

# First Step to Study Abroad: Script

## Welcome

Welcome to the *First Step to Study Abroad* online session. In this session, we'll go over:

- Your role in the study abroad process
- Steps to studying abroad
- Exploring your options
- How to research programs, and
- Next steps

## *DU Study Abroad Handbook*

We'll cover the basics now, but you can find more detailed info in the DU Study Abroad Handbook for the year you'll be abroad. The handbook is your "one-stop shop" for study abroad information. It's a public Canvas course that's open to everyone – even your family. It has a lot of information, so we've broken it down for you by topic. You can also sort by where you are in your study abroad journey. Use the handbook early and often! It will be your best friend throughout your entire study abroad journey.

## *DU Passport*

You'll also use DU Passport regularly over the coming months. DU Passport's your online study abroad portal. There, you'll complete all the steps to study abroad, including your nomination application. It's where you'll start researching programs. But more on that in a moment.

## Student's Role in Study Abroad

First, let's talk about your role in the study abroad process.

You'll need to work and communicate with a lot of different institutions and offices during your study abroad journey. We encourage you to take this opportunity to develop independence and learn more about yourself. Take ownership of this process, and don't allow someone else to do the preparation work for you. If you don't take ownership of the process, you'll end up being less prepared than you should be. You will be the only one receiving all the information from all your different contacts. Definitely keep your family informed, but don't ask them to complete any steps for you. Remember, this is *your* experience!

## OIE's Role in Study Abroad

The Office of International Education (or OIE) is here to help you navigate the process, but we won't do the work for you. We won't tell you what programs you should apply for, or complete your steps for you. You'll be the one applying for a passport, getting the correct immigration documents, making sure your classes transfer back, and booking your own travel. The OIE *will* help you through the process, and we *do* provide info sessions and resources to help you prepare for your program.

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## Health and Safety

**COVID has shifted how we all look at health and safety**, and you may have a new tolerance threshold for aspects of certain programs. No one can predict the future, and it's possible the world will still be dealing with this pandemic next fall. We strongly recommend reaching out to International SOS (ISOS) to talk to their medical and risk specialists about health and safety abroad. You'll find ISOS contact information and DU's membership ID in the handbook. Feel free to share it with your family if they have questions or concerns, as well.

Remember, the 2021-22 Study Abroad Handbook is always your best resource for study abroad information. You can find expanded COVID-19 considerations there.

As the world continues to adjust to new realities, know that your **study abroad program may have very different conditions** today than it will a year from now. Now, more than ever, it's important to be truly comfortable with ambiguity. Things may very well change and we all need to remain open to last minute adjustments.

In the end, Fall 2021 may follow a path similar to that of Fall 2020 (which was cancelled). While we do not anticipate this outcome, it is possible, and no one can say for sure what the world will look like a year from now. For this reason, you should **remain flexible!**

Regardless of the situation, DU remains committed to working with our partners abroad to ensure the health and safety of *all* study abroad participants. Be sure to review your program's resources.

## Steps to Study Abroad

Okay. You're ready to get started. So what are the first steps in the process? The basic outline is that you will apply for nomination in the fall – be nominated to a program in winter – and then apply for your program in the spring. Let's talk a bit more about nomination and then get into steps that are more specific.

### *DU Nomination*

You'll need to apply for nomination. Here is how it works: You can choose up to three programs to apply to, and the OIE will nominate you to *one* of those programs in February. Being nominated means you have DU's official seal of approval to apply to that particular program. Programs have different levels of competitiveness. You should apply for at least one *Not Competitive* program. Apply for more than one *Not Competitive* program to increase your chances of study abroad nomination.

So let's talk about the steps to be nominated.

### *Attend a First Step session.*

You're off to a good start. This session is your first required step!

### *Open an application.*

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All students should open their own application or study abroad nomination. We'll actually take a couple minutes to do this later in the session.

You can only have **one** application open at a time.

