

Study Abroad 101

An Intro to Valpo's programs and how to sign up!

Office of International Programs
valpo.edu/studyabroad



Presentation Overview

In these slides, you will find information on:

- Why study abroad?
- Where can you go?
- Getting started
- Funding your experience
- Coursework & Housing
- How to choose a program
- More reasons to study abroad

Why Study Abroad?

- Enhance Academic Learning
- Develop Leadership Skills
- Advance Your Career
- Experience Personal Growth
- Learn Another Language
- Create Global Awareness
- Promote International Security

“This experience helped me to grow in a greater way than I ever thought possible. I learned a lot in the classroom, but the majority of my learning came from traveling, interactions with others, and learning about myself.”

Eric – Reutlingen,
Germany Study
Center Participant

Where Are We Now?



What kinds of semester or year-long programs?

1. **Valpo Study Centers:** Reutlingen, Germany; Cambridge, England; Hangzhou, China or Puebla, Mexico
2. **Exchange Programs:** Enroll in a partner university abroad (Either a language immersion program or a program with all coursework in English)
3. **Cooperative Programs:** Enroll through a US university program abroad
4. **VIIEP:** Valparaiso International Engineering Programs include an internship abroad

Valpo
Scholarships &
Financial Aid
apply!

12-16 credits
towards
graduation!

Valpo Study Centers

- On-site resident director
- Group trips, included in the program cost
- Culture Class & Language instruction
- A full semester of academic credit

Reutlingen, Germany
Study Center
Est. 1968

Cambridge, England
Study Center
Est. 1968

Hangzhou, China
Study Center
Est. 1990

Puebla, Mexico Study
Center – Est. 1983



Fast Facts:

- Full semester of credit that counts towards graduation
- You pay Valpo Tuition & General Fee (housing, meals & spending money vary by program)
- Scholarships & Financial Aid Apply
- Courses in English or a Foreign Language



Why I Studied Abroad...

“Studying abroad was probably the single most valuable learning experience that I have had during my time at Valparaiso University. . . Experiencing many new and sometimes uncomfortable situations helped me to learn more about myself as a person. If any students are considering study abroad I strongly recommend it. It is an experience unlike any other that you will have during your college career.”

Bonnie Kean (Granada, Spain Participant)

“I gained so much confidence from the experience and I now know that I can support myself and be an individual. I am much better at meeting new people now. It was just amazing...do it.”

Cambridge, England
Study Center Participant

Other Options

- Summer & Spring Break Trips
- Domestic Options Available
 - Chicago Urban Semester
 - DC or NYC Internship Programs
- Independent or Non-VU Affiliated Programs

Remember to
ask if Valpo
Scholarships
& Financial
Aid apply to
other options!

Getting Started

- Start planning now!
- Applications for programs are generally due well in advance.
- Start by researching the options available by visiting the Office of International Programs and speaking with an academic advisor (at least one year before you would like to travel is ideal).

Need a Passport?

Click Icon Below for Procedures:



Eligibility

Valpo Study Centers:

- Sophomore standing and minimum 2.75 overall GPA
- No prior German or Chinese required; Spanish 203 needed for Puebla, Mexico

All other programs:

- Sophomore standing and a minimum 3.0 overall GPA, although a few programs require junior standing
- Language requirements vary by program

What are the steps?

1. **Learn about Valpo's study abroad options.** Visit the Office of International Programs located in the Harre Union to talk about your interests in studying abroad.
2. **Talk to your academic advisor** about courses options on a study abroad program.
3. **Talk to the Office of Financial Aid** to confirm how scholarships and other aid apply to your program of choice. Most scholarships and financial aid apply to all VU-affiliated programs.
4. **Submit an application**, signed by your academic advisor, to the Office of International Programs along with a transcript, recent photograph and a personal statement.

Did you know?

The Office of International Programs hosts information sessions each semester?

You can hear from former participants and ask your questions directly to the experts!

Coursework

- With careful planning, students in any major or college can fit an international program into their curriculum and still maintain regular progress towards graduation.
- Depending on the program chosen, it is likely that there will be courses available in any major or minor, or courses which apply toward completion of elective or General Education requirements.

