



Memorandum:

Study Abroad and National Student Exchange Information

DATE: 3 May 2016
TO: Department Chairs, Program Advisors, Summer Advisors
FROM: Eric Yonke, Study Abroad Director

Eric Yonke

Dear Summer Advisors,

We need your help! Most new students think study abroad is not for them or that it is a luxury 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. 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, their major or even a minor. New students need to hear these reasons and planning from the outset is critical.

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

Degree progress:	Study abroad and the National Student Exchange CAN help students stay on track if planned well (even in STEM areas). It could even help shorten time to degree through direct enrollment at partner universities or summer programs that meet major or GEP requirements. 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; internships; language study options. Many courses at 300-level.
Planning:	Work with the study abroad office to plan coursework for major in direct enrollment and exchange programs; "reserve" some GEP credits for short-term abroad options. <u>Sophomore and advanced first year students can study abroad!</u> <i>Financial planning advice is available in the Office of International Education AND in the Financial Aid Office.</i>
Value:	International experience develops global citizenship, enhances any student's résumé, and opens up career possibilities; financial aid applies fully; some programs cost less than a semester on campus.
Information:	Office of International Education, 108 CCC. Phone: (715) 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.