- Choose your program terms after the application is opened. So, if you would like to study abroad for an academic year or the winter/spring terms, you will choose those terms in the DU Checklist when selecting your programs.
- For summer programs, be sure to open a Summer Study Abroad Nomination Application.
- Let us know if you're not sure what term to apply for.

Remember: Opening an application doesn't commit you to anything. Please open one right after this session. Once you do that, you'll gain access to your DU Passport checklist, which lists your next steps.

## Research programs!

Next, you'll want to look through your program options. There are a lot, and it can feel overwhelming. So you'll want to start researching programs as soon as you can to narrow down your options.

The OIE has some short videos about different aspects of study abroad to help you decide. **Look for these on our program brochures, in the Study Abroad Handbook, and on the DUAbroad YouTube channel.**

## Complete additional requirements.

### ANIMATED SLIDES

Some programs also have additional **mandatory** steps, like:

- Meeting with a specific OIE advisor,
- Uploading a scan of your passport,
- Submitting a resume or cover letter,

Check the *Eligibility* section at the top of each program brochure to see if any of your programs have additional requirements.

## Schedule an appointment with an OIE advisor.

We really encourage you to come in and talk to an OIE advisor, even if it's not mandatory for your programs. Many students find these meetings helpful, especially if they're lost in the process or having trouble narrowing down their program choices. We can provide concrete next steps and talk through important considerations to help you find the best fit.

All Fall 2021 Study Abroad advising **will be remote via Zoom**. If you have concerns with remote advising, please reach out to the OIE.

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We anticipate **an increase in advising demand this Fall** due to the cancellation of study abroad for last year's cohort. For this reason, it may be difficult to find a time to meet with your individual OIE advisor.

We suggest making appointments **NOW**. Do not wait. Advisors will try their best to accommodate all students, but realistically, there are only so many appointment times available.

Click *Make an Appointment* at [du.edu/abroad](https://du.edu/abroad) to book a Zoom appointment.

## Get/renew your passport.

We STRONGLY encourage you to get a passport now. If you already have a one, check to see if it will be valid for at least 6 months after the end of your program. If not, please renew it *now*. **Check out the [Passports page in the handbook for more details](#)**, and reach out with any questions.

## Complete and Submit the DU Study Abroad Nomination Application.

To complete your study abroad nomination application, you must complete your *entire* DU Passport checklist before the relevant deadline. That includes all of the steps we've talked about here and more. It typically takes 4–6 weeks to get everything ready to submit, so get started early.

- You will choose the terms you hope to study abroad after the application is opened in program choices (Fall | Winter | Spring | Academic Year)
- Many students try to submit by the **early deadline** because you'll get a few extra points on your application. This is especially important if you're looking at competitive programs, or you want to have the application over and done with before Winter quarter starts. **The Early Deadline is November 23<sup>rd</sup> this year.**
- If you need more time to research programs and write your essays, you have until the **final deadline** to hit *Submit*. The final deadline is January 6<sup>th</sup> this year.
- Please note that all **petitions** are due at the same time as the final deadline, which again is January 6<sup>th</sup>.
- The Summer deadline this year is April 4<sup>th</sup>
- If you are looking to go abroad in the summer, then you have a bit more time to submit.

## After Nomination

Don't forget that the DU Study Abroad Nomination Application is just one part of your study abroad journey!

After the OIE nominates you, you'll need to apply directly to your abroad program itself and complete all of your pre-departure steps. For fall programs, you'll do most of this in Winter and Spring.

## Exploring Your Options

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## *OIE Program Types*

The OIE has a few different program types to choose from, DU Partner Programs (DUPPs) or Unaffiliated Programs (AUP/UPPs)

### DU Partner Programs (DUPP)

Most students choose **DU Partner Programs (or DUPPs)**, where DU has developed a formal relationship with the program. There are over 150 of these, and they've all been vetted to meet DU standards.

