

## UCCS Abroad 101: An Overview

Hello, and on behalf of the International Affairs office, welcome to Abroad 101: An Overview. In this video, you'll learn about education abroad here at UCCS -- why you should consider it, things to think about as you choose your program, program offerings, and more. After you've watched this video, I encourage you to view the other sections, which get more in-depth about academics and financing. With that, let's get started.

So, why go abroad? Well, education abroad allows you to experience class subjects and places up close and personal, gives you a chance to grow even more than you might on campus, learn a new language or improve your skills, impress future employers, and more. This is a chance to discover the wider world, learn about a new culture, try new foods, and to learn new skills. So, how do you get started?

Well, first and foremost, get a passport! Every student needs a passport to travel internationally, and it can take a while to process the application, so you'll want to get that process started as soon as possible. If you already have a passport, check to make sure it's not expired and will be valid for at least six months past your program's end date. To learn more about applying for a passport, visit the U.S. Department of State's website at [travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov).

Once you've started applying for your passport, you can start narrowing down your program options. Here are some things to think about when deciding which program is right for you:

- Are you hoping to earn credit for your time abroad? If so, the program should offer courses that will allow you to make progress towards your UCCS degree, and you'll

want to think about how the courses you take will fit into your degree plan. A more detailed examination of academics and credit transfer can be found in another Abroad 101 video.

- On a broader level, what do you hope to accomplish by going abroad? What do you hope to get out of the experience? Set a goal or two, and make sure that the program you pick will help you meet those goals.
- Similarly, what kind of experience are you looking for? Do you want to take classes at a university and look at your academic area from a new perspective? Gain experience in your chosen field through an internship? Do you want to fully immerse yourself in a new culture for an extended time, or dip your toe in with a shorter trip? How much local support would you like to have while abroad? Do you want a local office to help plan excursions and guide you through your experience, or do you want to figure it out on your own? Do you want to take classes with locals, or with a cohort of other international students? Different programs will offer different experiences, so keep that in mind as you consider your options so you can be sure to choose a program that will offer the right experience for you.
- Additionally, are there locations that may be better suited to your goals or the experience you're seeking than others? Countries whose local language isn't English might be a good fit if you're looking to improve your language skills, whereas you might look at a broader range of options if you're just seeking a new adventure. Which locations might get you out of your comfort zone?

- Is the program you're interested in affordable for you? Some programs will be more affordable than others. And, if you receive financial aid or scholarships here at UCCS, that aid can go with you, but the courses you take will need to count toward your on-campus degree -- will the program offer courses that will let you do that? Some programs also offer their own scholarships for accepted students; that's something else to consider when narrowing your options if cost is a consideration. More information about cost and aid can be found in another Abroad 101 video.
- Finally, how long do you want to be away? You can go for as long as a year and as short as a week. What would work best for your commitments and schedule? Is there a particular session – summer, fall, winter, spring, or year -- that would fit your schedule best?

Now that you have an idea of your goals for your time abroad, it's time to think about what kind of program would fit those goals. At UCCS, we offer four types of programs: exchange, UCCS short-term, 3rd party, and internships. Exchange programs allow you to study at a foreign university at a cost equivalent to attending UCCS for a semester or academic year. Short-term programs, on the other hand, allow you to get your feet wet by studying a specific topic abroad with other UCCS students, often led by a UCCS faculty member. 3rd party programs offer a wide variety of locations and subjects and are often taught in cohorts with other international students. Finally, internships allow you to get hand-on job experience in your chosen field.

We offer all four program types year-round, so you can go abroad whenever! Short-term programs, which are one to two weeks long, are most often offered during the summer, spring, and winter breaks. Summer programs range from two to ten weeks long, and can be an exchange, internship, or 3rd party program. Semester programs are most often 3rd party, exchange, or internships, and run for about four months during the fall or spring semesters, though start and end dates vary and are something to keep an eye on. Finally, you can go abroad for the academic year, or about nine or ten months, with an exchange or 3rd party program.

So, where can you go? Just about anywhere! Here at UCCS, we offer programs on six continents and in fifty-seven countries. The only restriction is whether a country is safe to travel to. We use the U.S. Department of State's travel advisory system to make that determination -- as long as a country is at a level 1 or 2, UCCS students can study abroad there. If a country is a level 3 or 4, we won't allow travel there for your safety. We keep a close eye on these advisories; if a country's status changes from safe to unsafe, we will suspend travel, but will do our best to offer an alternative option or location. So, where will you go?

We here in the International Affairs office are so excited you're thinking about going abroad, and we're here to help you throughout the process. Got questions? Want to schedule a meeting to talk more in-depth? Reach out! You can reach us via email at [international@uccs.edu](mailto:international@uccs.edu), by phone at 719-255-5018, on Facebook at UCCS International Affairs, on Instagram at [@uccs\\_international](https://www.instagram.com/uccs_international), or on Twitter at [@uccsinternat](https://twitter.com/uccsinternat). You can also

find more information on our website at <https://abroad.uccs.edu>, or stop by our office in  
Copper House 9202. We look forward to seeing you!