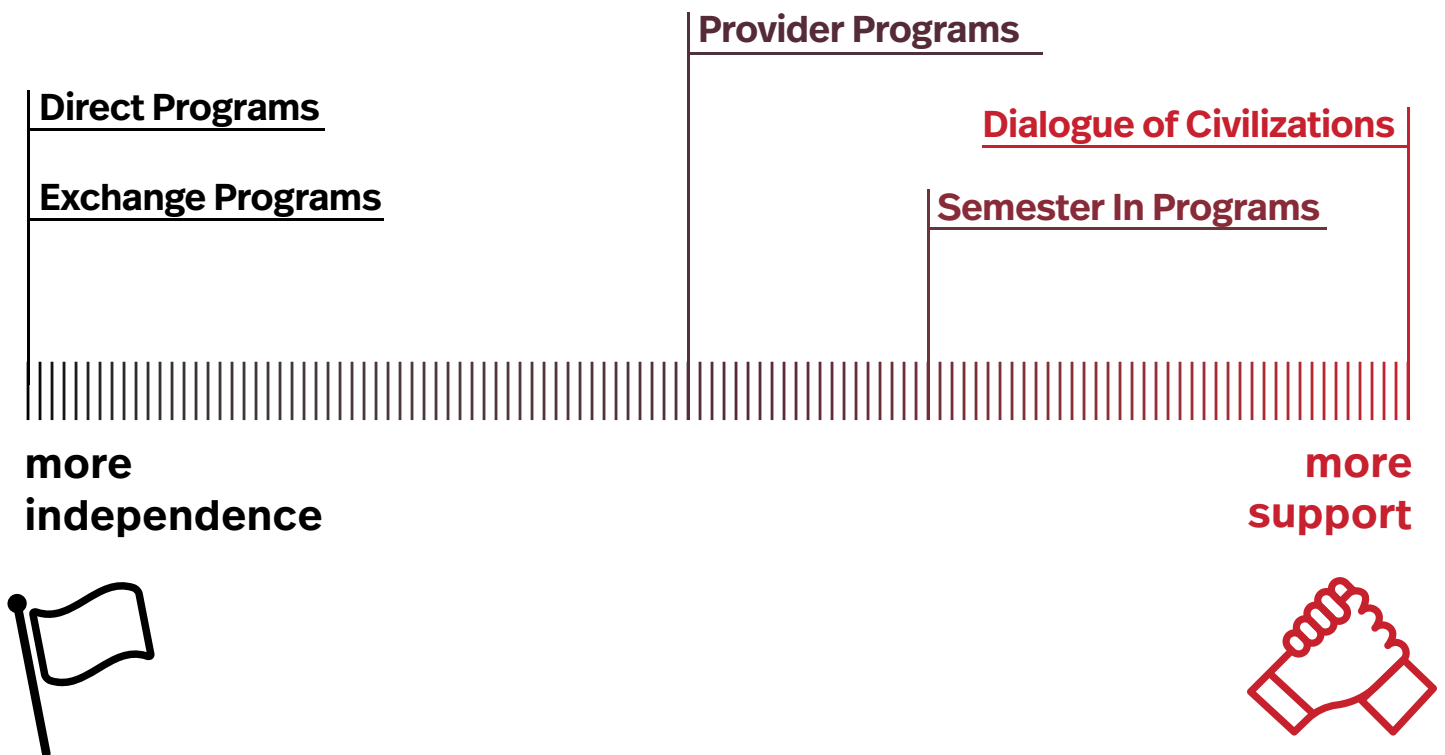
**Direct Programs:** These programs are established between Northeastern and host universities using bilateral or multi-lateral agreements. These programs may have limited spots available and may be more competitive than provider programs (*see below*). Direct programs serve students who are independent, self-starters, and comfortable advocating for themselves. Students handle many administrative tasks including applying for the program, securing a visa, choosing courses, and (sometimes) finding housing. Students take classes with local and full-degree students, with access to university services and spaces. Learning occurs within local academic policies, grading styles, and teaching philosophies. Grades and credits are transferred back to Northeastern using the course equivalency database.

