

WHERE TO STUDY ABROAD



Studying where to go abroad is no easy task!
There's a *lot* that goes into this thought
process. But, you owe it to yourself to make
the most of this time.

This guide lays out four main goals:

1. Language/ Culture
2. Academics
3. Networking
4. Experience

Go through the blog post with this workbook
and track what countries will work best for you!

Identifying goals

Before you can identify your priorities in choosing a country, you should identify your study abroad goals. Answer these questions to help.

Why do you to study abroad?

What are you most excited about?

What are your career goals?

What is your major? Why did you choose this?

How can your time abroad enhance your major and your career?

Types of goals

An efficient way to organize your study abroad goals is into these four categories:

Language

Full immersion of another language is arguably the only way to truly learn one. So, focusing on this is wisely taking advantage of that chance, but often requires quite a bit of immersion.

Academics

This is thinking about how your study abroad can improve your academic career and carry you after. Focusing on your academics can lead to a more diverse understanding of your field.

Networking

Focusing on networking abroad will grow your professional, academic, and social network when you return. It'll give you a unique network beyond your home university and friend group.

Experience

Emphasizing overall experience means paying close attention to the skills and opportunities you'll have abroad. This means honing in on leadership, volunteerism, immersion, and personal growth.

My goals!

Identify your goals and their category.

1. _____

type of goal: _____

2. _____

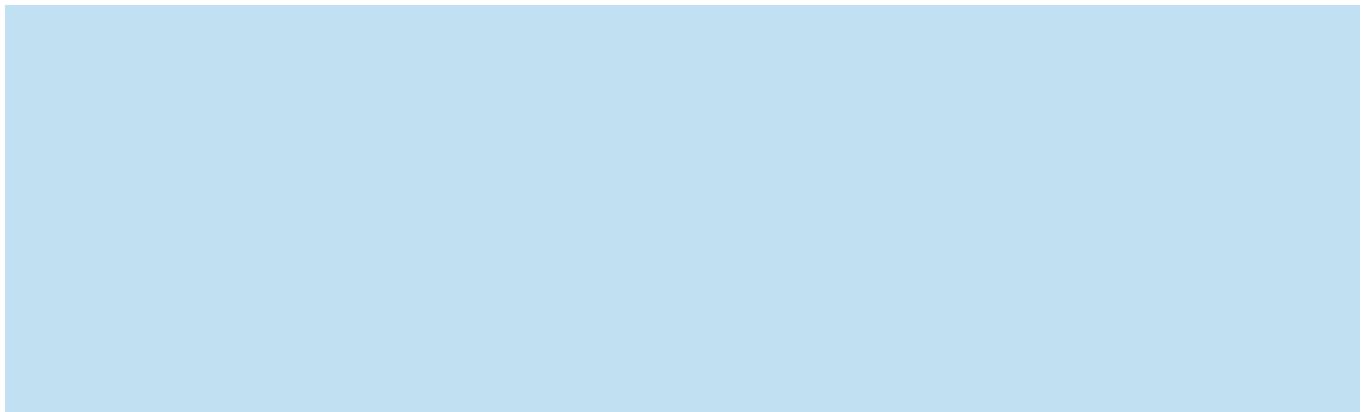
type of goal: _____

3. _____

type of goal: _____

What are NOT my priorities for studying abroad?

We don't want to spread ourselves too thin!



Importance of Language

What language are you interested in learning?

Language should be a particularly big factor in your decision making if one or more of the following apply:

- You're willing to take your classes abroad exclusively (or close to it) in the foreign language
- You're willing to live with a host family
- You're nearly fluent in your target language
- You're majoring or minoring in that target language

If you've checked some of those off, then go ahead and look up some countries that speak that language.

