

OAS Optional Skill Module: Study up on Study Abroad

I have yet to find anyone on campus who regrets studying abroad (“Oh South Africa was such a bore. I really wish I had just stayed in Jester for the summer.”) Rather, regret belongs to those who waited until junior year to start thinking about it, only to realize study abroad no longer fits into their degree plan. Although you may not intend to travel until your third or fourth year at UT, now is the time to start planning. You need to get to know the breadth of programs available to students, the vagaries of each program type (Faculty-led, exchange, affiliated, etc.), and the various hoops you will eventually have to jump through to get on a plane for Berlin, or Beijing, or Buenos Aires.

To complete this Skill Module, you must do three things:

- 1) Peruse the UT Study Abroad Office website (<http://www.utexas.edu/student/abroad/>). Learn a little about the different types of programs and search the database for a couple of study abroad programs that sound interesting.
- 2) For those of you interested in Science study/research abroad, make an appointment with Melissa Knight in the CNS Office of Honors, Research, and International Study. For the Liberal Arts minded, it takes a little more digging. Once you figure out a few study areas you are interested in (Spanish, for example) it is best to speak to someone in that department to learn about their programs. Use the Internets, that’s why Al Gore invented them.
- 3) Write a 250-500 word report on your research and meeting, detailing your preliminary plans, how they fit with your degree(s), and what further questions/concerns you have about study abroad.