**Provider Programs:** These programs are facilitated by third-party providers (companies or organizations) specializing in student mobility. The provider either offers courses through their independently run study center or facilitates student enrollment at a local university. Provider programs afford students a “softer landing” with more support and guidance, particularly during pre-departure and the initial stages of their semester or summer abroad. These programs offer onsite orientations, co-curricular and excursion programming, manage housing and support administrative tasks associated with studying abroad. Generally, students from across the United States will comprise the program cohort. There may be limited or no integration with local students. Academically, students take classes with their cohort

or at a local university potentially with local students and other cohorts. Depending on the program, students may be graded with local policies or on a US scale. There is a wide range of teaching philosophies and course availabilities, but they tend to serve the needs of US study abroad students. Grades and credits are transferred back to Northeastern using the course equivalency database.

**Dialogue of Civilizations Programs:** These programs are part of the Faculty-Led Programming (FLP) available to Northeastern students. Dialogues run during the Summer 1 and Summer 2 terms. Students are enrolled in Northeastern courses along with other Northeastern students that are taught by Northeastern faculty members. Grading is completed by Northeastern faculty just like grading for courses taught at Northeastern campuses.

**Semester In Programs:** These programs are offered at Northeastern’s global campuses and with strategic global partners. Each program has a targeted academic and experiential focus, and students take Northeastern courses with other Northeastern students.







## Timeline and Expectations for Study Abroad and Exchanges

step  
**1**

Attend a GEO Study Abroad Information Session – check the [website](#) for dates and times.

step  
**2**

Chat with a GEO Global Ambassador (student alum) about their experiences and suggestions – email [geo@northeastern.edu](mailto:geo@northeastern.edu) to schedule an appointment.

step  
**3**

Look over your Degree Audit with your academic advisor to identify which term and year are best for your academic progression, and then make a list of the Northeastern courses that you would like to transfer in credit from your study abroad program.

step  
**4**

Use the course equivalency database to narrow down programs and host universities of interest by searching for the academic departments where you have courses of interest. You should have at least three programs of interest.

step  
**5**

Make an appointment with a Study Abroad & Exchanges Advisor using Navigate.

step  
**6+**

Once accepted into your study abroad program, submit any courses lacking an equivalency for evaluation.



## How to Have a Conversation About Study Abroad With Your Academic Advisor

When preparing to study abroad, it's very important to include your academic advisor in the conversation! There are lots of different advisors at Northeastern—for studying abroad, you'll work with your primary academic advisor and a study abroad and exchanges advisor (SAE advisor) from the Global Experience Office team. It's important to keep everyone updated about your study abroad plans. This section provides tips for talking to your academic advisor about studying abroad and how to use your Degree Audit as a tool in those conversations.

### Tips for talking to your academic advisor about studying abroad:

- ▶ Express your interest and plans to study abroad with your academic advisor as soon as possible. This allows more flexibility because you can proactively plan when to take certain courses and which term to go abroad.
- ▶ Work with your advisor to understand where you are in your academic degree before choosing a study abroad program. This will help you to identify courses to take abroad and narrow down the programs that work best to keep you on track for graduation. You can use the information below to better navigate your Degree Audit.
- ▶ Share your goals with your academic advisor when it comes to studying abroad. What excites you? Why does a certain program or location stand out to you? How do you think studying abroad will enhance your academic, personal, and professional goals?



## How to Use Your Degree Audit While Planning to Study Abroad

Degree Audits provide a detailed snapshot of your academic progress that can help you identify which classes you need to complete for your major, minor, or concentration. With this information, you can more efficiently identify study abroad programs that work with your academic degree plan. The Office of the Registrar currently manages degree audit systems for all colleges/schools except CPS graduate programs; however, all student questions should be referred to their college's advising area.

[Here is a link for instructions on how to run a degree audit.](#)

To access your degree audit, search for “**myPAWS Degree Audit**” via the Student Hub > Resources tab > Academics, Classes & Registration > My Degree Audit.

Here are some suggestions to consider when reading your degree audit:

**Course Requirements:** Your Degree Audit lists the specific course requirements for your major, concentration, minor, and general education. This gives you an idea of the courses you have already completed and those you still need to take. You can use this to create a list of courses to look for in the study abroad course database and narrow down your programs of interest list. Please review your potential programs with your academic advisor, and they can tell you which course requirements must be fulfilled on campus versus those that can be taken abroad.



**Electives:** You can also use your Degree Audit to identify elective courses in your degree plan. These can provide more flexibility for identifying study abroad programs. You can use electives to explore new subjects or dive deeper into areas of interest. Make sure you share these interests with both your academic advisor and study abroad advisor.

**Minors and Concentrations:** If you're already pursuing a minor or concentration, check the requirements and available options within your Degree Audit to see which classes can be taken abroad. You can also consider using a study abroad program to add a minor or concentration. This is a great way to complement your major and enhance your academic experience while abroad!