DUPPs come with quite a few benefits, like:

- Paying **regular DU fees**. This means you'll pay the typical DU tuition and tech fee when abroad. If your program provides housing or meals, you'll pay the DU rate you're used to for that, as well.
- You can use **your entire DU financial aid package** on DUPPs, with the exception of work study.
- If you use **VA Education Benefits**, it's important that you speak with an OIE advisor as soon as possible, as program restrictions do exist.
- If eligible, you'll get Cherrington Global Scholars benefits.
- And you'll earn **resident credit**. This helps students go abroad if they have a lot of transfer credit, or want to go during senior year.

### DU Program Categories

DUPPs are divided into a few different categories:

- **Foundational programs** offer a wide variety of courses in English, and are a good fit for most majors.
- **Language programs** focus on language study. Check the program brochure to make sure you'll meet the language requirements before the program starts.
- **Specialized programs** usually focus on a particular academic or experiential interest.
- **Exchange programs** run the entire academic year, and are the easiest way to guarantee a yearlong experience abroad.
- **Global Masters programs** allow students in particular fields to earn a Bachelor's degree from DU and a Master's degree from abroad in just five years. These programs require a lot of planning. Talk to your academic department now if you're interested.

### Unaffiliated Programs (AUP & UPP)

Don't worry if you can't find a DUPP that meets your needs. You can also look at Unaffiliated Programs. These are programs that DU doesn't have a formal relationship with. Students sometimes choose these programs to fulfill specific academic needs abroad, due to financial concerns, or because of a lower GPA requirement.

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We won't get into too much detail about unaffiliated programs here, since most students choose DUPPs. But be aware that some policies are different for unaffiliated programs. For example:

- You won't be able to use **DU institutional aid** or the **Cherrington Global Scholars** financial benefit.
- You'll get **transfer credit** instead of resident credit.
- You'll need to **submit additional documents**, including an academic plan and signed approval from your department. (Note that the *petition deadline* is before the final deadline!) You'll also need to do careful research and make a strong case for why this program is a better *academic* fit than a DU Partner Program.
- Unaffiliated programs aren't allowed to duplicate any of our DU Partner Programs during the academic year, so we encourage you to carefully consider DU Partner Programs first.

## Unaffiliated Program Types

There are two kinds of unaffiliated programs:

- **Approved Unaffiliated Programs (or AUPs)** offer transcripts that DU has already approved. You can find a list of these programs on the Unaffiliated Program brochure.
- Any other programs are considered **Unaffiliated Programs by Petition (or UPPs)**. They have a lengthy and involved application process, and the OIE cannot guarantee that your petition will be approved. Talk to an OIE advisor in Fall if you're considering this option.

You can find more information on unaffiliated options in the [Study Abroad Handbook](#), or by searching for "unaffiliated" when looking for program brochures.

## Things to Think About When Choosing a Program

Finding the programs that are the right fit for you can be intimidating. The process requires a lot of honest self-reflection, and there are a lot of things to take into consideration. We highly recommend that you start with the [12 Questions You Need to Ask in the Study Abroad Handbook](#). Let's talk through some of the key questions from that page now.

### Are you eligible?

Second, remember to check whether you're eligible for the programs you're interested in. We cannot stress this enough. You don't want to craft a perfect essay, only to find out that the program requires six quarters of Spanish and you only have three.

The *Eligibility* section at the top of each program brochure lists the mandatory requirements to be considered for each specific program. These requirements can include:

- **Minimum GPA:** Note that *we will NOT round up!* You must meet this requirement *by the final application deadline* for your term abroad. So if you're applying for an academic year program, we'll look at your GPA at the end of Winter Interterm.

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- You have to meet the **Minimum Language Requirement** for *that program's* language *before the program starts*. If you're exempt from foreign language study because of your major or a disability, check the top of the brochure for "FOLA exemption" or "DSP substitution" to see if the language requirement can be waived.
- Some programs have a **Required Area of Study** that you must meet. For programs listing only a *recommended* area of study, we'll consider any students who make a strong academic case for why they're a good fit.
- Keep in mind there may be **additional requirements** for the program like we discussed before. This could be a required internship, a mandatory meeting with an OIE Advisor, or proof of your valid passport that needs to be uploaded.

Remember that some programs have videos that must be watched and mentioned in your nomination application essays.

