



Study Abroad Frequently Asked Questions

When should I start thinking about studying abroad?

It's never too soon! As early as freshman year, you should discuss your interest in studying abroad with your academic advisor and begin to plan your course schedules accordingly.

Eligible students can study abroad as early as the spring of their sophomore year, or the summer after your freshman year. Whichever term you're interested in, you should start the process EARLY in the semester BEFORE you intend to study abroad.

No matter what point you are at in your college career, stop by the Study Abroad Office in the lower level of the Unistructure (near Faculty Suite J) to learn more about the countries and programs available.

I have made the decision to study abroad-- What is the next step?

Attend one of the many information sessions offered by our office and hear from a peer advisor about the process students go through to study abroad, including the next steps and who they need to meet with. Note that Bryant has an allocated number of available spaces on each of our different semester program types. If you're serious about studying abroad for the following semester, you should adhere to the priority application deadlines listed below.

Review the brochure available for pick-up at one of the information sessions. This is a step-by-step guide to prepare you for the entire process before, during and after you're abroad.

NOTE: You must apply for study abroad no later than the semester prior to your anticipated semester/summer abroad and abide by our application deadlines (PRIORITY DEADLINES are October 1st for spring, and March 1st for fall. Otherwise, all applications are due NO LATER than October 15th for spring semester, and March 15th for fall semester or summer terms). **Some providers have earlier deadlines than Bryant; students should abide by the earliest application deadline for the program they decide to apply to if it's before our priority or regular application deadline.**



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How can I contact other students who have traveled abroad?

The Study Abroad Office has a group called 'Past Participants', which is comprised of current Bryant students who have been abroad and who would love to share their experiences and knowledge with you! Please reach out to us so we can get you in contact with one of our past participants.

What do I need to prepare for study abroad?

All Bryant students must complete BOTH the Bryant online enrollment form (which will be available after a meeting with the Study Abroad Office), and the selected program's application. Once you apply to a study abroad program, make sure that your passport is up to date (and will not expire for AT LEAST 6 months after you're scheduled to return home), work with your program provider on the Visa process for your intended country of study, and attend our mandatory meetings before you leave.

Can I only study abroad for a semester or are there shorter/longer programs?

You may study abroad for a semester or even 2 separate semesters (not back-to-back) if you plan ahead. If you are interested in a short-term program, you may choose a summer or winter (commonly referred to as a J-term) program, which range in length from 3 weeks (J-Term/winter) - 8 weeks (summer program). You are not required to use a Bryant affiliated program provider to choose a winter or summer study abroad session.

How do I prepare academically for my study abroad experience?

Along with your academic advisor, you will review your available Bryant courses and integrate these courses with classes offered abroad through the various study abroad program(s).

The earlier you discuss your interest in studying abroad with your advisor, the easier it will be to coordinate this process.

Earn good grades. **Remember that a cumulative GPA of 3.0 is required at time of application and MUST be maintained throughout the semester prior to studying abroad.**

Will the classes I take in a foreign country count toward my degree?

You can apply the courses you take overseas to your major, minor or general elective credits-- just remember to plan ahead! The academic advisors who also act as a Country Specific Advisor will help to



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get the courses you take abroad to count towards your Bryant degree requirements, so long as you work with them to get the courses pre-approved.

Students who study abroad for a semester in a country where English is not the first language, they will be required by Bryant to take at least an introductory language course in the target language abroad (if they're currently studying the language of their intended host country they can take language courses of a higher level to keep on track).

The grades you earn abroad will not affect your Bryant GPA; however you do need to get at least a "C" in the class in order for the credit to transfer. Students participating in an IB Customized program do have up to 2 courses where those grades WILL affect their Bryant GPA and will be discussed in their IB Custom program info sessions.

ALL of the grades you earn abroad WILL appear on your Bryant transcript as the U.S. grade equivalent!

Can I take business courses at my abroad institution?

You can take up to one business course at a non-AACSB accredited school and can take multiple business courses at an AACSB accredited business school.

The Study Abroad Office will help you to find AACSB accredited business schools and the approved program provider that offers that school, if you decide you would like to take more than one business course abroad.

The average Bryant student takes no more than one business course abroad and is still able to stay on track towards graduation, provided they're earning C's or higher in each of their courses.