Did you know?

You can earn most of
your General
Education
Requirements or
Humanities credit
abroad?

Coursework

As you are selecting a program, check with your academic advisor on:

- How to transfer back your study abroad courses
- What requirements there are for the courses to count
- What the courses will count for (gen eds, major, minor, electives)

Did you know?

Cultural Diversity requirement or Christ College seminar credit automatically fulfilled by participating in a semester-long program!



Room and Board

- Living arrangements vary from one location to another. Possibilities include university residence halls, staying with a host family in a private home, sharing an apartment, and boarding houses.
- In some cases you will have a meal plan similar to those at your home institution. In other cases, you or your host family will be responsible for providing meals.

“Living with a host family really made the transition to living in a foreign country easier. Not only did we receive home cooked meals everyday, but they also helped us learn our way around the city and made suggestions of places to go. It helped us to practice and improve our language skills while feeling welcome and comfortable in the home.”

Kristin Hughes
Granada, Spain



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Making new friends...

“I met most of my roommates the first night I arrived on campus, and they became my best friends. They didn't give me a minute to miss home. I was always hanging out with them, whether it was to watch a soccer or baseball game, getting food, going to a dance club, or even just making conversation in the dorms.”

Patrick Sullivan, Puebla, Mexico

Funding Your Study Abroad

- The cost of living in some countries is less than in the US (i.e., you might spend less money abroad).
- Not all programs cost the same – shop around.
- Depending on the duration of your program, the flight there can be a significant portion of the expenses. Flights to countries closer to home or frequently visited, and student tickets purchased well in advance, tend to be cheaper.

Did you know?

Additional
scholarships
are available
just for
studying
abroad!

[www.valpo.edu
/studyabroad](http://www.valpo.edu/studyabroad)



Funding Your Study Abroad

- Scholarships & Financial Aid
 - Most scholarships and financial aid transfers to Study Abroad Programs
- Advance Planning and Budgeting

Have
Questions?

Ask the
Office of
International
Programs to
help you
budget and
plan!

Financial Aid Tips

- Visit with a Financial Aid Counselor at the Office of Financial Aid, located in Kretzmann Hall or call 219-464-5015.
- A Financial Aid Counselor can help you plan a budget for studying abroad and discuss additional sources of funding.

Did you know?

You might be eligible for a loan to help cover any extra spending money you might need abroad.



Tools for Finding a Program

- **Office of International Programs:** The best place to look for a study abroad program is your U.S. home campus study abroad office. The staff can help you through the process of finding a program, applying, participating, and returning home.
- **Academic Advisor:** A faculty member can help you map out which program fits best into your graduation plans as well as giving you professional advice.

Office of International Programs is located in the Harre Union – 2nd Floor.

Stop by anytime or schedule an appt. by calling 219-464-5333

Email Julie Maddox
Director of Study
Abroad Programs
julie.maddox@valpo.edu



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Tools for Finding a Program

- **Websites:** There are a number of websites with information about available study abroad programs.
- www.iiepassport.org
- www.goabroad.com
- www.studyabroad.com
- www.studentsabroad.com

[Click here for a list of Valpo Affiliated Programs](#)

Remember:
Valpo Financial
Aid &
Scholarships
apply to affiliated
programs

Reasons For Students From Diverse Backgrounds to Study Abroad

- See the world and broaden your experience
- Gain a new perspective on your own country
- Explore your heritage
- Gain new insights and outlooks through new relationships

All students
are
encouraged
to study
abroad!

Global Competencies

- Individuals must acquire and demonstrate a number of skills or competencies to be able to live and work successfully in a global economy and a diverse society of people from different backgrounds, cultures and countries.
- These skills are often characterized as global competencies.

Did you know?

The US Government needs students who are knowledgeable about the world and can speak other languages – they'll pay you to study abroad:

www.borenawards.org

www.iie.org/fulbright

www.iie.org/gilman

www.rotcprojectgo.org



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For more information,
please contact:

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www.valpo.edu/studyabroad



Office of International Programs

Gandhi-King Center for Diversity & Global Engagement
Harre Union, Second Floor



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