## What are your goals?

Number one, what are your goals for study abroad? Having clear goals in mind will help you be intentional about your program choices and write strong essays for your application. You'll be asked about three different types of goals in your essays:

- **Academic:** Do you want to study specific topics or take specific classes abroad? Want to beef up your language skills? Perform field research? Learn more about a specific region?
- **Professional:** Do you want to incorporate service or experiential learning? Internships or work? Build your network? What skills do you want to gain abroad that will help you after graduation?
- **Personal:** What are your life goals and aspirations? What do you personally want to get out of your experience? Do you want to explore your own identity or cultural heritage? Increase your self-confidence and self-advocacy skills? What level of support do you want?

You may have other personal considerations, like financial concerns or your daily life. Can you apply for any scholarships listed in the handbook? Do you prefer a big or small city? Or perhaps something off the beaten path? Think through the hobbies and activities you want to pursue abroad.

## What classes do you need?

Number three, what types of classes do you hope to take? Do you want something in your major or minor? Just electives? What about focusing on language study or fulfilling common curriculum requirements?

The OIE is here to help you learn as much as you can about each program's academic offerings, but it's up to *you* to do the research and find the program that's the best fit.

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You may find that some programs have a very limited number (and type) of classes, while others have wider course offerings than DU. It helps to think back to your goals here.

- Do you want to develop your professional skills? Program brochures list opportunities for experiential learning and community engagement, like internships.
- Do you want to learn a language? Then look at programs in places where that language is spoken. (And definitely check out the short *Spanish-speaking Countries* video [in the handbook](#) if you're interested in Spanish.)

It's important to **talk with your faculty/major advisor** to be sure you understand how your study abroad experience fits into your graduation timeline. You two can talk through your academic goals and figure out what academic experience best your needs.

## What academic style best fits your needs?

Fourth, think about what academic style best fits your needs. This is important since different countries and programs have different styles of teaching and grading. The academic system here in the US is very different than in most other countries. Let's look at a few examples of differences in academic and learning styles that you should take into consideration.

- **Greater Independence & Ambiguity:** The US is focused on learning in the classroom, but learning in other places is mostly independent. Classes tend to be lecture-based, have less structure, and meet less often. Syllabi can be vague. And it may be up to you to determine the professor's expectations and understand how you'll be graded. Instructors are often less accessible, and the reasons behind assigning certain grades may be less transparent than in the US.
- **Grading Differences:** In the US we're used to being graded on many things, like homework, participation, and tests. But many other countries have only one test or paper that makes up 100% of your grade for the entire class.
- **Later Registration:** For some programs, you might not finalize your registration until after you arrive. You'll need to make sure you have backup classes ready in case you run into scheduling conflicts or full classes.
- **A Focus on One Discipline:** At DU, students spend two years on common curriculum courses before digging into their majors. But students in most other countries study *only* in their major for their entire 3-year degree. They don't take general courses. Rather, they develop a deep understanding of one subject.

Be sure you understand the academic system for the programs you're considering, and choose something that works best for your learning style.

## How much help do you need from your program?

Next, ask yourself how much help you need from your program. The answer to this question will affect your entire abroad experience, so be brutally honest with yourself here. Study abroad programs have



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different levels of support than what you may be used to at DU. It's important to know these differences and how they affect your everyday life *before* you choose your programs.

## Level of Support

First, what level of support do you want? When we say "level of support," we're referring to what the program expects you to figure out and take care of on your own. Some programs will expect you to navigate resources and figure out most things on your own. Yet other programs offer more guidance.

## Program Structure

You'll also need to think about program structure. Let's look at three very different structures here:

- **Direct Enroll Programs** let you enroll in regular host university courses alongside degree-seeking local students. You'll typically need a high level of proficiency in the local language, and classes are typically taught in that language.

In general, you can expect a more independent experience on these programs. You'll have to learn and navigate a new university system in a single term with less support. You can usually get help with this process from the host university's international office, but it's your responsibility

to work directly with your host institution and seek out resources. Many students feel that this higher level of autonomy helps them develop confidence and self-advocacy skills.