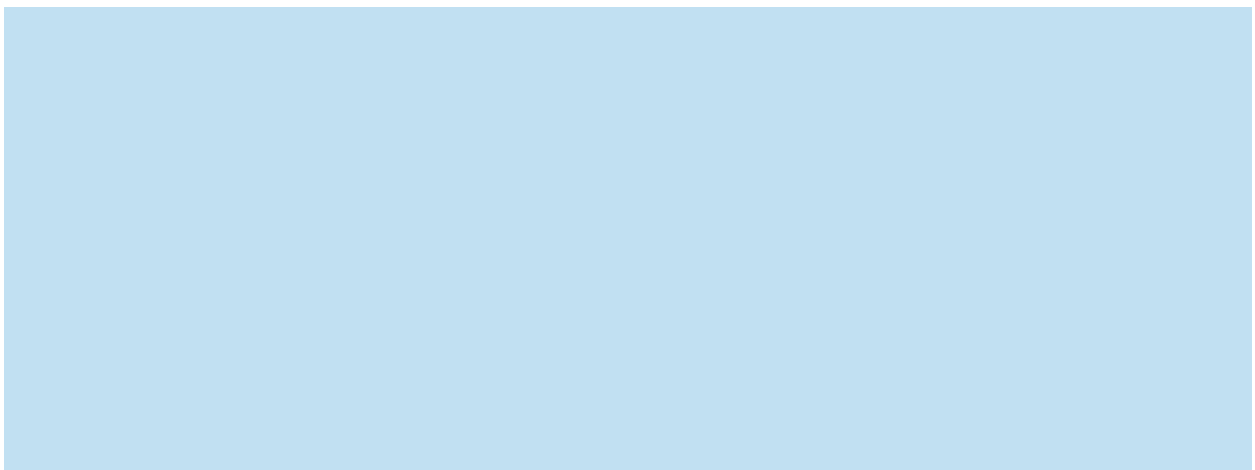
1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Learning Languages

You may not want to completely immerse in a foreign language. That's fine! That only means that you shouldn't condition your entire choice on language. But, if you do still want to improve your language. What options do you plan on pursuing?

- Seeing a tutor before I go
- Seeing a tutor while abroad
- Joining a conversational group while abroad
- Taking a language class within my university
- Setting a weekly study schedule for myself

Based on these two pages, write down how important you feel language to you is at this point and how you plan to develop your language skill while abroad.



Universities

This is the part that is most often overlooked when deciding when to study abroad. Look for universities that specialize in your field of study on Times Higher Education.

Find the top 3 schools in your field outside of your country and list them below:

School	Country
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Some notes on these programs. How do I feel about those countries? How am I thinking about university importance vs. language? What is the student life like there?

Your School's Programs

Check out your school's programs and see if any of them line up with your language interests or university interests.

What programs are of interest to you in your school that match up to your language and academic priorities?

Program	Country
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

What are some of the benefits of studying abroad with your school? What are some of the cons? Are there any extra expenses your school will charge you?

Professors

Find professors around the world that specialize in your field of study and interest.

Professors from my university's partner study abroad schools

Professor	Country
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Now, open some of the textbooks for classes core to your field of study. See who wrote them. Where do they teach? What country and what university? Keep track here.

Professor	Country
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Companies Abroad

Look up the top companies that you hope to work at someday. These should be very well known and/or your dream jobs. Then, record the top ones that aren't located in your home country.

What are the top companies in your field abroad?

Company	Country
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Below are some ways you can get involved with these companies while abroad. Which interest you?

- Internships
- Volunteer
- Network with employees via cold e-mail (think coffee dates and office tours)
- Attend/volunteer with events the company puts on

Experiences

Now that you've looked into the incredible opportunities you can take while studying abroad, it's time to look at what qualities are going to be most important to you in a program. Use this checklist as your "base" when choosing.

Accommodations

- Host family living
- Living found independently
- Living on campus

Fellow Students

- School has mostly locals
- School is for foreigners

Program type

- Independent program- you live/ are on your own
- Inclusive program- food, accommodations, travel

Opportunities

- Internship opportunities
- Travel opportunities
- Volunteer opportunities
- Extracurricular opportunities

Location

- Urban environment
- Rural environment

My country!

This is the fun part! Of course, there's not one recipe for where everyone should go and listening to your gut is a big part of it. But you've done great work here weighing and researching your options. Here's a simple base equation to decide:

