

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Application Process

✓ Q: When is my application due?

✓ Q: What is required as part of the application?

^ Q: Should I apply for one semester or a year?

A: Our programs are designed to best serve students studying abroad for the full academic year. We recommend that students apply for academic year programs if possible. Here are some reasons why:

- When traveling abroad, students go through a transition period that can take up to four months. Students who remain abroad for more than one semester have the opportunity to fully adjust to their new surroundings, and they often report increased personal growth and transformation as a result.
- The majority of students study abroad the full academic year. As a result, this community of students tends to bond very deeply, and students also report forming strong relationships with locals, program staff, and Faculty-in-Residence while studying abroad for the full academic year.
- With more time to practice with native speakers, academic year students become more proficient in the host country language.
- Less than 2% of universities offer study abroad programs spanning more than one semester. Pepperdine's academic year programs are a unique and once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to fully experience and connect with another culture, language and community.
- Many students who choose to study abroad for one semester later ask to extend their contract to remain abroad for a longer period of time. We accommodate these students when possible, but can only accommodate extensions on a space available basis and if visas regulations allow for it. Therefore it's best for students to apply for the academic year from the beginning (if their academic plan can allow for it) in order to hold their space in that program and in order to secure a visa if necessary. Students who have only attended one semester tell us time and time again that they wished they had stayed the full academic year.
- We normally prioritize academic year students and as a result admissions is more competitive for single semester applicants.

- Although a full academic year can sound like a long time at the outset, students are given a 4-6 week winter break where they have the option to travel home and visit family and friends. Although we understand that some students may only be able to participate for one semester, we encourage all students to give serious consideration to a full academic year stay.

- ✓ **Q: Can I apply for more than one program?**
- ✓ **Q: Should I have other study abroad locations in mind when I apply?**
- ✓ **Q: If I apply for an Academic Year, can I switch my application to one semester later?**
- ✓ **Q: When do I interview?**
- ✓ **Q: When will I know whether or not I am accepted?**
- ✓ **Q: Why are priority applications due about a month after beginning of the fall semester?**
- ✓ **Q: Are there jobs for students while abroad?**

Selection Process

- ✓ **Q: Do students who apply for the academic year receive preference?**
- ✓ **Q: How does International Programs make admissions decisions?**
- ✓ **Q: What happens after I am accepted?**
- ✓ **Q: If I sign a contract, can I change my contract from an Academic Year to a semester only contract or from semester only to Academic Year or from one semester to the other semester?**
- ✓ **Q: What does it mean if I was waitlisted for a program and what should I do?**
- ✓ **Q: What is the student contract?**

Academics

- ✓ **Q: Which courses are being offered?**

- ✓ Q: Are there any language course pre-requisites?
- ✓ Q: Do I have to take a language while overseas?
- ✓ Q: Who teaches the courses in International Programs?
- ✓ Q: Are computers available overseas?
- ✓ Q: Can I do directed studies?
- ✓ Q: Do Pepperdine's international programs have Monday-Friday classes?

Cost & Financial Aid

- ✓ Q: How much do the programs cost?
- ✓ Q: What is included in the International Programs charge?
- ✓ Q: Are there any external costs associated with the program that are not included in the International Programs charge?
- ✓ Q: Does financial aid apply to the cost of an International Program?
- ✓ Q: How much spending money should I take with me?
- ✓ Q: Is there an extra fee for taking a PE course?
- ✓ Q: How do I get money when I'm overseas?

Passports and Visas

- ✓ Q: How do I get a passport?
- ✓ Q: Do I need a visa to participate in my program?
- ✓ Q: Where do I get a visa, when do I get it, how long will it take?

Travel and Flights

- ✓ Q: From where do the programs depart?
- ✓ Q: Is the cost of airfare included in the program charge?
- ✓ Q: Can I arrange my own travel to the program?
- ✓ Q: What opportunities are there for travel?
- ✓ Q: I'm going overseas for a year. What do I do over the winter break?
- ✓ Q: How do I extend my stay overseas and what are flight implications?

Returning to Malibu

- ✓ Q: Once I'm overseas, how do I take care of registration and housing for the next semester?
- ✓ Q: Is there any support for returning students who are struggling with being back in Malibu?
- ✓ Q: How can I get involved after returning from my program?

Withdrawal Fees

- ✓ Q: What are the withdrawal fees if I decide to break my contract?
- ✓ Q: Can I withdraw from only the fall portion of my academic year contract?

Health & Safety

- ✓ Q: Does Pepperdine provide students with health insurance while abroad?

- ✓ Q: How does Pepperdine assess and approve international travel?
- ✓ Q: How does Pepperdine safeguard our community while abroad?

Miscellaneous

- ✓ Q: Can friends or alumni visit the facilities abroad?
- ✓ Q: How many students participate in each program?
- ✓ Q: Do I need any vaccinations?
- ✓ Q: Do I need to complete a medical examination evaluation?
- ✓ Q: Should I get a smartphone that works abroad?
- ✓ Q: Can I only study abroad sophomore year?
- ✓ Q: If I didn't apply by the IP Priority Deadline, can I still apply?
- ✓ Q: Can I study abroad as a science or business major?
- ✓ Q: Do I travel on every weekend while abroad?
- ✓ Q: I am having second thoughts about going abroad, what do I do?