**Look for Overlap:** Look for any overlap between your major requirements and potential minors or concentrations. Study abroad programs often offer courses that count towards multiple academic goals, maximizing your educational opportunities.

**Remember:** While interpreting your Degree Audit, don't hesitate to consult with your academic or study abroad advisors. They're the experts and can help identify classes that align with your study abroad destination and program while ensuring you meet your academic objectives.

By thoroughly understanding your Degree Audit, you can make informed decisions about which courses to take, how they fit into your major or minor requirements, and how to maximize your study abroad experience academically. Your academic advisor is a valuable resource and should be included as you craft an educational plan that seamlessly integrates your international journey.

## **Researching Study Abroad Programs**

Finding the best study abroad program for you is exciting – but it can also feel overwhelming, sporadic, and unorganized. You don't have to do this alone. The SAE advising team is here to support you along with their online resources and Global Ambassadors. We've included some helpful research strategies below, including:

### **Step 1: Creating a Top Choice and Back-Up Choice List**

Some students have a pre-determined program they are eager to join and can get easily frustrated if their dream destination does not work out as planned. Other students are on the opposite end of the spectrum and have too many choices and options. No matter where you fall, try to identify three top choices and three backup choices, based on:

- ▶ **Academic goals and personal goals**
- ▶ **Location and cultural adjustment**
  - This could be country or region-specific, but it could also be thinking about whether you want a small town or a big city. You also might want to seek out a place with a warmer climate, especially if you're looking for a break from Boston's chilly winters!
  - There will be elements of cultural adjustment no matter where you go, but reflect on what degree of similarities or differences you are aiming for in your host community.

## ▶ Language

- **Language of Instruction:** You may want to take classes in Mandarin, Spanish or French, or maybe you want to take classes in English. There are lots of options when it comes to the language of instruction (the language spoken in the classroom). Often you can take classes at a host university in English, even if this is not the primary language in the location.
  - **Language outside the classroom:** There are many options to take classes in English or another of your primary languages; don't let the languages spoken outside the classroom limit your geographic considerations.
- ▶ **Student support systems and type of program** (*direct enrollment in a university, provider-based program, or NU Semester/Summer In programs*):
- As discussed above, different program types offer different levels of support and independence. There are no right or wrong answers, but you are recommended to think practically about what level of support you (and your family) may want and expect from your program abroad.

## Step 2: Identifying Needed Courses

Once your list is created, work with your academic advisor and degree audit to identify courses you will need to take while abroad. While each student's academic plan is different, try to identify a potential schedule that involves:

- ▶ 1–2 courses for your major or minor
- ▶ 1 NUPath course (if necessary)
- ▶ 1 location-based elective or language course

Remember that students are permitted to take one Northeastern course while abroad (online). So, you can swap out one of the courses above for a Northeastern online course. For many students, this course will be Advanced Writing (Advanced Writing in the Disciplines), a typical NUPath/University Writing Requirement course completed in the third year. You must receive permission prior to registering to take an Northeastern online class while abroad from your academic advisor and study abroad advisor.

For most Semester In and Summer In programs, you will enroll directly into Northeastern courses specific to your program. You will choose these courses from a curated menu of course chosen by your college. Refer to the program page and your SAE advisor for these programs.

## Meeting With a Study Abroad Advisor

When meeting with your Study Abroad & Exchanges advisor, the main purpose is to help align your study abroad interests with your professional and academic goals. To make this happen, they'll ask you to do some prep work before your meeting. This includes knowing the following:

- ▶ **Northeastern academics and progression:** Make sure to tell your advisor your degree, department, majors, and minors, as well as what year you are in at Northeastern and when you intend to go abroad.

- ▶ **Programs of interest:** When you book an advising appointment, share the programs you have already researched and potentially align with your academic degree plan. It's often helpful to provide details on why you're excited about the programs that you've identified and why they stood out to you.
- ▶ **Personal goals and interests:** Be sure to share other relevant information with your advisor, such as previous travel or language experience, goals related to professional experiences, or sports and hobbies that are important for you to continue while abroad.

During your appointment, your advisor will help narrow down your options, provide feedback or suggestions of other programs to consider, and talk you through the application and pre-departure process of study abroad.

There is also this handy checklist that you can use to prepare for your advising appointment – and for studying abroad in general: [Study Abroad Checklist](#).