If you're considering any direct enroll programs, we strongly encourage you to watch the **Direct Enroll video** on the program brochure.

- **Study Center programs** are usually located at an institution designed for study abroad students. It's likely that your classes will be with mostly other American students – even if you're located on a local university campus. This makes it more challenging to get to know locals. Many of these programs use "program providers": US organizations that design study abroad programs for US students, like ISA and USAC.

You may find there is a higher level of support on study center programs because the institution's purpose is to cater to study abroad students. But it is still your responsibility to be a self-advocate, especially as you apply to the program.

- **Combination programs** are a mix of direct enroll and study center programs. They allow students to take a few courses at a local university and few at the study center. You'll find that these programs might have more support in some respects and less in others. Remember that navigating the new system is part of the experience.

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These programs are typically facilitated by a study abroad program provider. You'll likely take most of your courses alongside degree-seeking students at the host institution, but you may also be required to take a language or other course designed specifically for US students.

## When do you want to study abroad?

Next, think about when you want your program to start and how long you want to be abroad. Programs will vary in length from a quarter or semester to a year. Academic calendars around the world are also really varied. For example, programs in the Southern Hemisphere may start in February or July!

## Studying Abroad for an Academic Year

Let's talk about going abroad for the entire academic year. There are a few ways to do this:

- **Exchange programs** run for the entire academic year by design, and are the easiest way to guarantee you'll be abroad that long. Note that placement on these programs may be limited because DU only has a select number of exchange spots each year.
- **Global Masters program's** also guarantee a year abroad, but are restricted to certain majors and require advance planning. Talk to your academic department now to see if you're interested.
- Another option is to **submit a petition** to extend a DU Partner Program to an year. All yearlong extension petitions will be placed on the waitlist and offered if/when spots are available.
- You can also **submit a form** to go on two different Study Abroad Programs Back-to-Back (for example, one program in Fall and another program in Winter & Spring). The Back-to-Back option is **NOT** available for two DUPP programs this year. It is only available for two unaffiliated programs or one unaffiliated and one DU Partner Program.
- Finally, you could apply for an **unaffiliated program** that is designed to run for an entire academic year.

Before applying, you'll need to talk to an OIE Advisor *and* your Faculty Advisor. They can help ensure that you can study abroad for a year, given your academic plan and graduation requirements. [Look in the Study Abroad Handbook for more information on your options.](#)

## How much will it cost?

You'll also want to think about cost.

### Program Cost

Make sure you understand the financial differences between choosing a DU Partner Program or an unaffiliated program. DU billing, financial aid, and Cherrington Global Scholar eligibility looks very different based on whether you choose a DU Partner Program. Be sure to look into the [financial section of in the Study Abroad Handbook for more information on finances, including scholarship info.](#)

### Cost of Living

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Aside from actual program cost, consider the cost of living in your host city. For example, London is a much more expensive city than Prague or Buenos Aires. Be sure you research what's included in your program and what isn't. Do you need to pay for Internet, local transportation, any meals, or a gym membership? Additional items can add up!

## Funding Opportunities

Do you qualify for any scholarship opportunities? You can find different funding opportunities on our homepage, [du.edu/abroad](https://du.edu/abroad). You can also always reach out to an OIE advisor to inquire further.

## Other Considerations for your Study Abroad Program

We won't go in depth on each of the *12 Questions* to ask when selecting a study abroad program here, but remember that you can [find the questions in the Study Abroad Handbook](#).

