

## Office of International Programs Study Abroad Information

## Factors to Consider When Making Your Decision to Study Abroad

- 1. Destination
  - Language
  - Relevancy to coursework
  - Personal preferences/desires
  - Cost of living (daily life costs, travel within and to the country, exchange rate)
- 2. When to study abroad
  - First and last 30 credits should be taken at SHU, unless permission is given by your Dean to do otherwise
  - Discuss with your academic advisor how studying abroad can fulfill requirements of your academic program
  - Summer language credits may not be transferrable if an equivalent SHU course is offered
  - Take into account local weather
  - Think about travel options prior to or after your studies
- 3. Choosing a program/provider
  - Does SHU have an exchange or faculty-led program in your desired country? You can apply your scholarships and aid to SHU's exchange programs!
  - Reputation of provider (ask OIP and check reviews online)
  - What is included in program cost (i.e., tuition, accommodations, insurance, some excursions, etc.)
  - Costs can vary depending on which city in the country you choose, accommodation options, etc.
  - Available scholarships from provider
  - Additional services available (excursions, insurance, accommodation options)
- 4. Scholarships and funding search engines:

<u>www.iie.org/program-finder</u> <u>www.scholarships.com</u> <u>www.moneygeek.com</u> <u>www.fastweb.com</u> <u>www.fastweb.com</u> www.studyabroad.com (also find resources on Visa, Budgeting, Guides, Tips & more)

- 5. Gather information from former participants
  - Ask OIP to reach out to previous participants and discuss personal experiences
  - Find program reviews for third party providers from students nationwide at: www.studyabroad101.com

## Study Abroad Checklist -To be completed in order!

- 1. Apply for passport (May take up to six weeks to process)
- 2. Meet with your academic advisor to discuss course selection (bring credit transfer form and course descriptions)
- 3. Meet with Gary Thomas in Financial Aid about loans/grants (N/A for summer)
- 4. Apply to study abroad program. Deadlines vary by semester and program!
- 5. Complete the OIP study abroad application (check application checklist for deadlines)
- 6. Apply for your student visa (if necessary) check with program to inquire
- 7. Book flight! ONLY after you have been approved by program, OIP and received visa, if applicable