## Study Abroad Course Selection and Evaluation

For traditional study abroad programs, students transfer back their courses from their host university based on course equivalencies that are determined by faculty evaluators in each department. This process is facilitated by the Academic Integration & Planning (AIP) team. Northeastern uses a one-to-one course equivalency policy, where each course taken abroad will have a direct equivalency to a Northeastern course. *This means that when courses are evaluated, they are not evaluated based on a single student's need but on the academic content as it relates to the academic divisions and disciplines at Northeastern.* Therefore, it's very important to research the courses available at your host university and make sure that the courses you take abroad transfer back to Northeastern with equivalencies relevant to your degree requirements.

### How to Choose Courses Abroad and Submit Courses for Evaluation

Before diving into course selection, familiarize yourself with your Degree Audit and meet with your academic advisor to identify the best time to go abroad and the degree requirements and courses best suited to be taken during your time abroad. When narrowing down your programs of interest, you'll want to use the "Academics" tab in Terra Dotta to research the academic courses available at a host university and check the Northeastern equivalency database to see which courses have already been evaluated for a Northeastern equivalent. You will want to simultaneously look at the academic information for your study abroad program and the Northeastern course database.

- ▶ **Traditional Study Abroad Program:** Each study abroad program and host institution has its own policies and procedures for registering international and mobility students. Using the program-specific program page in Terra Dotta, click on the "Academics" tab. On this page, you can learn more about the program or host institution's credit conversions, their academic styles and policies, how to search for their courses, find course syllabi, and an outline of how to register for courses. Study abroad advisors will provide more detailed information about this process in the Post GEO Approval Documents available after students submit their GEO applications and are accepted into a program.



- ▶ **Course Equivalency Database:** This can help narrow down your study abroad program options by looking at existing course equivalencies for a specific host university. If you found a program that aligns with your personal and academic goals but you are interested in courses that have not been evaluated, you can submit additional courses to be evaluated for Northeastern equivalencies. Not all courses taken at a host university have Northeastern equivalencies; some courses will be evaluated as “no transfer.” You cannot take a course evaluated as “no transfer.” Therefore, it’s important to be flexible and intentional. It’s best to start the evaluation process early to know how your courses abroad transfer back to Northeastern. It is your responsibility to confirm your study abroad courses and their corresponding Northeastern equivalents with your academic advisors for approval. Academic advisors will confirm how a Northeastern equivalent fits into your Degree Audit, and if it will fulfill any degree requirements.



### Helpful Tip

In addition to looking for courses abroad that align with the needs of your degree completion, studying abroad can be a great opportunity to try courses outside your discipline, take a course about your host community, or explore a new language.

## How to Use the Course Equivalency Database

Students can check existing course equivalencies with the [Northeastern Study Abroad Transfer Database](#). This database stores all Study Abroad course equivalencies.

- ▶ Students can use this to check the equivalency of a course they have submitted for evaluation.
- ▶ In the drop-down menu, select a host institution, then either sort by department or scroll through the courses drop-down menu for a specific course.

## Submitting Courses for Evaluation

Courses that have not been evaluated should be submitted for evaluation through our submission platform found on the [Study Abroad & Exchanges website](#) under “courses & transcripts” > “submit course for evaluation.” Please read the information and instructions provided before submitting courses for evaluation.

Students will need a complete syllabus with the following components:

- ▶ Course description
- ▶ Learning objectives
- ▶ Detailed list of topics covered/course calendar
- ▶ Details of student assessments (i.e., how the student is graded)
- ▶ Text/readings/learning materials

Faculty evaluators need sufficient information to determine a Northeastern course match. ***If the faculty evaluator determines there is incomplete information, they will not rule on the course and send the submission back to the student without an equivalency until more information is secured.*** A lack of sufficient information leads to a longer turnaround time and delays in the course equivalency process.

## Troubleshoot When Submitting a Course for Evaluation

If you encounter issues accessing the submission form, please check the following:

- ▶ Turn on Northeastern University VPN
- ▶ Try the link in a different browser. Google Chrome sometimes has issues with loading the submission form. We recommend trying Safari or Microsoft Edge.
- ▶ Reset Northeastern University login information.

## Timeline for Course Evaluations

Please note that evaluations typically take 6-8 weeks as long as all the necessary information is provided in the syllabus. However, during high-volume periods, it may take longer for a course to be evaluated. Students are not able to request specific equivalencies, and GEO cannot guarantee a specific course equivalency as we are required to honor faculty rulings.

Students should review the information on the [Study Abroad & Exchanges website](#) under “course & transcripts” > “course equivalencies” for more information on submitting courses for evaluation.

