CHOOSING YOUR OFF-CAMPUS STUDY PROGRAM WORKSHEET

There are many different types of study abroad programs (see information on **Types of Programs** in your OCS Handbook and OCS website Getting Started). Your answers to these questions will help determine which type of off-campus study program might best match your goals, interests and academic needs. We recommend you complete this worksheet and bring it with you when you meet with an adviser to discuss program options. See Advising and Appointment options online.

**Which of the following have you done to research off-campus study opportunities?** (Choose all that apply).
- Met with your academic advisor(s) and/or department liaison(s). You are strongly urged to do so. (see Department Recommendations in your OCS Handbook and OCS website).
- Attended an OCS, department or program info session
- Visited the Off-Campus Study fair
- Talked to study abroad returnees
- Read student evaluations online (see OCS website under General Information)
- Researched programs online (see OCS website)
- Visited the OCS library in Eustis 103
- Other _____________________________
- None of the above

**ACADEMICS**

**What do you want to study while abroad?** ______________________________________________________________

Do you want to (Check all that apply):
- Take in Depth Courses in your major(s)
- Complement your course of studies here on campus
- Explore a minor interest
- Explore a new subject for a semester
- Master a foreign language
- Conduct independent research or fieldwork
- Take courses not available at Colby
- Experience a different education system
- Gain a different perspective on your major
- Other: _________________________________________________

Do you need to complete major requirements while abroad? Yes  No

Do you need to complete any distribution requirements while abroad? Yes  No
If yes, which requirements:_________________________________________

Is there a specific academic focus you are interested in pursuing? Yes No
If yes, which focus: _____________________________________________

Would you like to be able to do research for your senior thesis?  Yes  No

Would you like to be able to do an internship while abroad? Yes  No

Would you like to get involved in service learning or volunteer activities while abroad? Yes  No

**What type of experience are you seeking?** (Check as many as apply)
- Immersion experience in a foreign university - taught in English
- Immersion experience in a foreign university - taught in a foreign language
- Language intensive program
- Thematic program (i.e, science, arts, human rights, development and social change, urban studies, global health, economics, natural resources management, biodiversity, environmental policy, education, etc.)
- Field-based experience
- Classes offered at a study center for study abroad students
- Internship program
CHOOSING YOUR OFF-CAMPUS STUDY PROGRAM WORKSHEET

Does your GPA qualify you for the program in which you are interested?  YES  NO
Do you have any concerns about this?  YES  NO

LANGUAGE

Do you want to take all of your classes in English?  YES  NO
Are you willing to study the local language while you are there?  YES  NO
Is it important for you to improve your language skills?  Yes  No
Do you want to / are you able to take all your courses in the host-country language?  Yes  No
What language(s) have you studied? ________________________________________________
What course level have you/will you have completed by the time you go abroad? ________________

WHEN TO GO

How much time would you like to spend abroad?  (Check all that apply):
☐ Semester
☐ Fall
☐ Spring
☐ Either fall or spring
☐ Academic Year
☐ Full Year in 1 site
☐ Full year in 2 sites
☐ Summer
☐ JanPlan

Is your chosen program/university available/approved for either semester?  YES  NO
Do you need to keep your summer free for work or internship?  YES  NO
How many JanPlans will you have completed before going abroad? _______
Do you expect to / need to receive JanPlan credit for your program abroad?  YES  NO

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

What type of learning environment would you prefer?  (Check all that apply)
☐ Traditional classroom setting
☐ Field-based learning
☐ Conducting an independent study project
☐ Large lecture-style classes
☐ Small seminar-style classes

Do you want to re-create a Colby-like experience abroad or try something completely new? ________________

Do you feel more comfortable with the services of a resident director or are you confident you can handle enrollment, sightseeing and travel on your own? ________________________________

Are you comfortable directing your own learning experience?  Yes  No
In the US, students are often told exactly what they should read and research. Many foreign universities expect students
CHOOSING YOUR OFF-CAMPUS STUDY PROGRAM WORKSHEET

to take a more independent approach to their learning. For example, students are given a starting point and suggestions for further reading, but there is usually a strong emphasis on private study.

Would you prefer a high level of support from a study abroad program?  Yes  No
Support could include extra in-country staff, arranged housing and excursions, assistance with visa and application process, etc.

How comfortable are you with true independence?
For example, some programs would require that you be responsible for seeking out help if you need it; arranging your own activities and excursions and sometimes housing.

Would you prefer a large university or small program setting?

Do you want to stay away from Americans as much as possible? Or do you feel it would be more comfortable to be around at least some people with similar backgrounds, going through the acculturation process together?

With whom do you want to take classes? (Check all that apply)
☐ Other study abroad students
☐ International students
☐ Host-country students
☐ Combination

LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

Which living arrangements appeal to you the most? (Check all that apply)
☐ With a host family
☐ With other study abroad students
☐ With students from host country
☐ Living on your own
☐ In a university dorm
☐ In an apartment
☐ Not important factor in program choice
☐ Other

How important is it for you to be involved with local culture and people?

How do you envision yourself spending your days? Who would I most like to meet?
In some programs, you may get to know a number of community members, while others may offer more opportunities to meet college students.

LOCATION

Is there a country or region in which you are academically and culturally interested?

What type of location do you want?
☐ Big city
☐ Smaller city
☐ Rural area

MAIN GOALS

Why do you want to study abroad?

What do you hope to accomplish and/or gain academically and personally while studying abroad?
CHOOSING YOUR OFF-CAMPUS STUDY PROGRAM WORKSHEET

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Which of the following factors may affect your location or program choice? (Choose all that apply).

☐ Course availability
☐ Program start and end dates
☐ Dietary or travel restrictions
☐ Specific housing option (homestay, dorm, etc.)
☐ Disability services and accommodations
☐ Access to physical and/or mental health care professionals
☐ Financial concerns
☐ Other ________________________________

What prior international experiences have you had?
______________________________________________________________________________

What do you think will be your greatest challenges living in another culture, and how would you prepare yourself for these challenges? For example, how adaptable are you to unfamiliar places, routines, foods, etc? How flexible are you about disruptions and delays to schedules and plans? ______________________________

What extra-curricular/personal interests do you wish to pursue while you are abroad? __________________________

Have you discussed off-campus study with your parents? Yes No

Have they expressed any concerns about your plans? Yes No

Do you have any medical or mental health issues that need to be considered when selecting a study abroad site? If you have a learning or physical disability that could affect your participation, we would be pleased to help you identify viable options. ______________________________

What other needs, preferences, interests, and habits you need to consider when choosing a location and a program for study abroad? (Examples could include allergies, food preferences, low tolerance for noise/pollution, need for privacy, interest in music/art....) ______________________________

Is cost a factor in your ability to study off-campus? Yes No
Consider not only tuition and fees, but also housing and food, personal expenses, and international travel.

Have you looked into scholarship opportunities? Yes No

Do you receive financial aid at Colby? Yes No

What is your citizenship? _________________

Are you an international student Yes No

What questions do you have about studying off-campus? ______________________________

Good Luck!

Come see us if you want to talk through these questions.
See Advising and Appointment options online.