



Memorandum:

Study Abroad and New Student Advising

DATE: 23 April 2015
TO: Department Chairs, Program Advisors, Summer Advisors
FROM: Eric Yonke, International Programs Director

Eric Yonke

Dear Summer Advisors,

We need your help! Most new students think study abroad is not for them without really knowing what it is. And it is easily dismissed as a luxury or something that will extend their time to degree. As students' first academic advisors, you can help dispel some of this misunderstanding and open up a potentially life-changing opportunity. Help them see their undergraduate career within a larger framework. Given Wisconsin's highly competitive globalized job market, we want students to graduate with the broadest and best opportunities. You can begin to articulate the most compelling reasons to gain international experience and show students how study abroad can fit into their general education or their major program. New students need to hear these reasons. Planning from the outset is critical.

Here is a quick synopsis. The following information should help you answer some key questions for new students.

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| Degree progress: | Study abroad CAN help students stay on track if planned well. It could even help shorten time to degree. Semester, summer and Winterim options are available. 13-17 credits on a semester abroad; 3-9 credits possible on short-term programs. |
| Course options: | GEP courses; advanced coursework in many majors through short-term, semester direct enrollment and exchange programs; internships; language study options. Many courses at 300 level. |
| Planning: | Work with IP office to plan coursework for major in direct enrollment and exchange programs; "reserve" some GEP credits for semester abroad options. <u>Sophomore and advanced first year students can study abroad!</u> <i>Financial planning available at I.P.</i> |
| Value: | International experience develops global awareness, enhances any student's résumé, and opens up career possibilities; financial aid applies fully; some programs cost less than a semester on campus. |
| Information: | International Programs Office, 108 CCC. Phone: 346-2717. Website: www.uwsp.edu/studyabroad |

Please encourage students (and parents) to stop by our office in CCC and to visit our website (www.uwsp.edu/studyabroad) for updated information and application materials.