As a quick preview, here are the remaining considerations:

- **Who do you want to live and study with?** Consider whether you want to be in class with other Americans, international students, or local students? Do you want to live in on-campus, in an apartment, or with a host family?
- **How does study abroad fit into my academic plan?** It's your responsibility to make sure that the programs you're considering offer coursework that fits your academic interests and allows you to stay on track to graduate. Meet with your faculty advisor early to talk through your study abroad plans.
- **Are there health/safety concerns for the area?** Does the program location offer all of the medical services that you may need, particularly if you have any specific concerns? Address any safety concerns with an OIE advisor and speak with a medical professional early on. COVID19 may still be a very real concern for fall 2021. We recommend reaching out to ISOS to talk about COVID health and safety concerns in your program location.
- **Do I have other concerns?** The OIE has resources for students of color, LGBTIQ students, students with disabilities and learning differences, and students with DACA status.
- **What do other students say?** Many students want to hear from returnees who've been to the programs they're considering. You can find a list of recent returnees in your DU Passport checklist, and program reviews at the bottom of our program brochures. Go to [duabroad.com](https://duabroad.com) to check out student blogs from your region or program.

## Researching Programs

Now that you know what to look for, we can talk about how to find available study abroad programs.

**[PULL UP du.edu/abroad homepage to navigate program search and review a brochure](#)**

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## Program Search

Let's start by clicking *Program Search* on the OIE homepage at [du.edu/abroad](http://du.edu/abroad). Now we're taken to this page where we can filter programs based on our answers to the *12 Questions* we just talked about. Let's do an example here:

Let's say I'm interested in programs that are:

- In **Europe**
- During DU's **Fall quarter**.
- And I want to take **business courses**
- in **English**.
- A **not competitive** program.
- with at least a **medium level of support**.
- If you're really interested in engaging with locals, you might select a **homestay** or other engagement opportunity here, but I'll leave that blank for now.

So we click *Submit*, and we get a more focused, manageable list of programs that meet our criteria.

From here, I'd look at the locations and program names to get rid of any programs that don't feel like a good fit.

- For example, I'm not very interested in Italy, so I'd cross out USAC Torino right away.
- Once you have narrowed this list, it's time to click into the brochures and learn more.

Let's click on the **University of Glasgow** in Scotland to open up the program brochure. First, we'll start with the basics:

## Fact Sheet: Quick Program Overview

All brochures start with a Fact Sheet which shows a quick program overview. You can see the GPA and other requirements, the OIE advisor for the program, and other useful information at a glance.

## Program Description

Pay particular attention to the *Is This Program Right for You* section. There, you'll find a lot of the topics we've mentioned already, like *Eligibility Requirements*, *Level of Program Support*, *Program Structure*, and *DU Nomination Rate*.

Remember, you're still trying to narrow down your choices. So eliminate any programs that don't immediately seem like a good fit.

Once you've done that for all the programs on your list, dig deeper into the brochure for the remaining programs. Look at:

- Academics

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- Location & Culture
- Housing & Meals
- Finances
- Dates
- And more
- Pay attention to *Essay Essentials*, as they'll help you write stronger essays—the main way we match you with programs during nomination!
  - Look under *DU Nomination Instructions*

Again, keep eliminating programs that don't seem like a good fit.

- You'll want to get down to 5 or 6 programs that seem like they'd be really good options.
- At that point, you'll want to start researching beyond the brochure.
  - Look at the program website
  - Talk to returnees
  - Book any mandatory meetings with OIE advisors

Be sure to read the *entire* brochure for any program you choose to pursue. This includes watching any videos.

## RETURN to FSS Powerpoint

### OIE Advisor

Once you have narrowed in on a program or region, we recommend you make an **individual appointment** with the OIE advisor for that specific area. Remember that some programs have a mandatory *individual* advising appointment with the OIE advisor *for that program* to talk specifically *about that program*. Check the *Eligibility* section of the program brochure to see if this applies to you.

Again, you'll find the OIE advisor for each program on the brochure's fact sheet.

You can schedule appointments with our online appointment booking system.

All appointments will **be virtual using Zoom** this year. Appointments will fill very fast due to substantially increased demand this fall, so make an appointment as soon as possible to avoid delays.

**Drop-in advising** might be a better fit if you have questions about the application process itself, or need help narrowing down the program options. You don't need to make an appointment – just drop in to our daily Zoom session! Drop-in advising will also be remote this year via Zoom. The schedule is available online.

