A Parent’s Guide to STUDY ABROAD
Why Study Abroad?

At IES Abroad, we strive to make the once-in-a-lifetime educational adventure of study abroad accessible to all students. But as a parent, you probably have many questions about your student living and learning abroad: What are the benefits? How will it impact my student’s academic schedule? Is it affordable? Will my student be safe? Let us help you answer these questions.

Academic Benefits
Returning students tell us that studying abroad affects both their personal growth and influences their academic interests and commitment to their studies.

- 87% of returning students said study abroad influenced subsequent educational experiences
- 80% reported an enhanced interest in academic study
- 52% of students attained graduate degrees after studying abroad

Career Benefits
Students and employers acknowledge that international experience on a resume is a competitive advantage in today’s job market. In many cases, students add professional experience to their resumes through internships in fields such as business, humanities, communications, and engineering, while earning academic credit.

- $7,000: Amount more IES Abroad alumni earn, on average, in starting salaries, compared to recent U.S. college graduates from the general population
- Nearly 90% found their first job within six months of graduation (compared to only 49% of students from the general college graduate population).
- 84% of alumni who felt that studying abroad helped them build valuable job skills, such as language proficiency, cultural training, tolerance for ambiguity, adaptability, and communication
- 62% said that study abroad ignited interest in their career direction

*Sources: IES Abroad Alumnae/i 50-Year Longitudinal Study and the 2012 IES Abroad Recent Graduate Study

My new employers were so excited to hear of my international work because they had never met a student with that kind of background! After I left London, I was able to land several marketing internships because of my work abroad. The people I work for now took my London internship as a sign of a well-rounded experience.

J.J.  |  IES ABROAD LONDON
Our Commitment to Diversity
We are proud that our students are as diverse and exciting as the countries we study in. IES Abroad is dedicated to broadening access and cultivating a diverse, globally-savvy workforce. IES Abroad’s Initiative to Diversify Education Abroad (IDEA) creatively addresses the relatively low participation of underrepresented and diverse students in study abroad. By taking advantage of IES Abroad online diversity resources, student blogs, scholarships, and a dedicated Diversity Director to explore the career and personal benefits of study abroad, students are often able to overcome barriers, real and perceived, to this high-impact experience. Find out more at www.IESAbroad.org/study-abroad/about/diversity-abroad.

On Track, On Time
With advanced planning, your student’s study abroad experience doesn’t have to delay graduation. IES Abroad has formal agreements with more than 200 top-tier American colleges and universities that approve IES Abroad programs and accept IES Abroad credit.

Our students often use credits from study abroad courses to fulfill a range of curricular requirements, including major, minor, language, general education, elective, and internship requirements.

Funding
Studying abroad can be affordable. The same federal and state aid, institutional scholarships, grants, and loans that finance your student’s education now can also contribute to funding his or her study abroad experience. Be sure to consult the financial aid office at your student’s institution to learn more.

We don’t want money to stop your student from studying abroad. We offer more than $2 million each year in need- and merit-based scholarships and financial aid to assist students with study abroad expenses and to encourage and support diversity.

Several additional organizations also encourage and support underrepresented students in studying abroad. To learn more, visit www.IESabroad.org/study-abroad/scholarships.

Student Support
Because we’re a not-for-profit, we can dedicate our time and resources to your student and our study abroad programs. Our academic and social support services range include predeparture advisors, a full-time Diversity Director, and a dedicated Student Affairs staff who assist in your student’s cultural and academic adjustment.

Health & Safety
The safety of our students is our highest priority. Our well-trained staff and established safety procedures for crisis management help distinguish us in the field of study abroad.

What Students Say
I took five classes, all of which I got credit for at my university. I am a double major and got credit for two classes in each of my majors, and the last class counted as an elective.

JANIEASHA | IES ABROAD SANTIAGO

I have loans and scholarships for school. Whatever funds went to my home school just transferred to studying abroad. I also received an IES Abroad scholarship and the Gilman Scholarship.

MELANIE | IES ABROAD AUCKLAND

What a Parent Says
My daughter had a wonderful time abroad and was well-served by IES Abroad. I thank you for the dedicated staff there who have guided the students so well.

— LOUISE P | PARENT OF IES ABROAD VIENNA ALUMNUS
Steps for Staying Involved

**Talk with your student**
Discuss his or her goals for study abroad and how they fit into his or her academic plan. Then work together to set up a budget.

**Visit websites**
Our website and the study abroad website at your student’s institution provide information specifically for parents and guardians. Topics include financing, planning, and procedures for studying abroad. For additional resources and information, visit www.IESabroad.org/parents.

**Consult the financial aid office**
Learn more about your student’s institutional policies about scholarships and financial aid transfer.

**Review materials**
Upon acceptance, IES Abroad sends specific materials to inform you of what to expect in the planning and on-site logistics of our program. These materials include the Family Guide and a Visa Starter Packet (if applicable).

**Ask questions**
Feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns you may have at any point in your student’s application or study abroad experience.

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**About IES Abroad**
IES Abroad offers more than 120 study abroad programs worldwide for undergraduate students.

We are a highly-charged force of study abroad enthusiasts. Every day we have the privilege of witnessing how study abroad changes our students’ lives. We also believe that every student should have the opportunity to go abroad—especially in a fun, safe, and superior academic and cultural environment.

From our headquarters in Chicago to our 35+ global locations and the staff on-site, we all work toward the common goal of providing mind-bending, life-changing, opinion-altering study abroad opportunities.

We’re not ashamed to admit we’re little bit obsessed with study abroad.