

Insight on Studying Abroad

If you have not studied abroad yet, and you are planning to, please pay close attention!!! These issues could effect whether you graduate on time or not.

How to begin: You will find the Study Abroad (International Center) on the web at: <http://international.missouri.edu/studyabroad>. Visit their website to find basic information on Study Abroad.

You begin by visiting the Study Abroad office in person within the International Center at N52 Memorial Union. They have advisors for you to meet with and together you can determine your path. They will also advise you of your next step. Once you determined where you want to study and have a list of courses you've worked out with the International Admissions office, then you will need to meet with your International Studies advisor to verify how the courses will transfer in.

If you are confused, don't be. Simply start by visiting the Study Abroad office and they will clarify everything for you!

What Special Degree Programs and the International Study Advisor needs from you:

- **We need a graduation plan for you, or at least PRELIMINARY (PENDING) PAPERWORK, completed with our advisors before you leave!!!!** What happens is, you get overseas somewhere and want to register for courses and you cannot figure out what to do. And we are here with no information on you so we cannot help.
- **If you have 55 credit hours when you leave to study abroad and have not filed your graduation plan, you WILL have a HOLD placed on your account while you are overseas and you will NOT be able to register for the next semester!!!** You have to meet with our advisors and complete and file the graduation plan *before* you leave the country if you are at, or will be at, 55 hours or more. If you do not file the graduation plan but then try to register, you will not be able to. You will be forced to wait until you return to Campus to file your plan and register for courses. This will mean you are registering later in the Registration period and could cause you to have

difficulty getting into the courses you most prefer or perhaps even need!

- **If you will have LESS than 55 hours, and therefore cannot file a graduation plan in International Studies with our office before you leave, please meet with our advisor and do a PENDING graduation plan.** We cannot help you choose courses for the upcoming semester when we do not have anything to go by and at least the pending will give us some idea of what you are wanting to do. It will also help you when you are overseas and wanting to register for the next semester, providing you remember to take a copy with you.
- **DO NOT WAIT until your last semester to study abroad.** It would be recommended you study abroad your Sophomore or Junior year. If you study abroad your last semester, you run the risk of not graduating on time. Grades are often delayed coming in from institutions overseas. Furthermore, the University has to have time to do the equivalency and get the grades posted. Not to mention there is always the risk something might not transfer in as hoped, although that is rare.
- **If you can not register for your courses abroad until you arrived abroad, you will have to contact International Admissions FIRST to see how what you are taking, or plan to take, will transfer to Mizzou.** Our advisors do not have this information and have no idea how the course you are taking is going to transfer in. They will be unable to tell where it will go on your graduation plan. Once the International Admissions office has provided you with the equivalency of the courses you are taking, please let us know and if you need help at that point, we may be able to assist you.

We hope that by following these guidelines, your study abroad experience will be more satisfying!

Contact your Advisor or the Study Abroad office for concerns about studying abroad.