During drop-in advising, you can speak with the OIE advisor on call in a group conversation with other students who may also have stopped by. They are first come, first served, and can be a great way to clarify your next steps or ask general questions.

Note that drop-in advising will *not* count toward any OIE advisor meeting requirement!

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## Returnees

Returnees are another great resource! They've been through the study abroad process and completed these programs. They can give you a student perspective and help you know what to expect day to day. Returnees can give you details that OIE advisors can't. You can ask them about cell phones, bus or metro passes in your host city, housing advice, budgeting for a particular location, and so on. Every person is different, so keep in mind that *your* experiences won't mirror theirs exactly.

And don't forget to check out the program reviews at the bottom of your brochure.

## *Not Finding A Program That Works?*

If you've followed the steps above and still aren't finding a program that works for you, please come talk to an OIE advisor. We can help! Together, we can talk through other options, including unaffiliated programs and programs run by other DU offices.

If you're looking to **earn credit abroad**, there are options other than OIE-run programs we've discussed so far. You can also look into summer unaffiliated study abroad, courses abroad, International Service Learning, or for-credit internships. Our office doesn't manage these options, but we can put you in touch with the right people at DU.

## Summer Programs

While we have more than 150 Partner Programs during the academic year, we don't have any formal partnerships over the summer. That means that you'll need to pursue unaffiliated options if you're interested in studying abroad during summer quarter. You need to be prepared to do your own research and navigate the process independently if you choose this route. You'll need to meet with an OIE advisor before applying. Find out more about **summer study abroad in the Study Abroad Handbook** and the Summer Unaffiliated Program brochure.

You may also want to look at **not-for-credit opportunities**, like outdoor leadership programs, language schools, volunteer work, or non-credit internships. You likely wouldn't work with DU to organize these options.

## Other Considerations

There are a few other considerations we should go over here.

### *Study Abroad Course Approvals*

Planning to take any classes abroad that will count toward your DU degree requirements? We encourage you to meet with your faculty advisor now to discuss which requirements you'll need to complete while you're abroad.

All classes on DU Partner Programs will automatically transfer back to DU as **general elective credit**, so long as they coincide with a current DU academic department.

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But you'll need course approval for any class that you hope to count towards your **major, minor, or common curriculum** requirements. Note that, while possible, getting common curriculum courses approved may be difficult.

See the handbook for detailed instructions on how to submit an online Course Approval Request. Once you submit your request, the relevant academic department and the Registrar will review it. The OIE has no say in these decisions.

Make sure you plan ahead! It can take up to six weeks to get a decision, and you can only have a maximum of five open requests at once. Most students wait until they're nominated to a specific program before submitting Course Approval Requests. But you can submit them sooner if you have a specific degree requirement that you're wondering about.

Remember that getting a course approved doesn't guarantee you'll be able to take that specific class abroad. You should be prepared to be flexible if needed, and have a backup plan.

Again, find [more information on this process in the handbook](#) and DU Passport.

## *Required Class: INTZ 2501*

As a DU student, you have access to a two-class sequence designed to enrich your study abroad experience. In these classes, instructors will challenge you to go beyond the surface of intercultural understanding, deepen cultural connections, and delve into global issues.

All DU students are *required* to enroll in **INTZ 2501: Exploring Global Citizenship** before studying abroad. This 2-credit, in-person class is offered every Fall, Winter, and Spring. You'll learn about identity, culture, intercultural communication, and more.

You're also strongly encouraged to enroll in **INTZ 2502: Global Citizenship in Practice**, a 1-credit online class that you take while abroad. Students applying for unaffiliated programs during the academic year are *required* to complete the entire two-course sequence.

## Next Steps

And the moment you've been waiting for... next steps! Now that you have a general understanding of study abroad and how to research programs, let's talk about what's next.

### *Opening an Application*

You can open an application on the DU Abroad website ([du.edu/abroad](https://du.edu/abroad)) by clicking on the "Get Started" button.

Let's take a couple of minutes to do this right now. Go ahead and go to [du.edu/abroad](https://du.edu/abroad) and hit that "Get Started" button, then click the link for the 2021-22 application.

