



Ohio State is in the process of revising websites and program materials to accurately reflect compliance with the law. While this work occurs, language referencing protected class status or other activities prohibited by Ohio Senate Bill 1 may still appear in some places. However, all programs and activities are being administered in compliance with federal and state law.

Office of International Affairs

[Area Studies](#) ▾[Global Education](#) ▾[Gateways](#) ▾[GOHi](#) ▾[Scholars](#) ▾[Home](#)[International Students](#) ▾[Global Education](#)[Partnerships](#) ▾[Getting Started](#)[Choosing a Program](#)

Choosing a Program

How do you decide which study abroad program is right for you? With so many options, it may be daunting to select the program that best meets your goals. Considering the follow questions to narrow down your decision.

Where will you go?

- Do you have preferred countries or regions in mind?
- Do you want to study in a big city or in a rural, developing area?
- Do you have a preference regarding climate?
- Have you considered the geography, language, population, economic/industrial development, cost of living, climate, and ease of transportation in host country?
- Do you prefer a large cosmopolitan city, medium - sized city, or small town community?
- Will a particular destination require that you obtain a student visa in order to participate on the program?

What will you study?

- Are you looking for an English-only curriculum, or would you like to study in another language?
- Do you want or need to continue or complete a foreign language requirement?
- Do you want to take classes within your major or courses fulfilling general education requirements?
- Are you able to take a class on campus before participating in a program over winter or spring break?

How will you live abroad?

- Would you prefer a program that takes place over winter break, spring break or May, or one that lasts a semester or longer?
- Would you prefer to live and study with other Ohio State students and faculty or live and study independently?
- Do you want to take classes and live with students from the host culture or with foreign students only?
- Would you prefer to live in a residence hall, apartment or with a host family?
- Are you comfortable with minimal accommodations in a developing country?

How will it impact your educational progress?

- Would you like to take courses in your major?
- GECs/language requirement courses?
- Are the subjects you want and/or need offered by a study abroad program?
- Are you looking for an English-only curriculum, or would you like to study in another language?
- Do you want to take classes within your major or courses fulfilling general education requirements?
- Do you want or need to continue or complete a foreign language requirement?
- Are you able to take a class on campus before participating in a winter break or spring break program?

Would you like to work on language skills while abroad?

- Do you prefer to take courses in English or another language?
- Would you consider taking courses taught in English, but in a non - English speaking country?

What can you afford?

- What fees are charged by the program provider/host institution?
- What is not included in the program fee?
- Do you understand the fees you will owe to Ohio State?
- What is the average cost of international airfare to your host country?
- What will you need to budget for items not included in the program fee?

What kind of host institution experience are you looking for?

- Do you want an immersion experience, studying alongside local students?
- Do you want to take courses on the campus of an international university, but take courses with other international students?
- Do you prefer a small, medium, or large sized institution?
- Would you like to attend an institution in an urban setting, or one with a more enclosed campus?

When would you like to go?

- What time of year and terms would you like to study abroad?
- What will the weather be like in your host country/city?

What kind of program services do you need?

- Do you prefer to have the services provided by a third party provider, or a program requiring more independence (i.e. direct enrollment)?

What kind of program structure would you like best?

- Would you prefer a program that takes place over winter break, spring break or May, or one that lasts a semester or longer?
- Would you prefer to live and study with Ohio State students and faculty or live and study independently?
- Do you want to take classes with students from the host culture or with foreign students only?
- Are you comfortable living abroad independently?
- Do you want to have an Ohio State faculty member (or resident director) available?

Take a look at your answers, and use them to set priorities based on your goals, expectations and comfort level. Use these priorities as you search for the study abroad program that's right for you, and remember that may need to be flexible with some factors.



Explore programs

Find an education abroad program that's right for you!

Global Education

Explore Programs

Getting Started



Getting Started Sessions

Ways to Go Abroad

Choosing a Program

Getting Started Academics

Funding

Accommodations and Disabilities

Application and Policies



Preparing to Depart



Health and Safety

Coming Home



Planning a Program



FAQ



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Office of International Affairs
140 Enarson Classroom Building
2009 Millikin Rd
Columbus, OH 43210

ويا@osu.edu

Phone: 614-292-6101



If you have a disability and experience difficulty accessing this content,
please contact the Digital Accessibility Center for assistance at
accessibility@osu.edu or [614-292-1760](tel:614-292-1760).

[Privacy Statement](#)

[Non-discrimination Notice](#)

[Cookie Settings](#)

© 2025 The Ohio State University

[About Us](#)

[Directory](#)

[Events](#)

[Give](#)

[Forms](#)

[News](#)