Learning Abroad Talking Points for Academic Advisors

Academic advisors are a vital part of a student’s college experience, and providing your student with information about learning abroad can catalyze personal growth, enhance their academic experience, and increase marketability after graduation!

Below are some talking points that advisors might consider when discussing these opportunities with students. Do your students have more specific questions? We are happy to help! Contact the Center for Learning Abroad at 801-581-5849 or info@studyabroad.utah.edu!

1. **Planning.** Students should start planning their learning abroad program well in advance. We typically recommend that students begin this process 6-8 months before they plan to go. Veterans intending to use the GI Bill need to allow extra time to acquire permission from the VA.

2. **Academic Credit.** All learning abroad programs are credit bearing. Students can fulfill general education, major, minor, and elective requirements. Honors credit is also available on some programs. All programs offering at least 3 credit hours will fulfill the Undergraduate International Requirement. International internships, service-learning, and research opportunities are also available!

3. **U of U Credit vs. Transfer Credit.** Faculty directed programs and some internships earn U of U credit. Exchange, Affiliate, and ISEP programs earn transfer credit. If your student is interested in a program earning transfer credit, be sure to discuss any limitations or restrictions on transfer credits for students in that major or minor.

4. **Length of Programs and When to Go.** There are a variety of program lengths to serve students’ needs. Programs last as little as one week to as long as one year. Additionally, programs are available year round (including the summer, fall break, winter break, and spring break)!

5. **Cost.** Learning abroad is not as expensive as students think! On average, a learning abroad program costs $2000 more than taking classes and residing on campus in Salt Lake City. This figure includes the added expenses of a flight and a student visa.

6. **Scholarships and Financial Aid.** Every U of U student is eligible for the Student Fee Scholarship. Over $250K in scholarships are available to U of U students! During the academic year, the chances of winning a scholarship are 1 in 3. During the summer, the odds of winning are 1 in 4. Additionally, financial aid can be used on approved U of U learning abroad programs. Information on scholarships can be found by clicking the Financing Your Learning Abroad link on our homepage (www.learningabroad.utah.edu).

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**Learning Abroad Vital Statistics**

- 200+ programs in 50+ countries
- Fulfill major, minor, general education, and elective requirements
- Programs for all class levels (Freshman, Sophomores, Juniors, Seniors, & Graduate)
- Coursework in English and foreign languages
- Programs lasting one week to one year
- $250,000+ in scholarships are available for U of U students!
7. **Finding the Right Program.** The program search on our website is the best way to learn about the different programs that may interest. Each program has a profile that includes information about costs, deadlines, coursework, and much more! We recommend narrowing down the search by using the filters at the top of the page. You can filter the programs by location, languages of instruction, type of program, subjects, and much more! To find our program search, visit [www.learningabroad.utah.edu](http://www.learningabroad.utah.edu) and click on the Search Programs link. There is also an instruction sheet for advisors found on the Faculty, Staff, and Advisors section of our website.

8. **Pre-requisites.** Each program has unique pre-requisites. In general, students must be in good academic and judicial standing to eligible for a learning abroad program. Program-specific requirements are listed in the program profile found in our program search.

9. **Peer Advising.** When a student visits the Center, the first person they will interact with is a fellow student. The Center for Learning Abroad has a team of peer advisors available to provide initial learning abroad advising. All peer advisors have studied abroad, so they can provide your students with candid, helpful insights from a student’s perspective. Peer advisors help students on a walk-in basis. To talk to a peer advisor, stop by room 159 of the Union, email us at [Info@studyabroad.utah.edu](mailto:Info@studyabroad.utah.edu), or call 801-581-5849.

10. **Non-U of U Programs and Independent Studies Abroad.** Do you have a student who wants to participate in a non-U of U program? That’s okay! These students can fill out an independent program registration online. Filling out the registration will expedite the petition process for the undergraduate international requirement, give them access to international medical insurance, and provide information about transferring credit back to the U! U of U students conducting an a credit-bearing independent study overseas can also register with our office to access the international medical insurance. Contact us at 801-581-5849 for more information!

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**Center for Learning Abroad**  
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