

WORKING WITH GLOBAL EDUCATION OREGON (GEO)

Study abroad opportunities can offer students a wide range of benefits, including developing global awareness, enriching academic learning, supporting the growth of leadership skills, advancing networking and career opportunities, improving second language skills, and enhancing personal growth. Advisors and faculty can utilize it as a tool that helps students stay committed and aligned to their academic goals.

The purpose of this document is to share information and provide strategies that can help advisors and faculty inform students about education abroad opportunities. This handout works in conjunction with the GEO website (geo.uoregon.edu) and the student study abroad roadmap.

TYPES OF GEO PROGRAMS

GEO offers a wide range of programs that vary by cost, location, length, and program type. GEO study abroad advisors are available to help students learn more about the various program types and to share details about specific locations.

GEO Centers: A GEO center program has dedicated on-site staff. GEO centers like London, Siena (Italy), and Segovia and Oviedo (Spain) offer different programs throughout the year. These centers offer a strong “home base” for students, and include the expertise and resources of local staff, and a dedicated facility where students take classes, get advising or tutoring, study, and more!

Faculty Led: Led by faculty from the UO or a partner university, these programs tend to focus on one topic or discipline, allowing for deeper specialization. Most faculty-led programs are designed to satisfy specific major and minor requirements in the department associated with the faculty leader.

Language & Culture: In addition to language courses, students take a variety of courses related to the country in which they are studying. Students often engage in cultural activities and excursions to better understand the target culture and language.

Intensive Language: These programs focus on the acquisition of language skills and are often very immersive! Some language learning programs allow a student to bring back a significant number of language credits – even up to the equivalent of one year of language coursework.

Exchanges: An exchange allows students to enroll directly at a foreign university for a semester or for an entire academic year. Students have access to most courses that the university offers in a wide range of academic disciplines. Exchanges sometimes have lower overall costs than other programs of similar length.

Field Studies/Research: Some programs sponsored by GEO involve a research component in addition to classwork. This includes both Field Research and Lab Research options. If students are looking to build their research portfolio, possibly for future graduate school applications, or for a senior thesis, this may be a great way to get practical experience in research.

Internships: GEO has programs that offer both full internships and internships blended with coursework. In all cases, these internships are unpaid and offer academic credit towards the student’s degree.

Third-Party Sponsored Programs: UO students may also consider participating in programs that are sponsored by GEO and approved for UO credit. These programs are operated by organizations such as CIEE, IE3 Global, SIT, DIS, and Wildlands, and add to the wide range of programs available to UO students.

CONTACT US

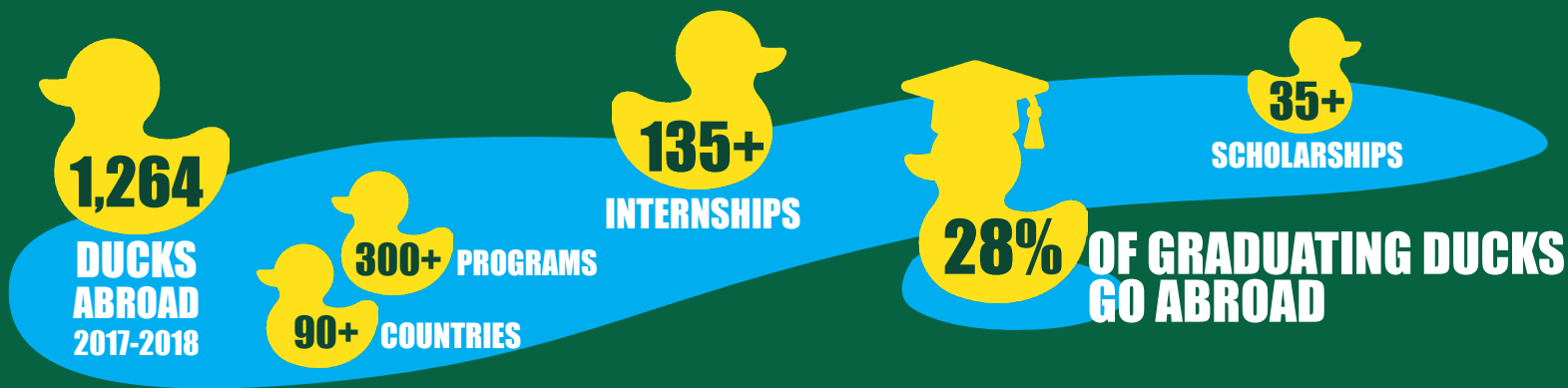
Important Bookmarks:

- GEO Website geo.uoregon.edu
- Programs geo.uoregon.edu/programs
- **Please note each program has a specific advisor that is listed on the program-specific webpage*
- Events geo.uoregon.edu/events
- Study Abroad Scholarships & Finances geo.uoregon.edu/scholarships



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ACADEMICS & STUDY ABROAD

Credits: Students abroad on a GEO sponsored program earn UO credit. Application of the credits earned abroad is determined by the relevant UO department. Courses abroad can satisfy major, minor, or Core Education requirements. Students should meet with a study abroad advisor for more information about specific program courses.

Registration: GEO registers students for their courses abroad. Students are registered for placeholder credits prior to departure. The credits are adjusted upon the conclusion of program and once grades are submitted. Students should review program dates with departmental advisors and plan for their classes upon return. Depending on the program timeline, a student may need to register for the following term while abroad.

ACADEMIC ADVISORS CONNECTION POINTS

Pre-Program

- Identify the best term for your advisee to spend abroad
- Contact GEO to learn which programs are particularly well suited for students in your degree program
- Review course selection and equivalencies for major/minor requirements and help students to seek out course approvals from the relevant department. Refer to the UO Office of the Registrar Course Equivalency Database found at the bottom of every GEO program brochure page or here: registrar.uoregon.edu/study-abroad-course-equivalencies
- Encourage students to attend information sessions, speak with GEO advisors, and explore scholarship opportunities.

During Program

- Your advisee may need assistance in registering for the upcoming quarter
- Discuss any course changes abroad or adjustments upon return

Post-Program

- Review grades, revisit academic plan, and discuss next steps to satisfy major requirements
- Encourage advisee to visit the UO Career Center for tips on updating a resume to reflect the education abroad experience

Financial Aid: Most forms of financial aid apply to study abroad. Students should meet with a financial aid advisor to discuss specific package details. Students should also consult with GEO scholarship advisor to learn the parameters around applying the scholarship for their time abroad. The availability of some scholarships can vary depending on the term of participation.

ADDRESSING BARRIERS TO STUDY ABROAD

Studying abroad can be a big step for many students. Some potential barriers include financial limitations and graduation timeline.

Academic Timelines: Students are often concerned that studying abroad will delay their graduation. GEO Institutional Research tracked UO student cohorts from 2007-2012 and found UO students who participate in study abroad have a 11.4% higher 4-year graduation rate than their counterparts who don't. The planning that accompanies studying abroad often supports creating a comprehensive academic timeline.

Financial Limitations: GEO offers a wide range of scholarships for UO students planning to study abroad including first-year planning scholarships, passport grants, and scholarships for students with disabilities and first-generation college students. There are many other scholarships based on financial need, academic merit, student background, and program region. Students can find funding resources on GEO's Scholarships and Finances page. GEO scholarship advisors are also available to help students with applications, including competitive national scholarships.