# First Step to Study Abroad: Script

Remember: Opening an application doesn't commit you to anything. You can withdraw any time before the deadline. We recommend you open an application now – even if you're undecided – so you'll have access to your DU Passport checklist. The information there can help you with that decision.

## *Complete DU Passport Checklist Items*

We suggest that, as your first checklist item, you complete the 'Understanding Study Abroad' Quiz. We've covered most of the questions in this session.

As you research programs and work through the rest of your checklist, don't forget to check off each item as you complete it. You'll find that many items [link to the DU Study Abroad Handbook](#), which I'm sure you've realized by now is an essential resource for your study abroad journey.

One of your checklist items is a form where you'll choose your desired programs and write an essay for each one. Remember, you can choose *up to five* programs. You don't have to fill all five spaces, but you *do* need to have at least one program with a *Very Good* Chance of DU Nomination. Remember you'll only get only one nomination from DU, so make sure you list your programs in the order you'd like to be considered, including any unaffiliated choices.

Before the deadline, be sure to review your application for completion. Remember that certain programs require additional steps and documents, like an individual meeting with an OIE advisor, a scan of the passport you'll travel on, a resumes or cover letter, and so on. If you're doing any petitions, you'll need to upload them in your application before the petition deadline. If unsure or confused about your application, meet with an OIE advisor immediately.

## *Come in for Advising*

Please come in for advising soon! You should complete all of your advising during fall quarter. Students who come in before Halloween typically stay on-track and have less stress around deadlines, which are early this year. Winter quarter appointments will only be available for a few days and fill up very quickly. Starting your application in winter quarter may not be feasible for those wishing to study abroad in 2021-22 and **IS NOT** advisable.

A final reminder that you can use drop-in advising for all general study abroad and application questions. Drop-in advising will be available throughout the Fall quarter from 1-2pm, Monday through Friday via Zoom. Check the DU study abroad website for more details.

## *Submit Your Application*

Submit your application by the **early deadline** for extra points, otherwise by the **final deadline**. Submitting early doesn't guarantee you a spot on your first-choice program, but it can give you a competitive edge for programs with a *Limited* or *Very Limited* chance of DU nomination. It's better to wait a bit longer if you're not ready to submit a well thought-out, quality application; you'll probably end up with a higher overall score.



# First Step to Study Abroad: Script

We encourage you *not* to wait until the last minute to hit *Submit*. Remember it typically takes 4–6 weeks to complete all your steps. And students sometimes find they've missed one of the additional steps for their programs when they double-check to make sure their application is complete.

The early deadline is November 23<sup>rd</sup> this year. Submit your application by this date to receive a couple of extra points on your application. A quality essay and application is always more beneficial than meeting the early deadline. It's only a few points and best for those limited chance of placement programs.

All other applications should be submitted by the standard deadline, January 6<sup>th</sup>. All petitions must be submitted by the standard deadline at the latest, or the early deadline if applying by the early deadline.

After you've completed and double-checked your entire study abroad nomination application, hit the *Submit* button at the top of your checklist. Don't forget! Hit submit!

Study Abroad nominations are announced in February. You will receive notice from the OIE with more information as that time approaches.

Remember that you'll still need to apply for your specific study abroad program after you're nominated. Every program operates on different timelines after nomination. So you need to pay close attention to OIE emails and take appropriate steps to study abroad. You're not officially accepted until your abroad program says so! After you're accepted, you'll work directly with your host program to secure housing, get the right immigration status, register for classes, and so on.

## Thank you!

You've probably noticed that study abroad is a lot of work. The process can seem overwhelming and time consuming. From now until you depart, you'll have several required meetings at the I-House, quite a bit of paperwork, and a lot to read. Make sure to set aside sufficient time this year to complete all the required steps.

The journey is long and there will be challenges, but don't forget that study abroad is also fun, new, and different. It can change the way you see the world and yourself. Get excited! Your study abroad journey begins now! From all of us here at the Office of International Education, we look forward to helping you along the way!