## Registration

**Northeastern Registration:** Once you have confirmed your participation in a study abroad program you will be issued an “ABRD” placeholder on your Northeastern account. The ABRD course will list a term-specific credit amount while you are abroad and will be updated once you return to be a non-credit bearing Pass/Fail course. If you have a hold on your account, it must be cleared before your ABRD registration and departure. You can see if you have a hold in the “View Holds” link on the Self-Service tab of your myNortheastern account. Failure to remove all holds before departure will result in withdrawal from your study abroad program at your own expense. Once GEO processes your host institution transcript, the ABRD placeholder will be adjusted to 0 credits and your courses, credits, and grades will be added to your account.

### **Additional Reminders:**

- ▶ You are only permitted to take one online Northeastern course while abroad.
- ▶ You will pay academic tuition directly to Northeastern for your semester abroad which covers 12-16 Northeastern Credits.
- ▶ If a course load exceeds this credit amount, an overload fee will be issued in accordance with the [Northeastern University Student Financial Service’s website](#).
- ▶ Certain host institutions require students to enroll in a course load that exceeds 16 credits.

**Host Institution Registration:** You must register for courses at the host institution. Please note this is a separate process from Study Abroad Course Selections and Northeastern’s ABRD course registration. Instructions vary for each study abroad program, it is important to connect with your study abroad advisor or the host institution directly, depending on the program. If you intend to take a course pass/fail, please review the pass/fail policy. If you want to change courses upon arrival and registration at your host institution, you must get prior approval from your academic advisor and study abroad advisor. Any new course must be evaluated for credit.



# Academic Accommodations

To secure academic accommodation abroad, students interested should connect with the [Disability Resource Center](#) (DRC). You can learn more about this by following the links below:

- ▶ [Incoming & Unregistered Students](#)
- ▶ [Registered Students](#)

The Disability Resource Center (DRC) can provide resources and prepare you for your program abroad. Below is a checklist created by the DRC. For any questions about your accommodations while abroad, please get in touch with their office at [their website](#) or reach out to Mary Barrows, Senior Director, Global Learning Strategies and Student Success in the Disability Resource Center at [m.barrows@northeastern.edu](mailto:m.barrows@northeastern.edu).

## Checklist for Students with Disabilities: Applying to and Preparing for a Study Abroad Experience

**Selecting a program:** Before applying for a study abroad experience, it's important to explore your options and select a program that aligns and offers appropriate supports to meet your needs. Use the checklist below as a guide for researching possible programs.

### Identify your accommodations and supports

#### ▶ Accommodations

- What academic accommodations are you registered for through the DRC? Which accommodations do you use regularly?
- What residential accommodations are you registered for through the DRC?

#### ▶ Supports

- What other supports do you rely on at Northeastern? Examples could include academic coaching or therapy.

### Evaluate the program

#### ▶ Review program requirements

- What are the program's academic requirements? Will you be required to write papers? Give presentations? Sit for long exams?
- What are the programs physical and mobility requirements? Will there be extensive travel or physical activity involved throughout the program? What are options for transportation?
- What are the program's dining and housing options? Are there alternative options for dietary restrictions?

- ▶ Request a syllabus from faculty, if applicable. What are the professor's expectations for students?
- ▶ If you will be enrolled at a separate institution while you are abroad, are the accommodations you receive at Northeastern also offered in the host country?



- ▶ Are there guidelines for what medications you may bring in to or have shipped to the country?
- ▶ If you need additional equipment, such as for storing medical supplies, is that equipment readily available?

☐ **Select a program that supports your profile**

- ▶ Are your accommodations available to use in the program?
- ▶ With the use of your approved accommodations, can you meet the requirements for the program?
- ▶ Will you be able to access the supports you need throughout your program? For example, if you regularly see a therapist, will you be able to keep regular appointments?
- ▶ Will you be able to carry and/or receive necessary medication while in the country?
- ▶ Will housing and dining options be adequate to meet your needs?
- ▶ Will you need to explore additional supports for transportation?

**Preparing for departure:** Once you've applied and been admitted to a program, begin preparing for the experience well in advance of your departure by doing the following:

☐ **Connect with your DRC specialist**

- ▶ Discuss how your accommodations might be implemented while you are abroad

☐ **Request your accommodations for your study abroad experience:**

- ▶ If you are participating a semester abroad program, work with your GEO advisor to determine what documentation you will need to submit to your host institution
- ▶ If you participate in a Dialogue of Civilizations, request a Professor Notification Letter through your DRC portal

☐ **Meet with your faculty or on-site disability support provider**

- ▶ Introduce yourself and discuss the process for using your accommodations. How much advance notice does your professor need? How should you notify your professor?