What are the steps of the course approval process?

Before going abroad, you must have ALL of your courses approved by Bryant to receive academic credit!

After attending a study abroad info session to learn the basics about studying abroad you will **meet with your regular academic advisor**. During this meeting, you will receive a list of your remaining degree requirements on a Study Abroad Degree Evaluation (SADE) via email and learn how to interpret course equivalencies (e.g. what might a Historical Mode of Thought look like at your chosen institution abroad).



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You will also be entered into the study abroad Blackboard account. From this account you will be able to see courses at institutions abroad which have already been approved by Bryant University; a past study abroad participant has taken these courses and therefore the classes have been approved by Bryant.

Next, you will **meet with the Study Abroad Advisor**, Ashley Mathews, or the **Study Abroad Director**, Cindi Lewis. Have your SADE handy via the email you received it in for this meeting in the Study Abroad Office. You will discuss what might be a good academic and personal fit for you abroad and where you are interested in going. You must choose a program **BEFORE** submitting your applications and getting courses approved.

After selecting a program, you should **begin the application process for that program, as well as submitting your Bryant online enrollment form**. Once you have begun applying to your chosen program you will need to **meet with your country specific advisor**. With the help of your country specific advisor you will submit courses for approval, if necessary, and **complete a course contract**. Your course contract will include the courses that you have selected at the foreign institution and their Bryant equivalencies (i.e. the degree requirement each course meets).

Note: The course approval process can take a long time. It is recommended that you begin as soon as possible!

Who is my country-specific advisor at Bryant?

To receive credit for the courses you take during your time abroad you must have your chosen classes pre-approved by Bryant University. The Academic Advising Office will help you throughout this process. Each country has a country-specific advisor, their assignments are as follows:

- **Douglas Hillis:** Australia (NOT direct partner program); New Zealand; countries in Asia not assigned
- **Dustin Lesperance:** Ireland (NOT direct partner program); UK (England (NOT direct partner programs), Northern Ireland, Scotland, and Wales)
- **Christopher DaCosta:** France; China; Italy (IB students ONLY)
- **Rebecca Senna:** Spain (IB custom programs ONLY); Central & South America
- **Kristin Pidgeon:** Italy (non-IB students and NOT direct partner programs)
- **Keri Chernoff:** Direct Partner programs (ALL locations); non-IB custom programs in Spain
- **Margrete Jean-Louis:** Non-assigned European locations; Africa



What are the eligibility requirements to go abroad?

To go abroad for a semester, you must have a 3.0+ GPA at the time of applying and maintain a minimum overall GPA of 3.00 at the end of the term prior to studying abroad. Requirements for summer and winter programs vary by the program you have chosen and typically start as low as a 2.5.

Students may go abroad as early as the second semester of their sophomore year. Students may go abroad with a summer program starting the summer after their freshman year. Transfer students must have attended Bryant for a minimum of one semester, be considered at least a second semester sophomore for the term they plan on studying abroad and received a minimum 3.00 cumulative Bryant GPA before applying to any study abroad program.

Students must be in good standing with DPS, ResLife, and Student Affairs, as well as not having any holds on their Student Account through the Bursar's Office.

If I fail to meet the GPA requirement to study abroad, what are my options?

Again, summer programs and winter programs do not usually require a 3.0 GPA. The GPA requirements for these programs vary by program provider and tend to be less demanding.

I've heard Accounting majors cannot go abroad, is that true?

Accounting majors do have the ability to go abroad while staying on track with their degree requirements. The main difference is that accounting majors are required to take 9 courses in their concentration as opposed to the 6 courses required in the majority of business concentrations. By working with your academic advisor to plan ahead it is certainly possible for all majors to study abroad.

What if I can't speak a foreign language? Is an English-speaking country the only place I can study abroad?

There are several countries, in addition to the UK, where the primary language of instruction is English. There are also many additional institutions that offer at least some courses taught in English, even if it is not the primary language of instruction.

It is possible to take all courses in English; however it can be beneficial to have some background in the language. If you have no prior language experience for the country you wish to study abroad in and if English is not the primary language of that country, you must take at least a beginning level course for



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that language while abroad and will need to work with the country specific advisor to see what course requirement the language fulfills for you back at Bryant.