☐ **Make an emergency plan**

- ▶ Identify who you will contact if you face disability-related difficulties or challenges to accessing your accommodations



### **Helpful Websites**

[US Department of State Information for Travelers with Disabilities](#)

[TSA Information on Traveling with Disabilities and Medication Conditions](#)

[GEO My Global Identity Module](#)

[Northeastern Global Experience Office \(GEO\) Website](#)



## Embracing Intercultural Learning while Abroad

During your time abroad, you will likely encounter a broad range of feelings, thoughts, and emotions. Alongside completing important academic coursework and requirements, you'll be making new friends, adapting to a new environment, and embracing many new experiences, often including travel. Though the main goal of studying abroad is cultural immersion, it's important to acknowledge this can be challenging. You might find it frustrating or difficult at times to immerse yourself in your host culture or navigate cultural differences. This may be especially true if you have not previously been exposed to your host culture or struggle connecting with new people.

In study abroad, educators used to teach students a "Culture Shock Model" which included stages like the "honeymoon stage." While you will likely experience both positive and negative emotions about your host culture, this model is now viewed as too rigid.

GEO offers a [\*\*Digital Badge in Global and Intercultural Communication \(Level 2\)\*\*](#) which can be completed before, during, or after study abroad. The Badge is a non-credit, 10-week program that involves asynchronous work in Canvas. It's designed to help you navigate cultural immersion and difference. The badge program runs in both semesters. To sign up, look out for GEO emails or visit the [webpage](#).



### Additional tips for embracing intercultural learning while abroad:

- ▶ Join a student club, organization, service learning, or leadership opportunity connected to your host campus or program.
- ▶ Inquire whether your host campus or program has a similar intercultural/global learning module or program available. Some do!
- ▶ Try to self-assess your comfort zone. You may want to pick challenges that force you slightly outside of your comfort zone, but not radically so. That could be playing a pick-up soccer (football) game or going to a festival or holiday celebration you are not familiar with.
- ▶ Although it's tempting to travel extensively while studying abroad, you might find that cultural immersion is deeper if you also explore your local environment, meaning your host city, community, surrounding cities, and country. Focusing on your local area might allow you to better appreciate cultural differences and identities.



## Additional Topics

### Pass/Fail Requests

If you would like to take a course pass/fail, you must adhere to the partner program's course policies and make any pass/fail requests through the host institution. Any course taken for a pass/fail grade abroad and represented as such on an official partner institution transcript will transfer into Northeastern as a pass (S) or fail (U) grade. If you take a course pass/fail, it will not fulfill major, minor, concentration, or NUPath requirements.

Additionally, your Northeastern college may have additional restrictions on the number of Pass/Fail courses you can take during the semester. If permitted at your host institution, you must also adhere to the Pass/Fail course policies set by your home college at Northeastern.

## Non-Traditional Coursework

Internships, service learning, and research are all experiential learning opportunities that may be available through your study abroad program. For credit-bearing non-traditional coursework, the course will be evaluated to reflect each student's unique experience. To have your non-traditional coursework evaluated, the faculty evaluator will need a course syllabus, placement information, a list of responsibilities, an academic assessment breakdown of all reflections, papers, presentations, and relevant materials, and any additional academic components included in the internship, service learning, or research placement.

To receive credit, non-traditional courses must be academically driven with course content and assessments outside of the internship, service learning, or research responsibilities (i.e. reflections and a final project or presentation). The approval of Northeastern credit for non-traditional coursework is not guaranteed, as each college or department has the discretion to deny credit for any course, including non-traditional coursework taken abroad.

Please contact your academic advisor and study abroad advisor before enrolling in a non-traditional coursework abroad to discuss your options.

If you have already collected all your materials for evaluation, please submit them in a single PDF to [studyabroadcourses@northeastern.edu](mailto:studyabroadcourses@northeastern.edu).

## Taking Northeastern Courses Abroad

In addition to coursework taken abroad, students are permitted to enroll in one online course through Northeastern while abroad. If a host institution requires students to be enrolled in the equivalent of more than 12 Northeastern credits, then students are not permitted to enroll in an online course. Before enrolling in a Northeastern online course, students must receive approval from their academic advisor and study abroad advisor.