Can I study abroad as an athlete?

Yes! We have sent many athletes on study abroad programs! The Study Abroad Office will be able to help you find a program that doesn't conflict with your team's athletic schedule.

What are program providers and what do they do?

A program provider is an intermediary between Bryant and the foreign institution/program and they provide additional services to the students (i.e. airport pick-up, orientation on-site, on-site directors, emergency support, excursions, VISA paperwork help, etc). You can find a list of our office's accepted program providers and the study abroad programs they offer [here](#) or go to the Program Overview link in the navigation bar.

Must I use a program provider to go abroad?

You must use either a program provider or participate in our Direct Partnerships with either the University of Birmingham, the University of Hertfordshire, Dublin City University, the Università Cattolica Sacro Cuore, University of Trento, the Universidad Francisco de Vitoria, the University of the Sunshine Coast, or the Universität Konstanz, to apply for a semester abroad. More information about the Direct Partners can be found on our page. For short-term programs (summer or winter) a Bryant approved program provider is not required.

Can I afford to study abroad?

You pay the same tuition to study abroad as you do to attend Bryant University unless the total charge at the host institution exceeds the comparable charges at Bryant, then you pay Bryant's tuition rate plus the difference of the host institution's tuition, as well as the one-time study abroad fee of \$500 for semester abroad programs. You can visit the [Bursar's web site](#) for more information.

Regular tuition, room and board (if applicable), are **paid to Bryant** for semester programs through one of our approved program providers. Students who are participating in our Direct Partner options pay tuition to Bryant, and their room and board is paid to the university overseas. Most financial aid is applicable to Bryant approved semester study abroad programs.



What are the meal plan options abroad (for third party programs)?

Depending on the program a student has the option to purchase meals on their own or participate in a program at the university at which they are attending abroad. If they participate in a program which does provide a meal plan option abroad, a fee of \$2,846.50 - \$3,307.50 (these fees are based on the 2019-2020 Academic Year Meal Plan Costs) will be assessed to their Bryant University account, depending on the number of meals/week the student is receiving. Students staying with a host family abroad will ALWAYS be provided a meal plan and will be billed the equivalent rate for a meal plan that they're receiving overseas. Some residence hall options abroad also come with a meal plan option depending on the program, and students who select this option for housing will also be billed for the equivalent meal plan rate for the number of meals per week they're receiving abroad. Opting out of the meal plan is not usually an option, but this question should be directed to the program provider for the program location.

What would my housing options be when I study abroad?

There are 3 main types of housing abroad: homestays, residence halls, and apartments. Depending on the program you choose, certain housing options will be available. You should know which types of housing are available before you apply for a particular program.

To whom do I pay housing, and will the costs differ from Bryant housing costs?

Housing costs are paid directly to Bryant University for students who participate in third party programs. (Students who participate in Direct Partner programs will pay their housing fees directly to the host institution, based on what the host institution charges for their available housing options.) The room rate is dependent upon the type of housing that a study abroad participant receives. If the participant is housed in a room that is typical of the Bryant University on-campus dorm-style living, the fee is \$4,700.50 (double room) or \$6,142.00 (single room). However, in certain circumstances, participants are given the option to live in a facility that is typical of the Bryant University on-campus townhouse-style living and those students are charged at the higher rate of \$5,718.00 (double) or \$6,142.00 (single). These costs are based on the 2019-2020 Academic Year Costs, found on the Bursar's Tuition and Fees page.

Additionally, some programs offer housing that is not comparable to Bryant housing options. The University will pay up to \$6,142.00 in housing costs to the host institution. If a student chooses and



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receives a housing option that exceeds that cost, the student will be billed and is responsible for paying the difference. Students are responsible for comparing the cost differences between Bryant's housing options and their intended program's options to see if they would be paying a difference in housing costs. Sometimes these surcharges do not appear on your initial bill, you will be notified via your Bryant University email address that an updated E-Bill is ready for viewing.

Are homestays safe?

Homestays are extremely safe! Families are chosen carefully by program providers before being approved to host a student. Also, homestays offer a unique setting in which to experience the culture of your host country. Many of the homestay families have been with our providers for several years hosting students. If you have any concerns speak to your program provider-- they will tell you all you need to know!