



Study Abroad: Tips for Advisors and Students

Myths and Realities
Resources
Deadlines



Why these tips?

Study abroad provides opportunities for students to learn how to engage the world ethically and responsibly, while gaining the knowledge, skills, and confidence needed to do this well - including in careers.

Study abroad at Beloit College is an activity students approach intentionally and critically, with opportunities post-study abroad to think about the what, so what, and what next of their experiences.

Roughly 40% of Beloit College students spend a semester abroad, but participation is uneven across academic programs and student demographics.

These slides provide **tips** for advising about study abroad and can be used when meeting with students.



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Myth 1: You need to speak a language other than English to study abroad.

Reality: Study of languages other than English is important, and multilingualism is an advantage in life and work. Further, Beloit has excellent language offerings.

However, the majority of Beloit students who study abroad do so through [options](#) where English is the language of instruction and, in some cases, also the language of daily life.



Myth 2: You can't study abroad if you are a student athlete.

Reality: Athletes can study abroad, and may even be able to play their sport while abroad, as many universities offer club sports AND have great [sports facilities](#). Some options begin in March, making it possible to for basketball players and swimmers to complete the season *and* study abroad.



Myth 3: Study abroad isn't relevant to my major.

Reality: Study abroad is relevant to all majors - and possible in all areas of study offered at Beloit College.

Employers want the candidates with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes associated with study abroad. Candidates without international experience are at a disadvantage, because employers need employees who can work in multicultural teams *and* be sent abroad to function capably and confidently without hand holding.



Myth 4: Course sequencing in my major means I can't study abroad.

Reality: Course sequencing should not prevent students from studying abroad. Requirements can often be met while abroad, and departments routinely help students work around course sequencing to make study abroad possible.



Myth 5: Students with mental health concerns or disabilities can't study abroad.

Reality. If students can manage their mental health concerns at Beloit, they can handle them abroad. Ditto disabilities. There are [resources](#) dedicated to helping them do so.

And there are [resources](#) for students of color and LGBTQ+ students who want to study abroad.



Myth 6: Low-income students can't study abroad.

Reality: Low-income students can and do study abroad. Some options [cost less](#) than a semester at Beloit and resources on scholarships and budgeting can be found [here](#).

Scholarships include the [Gilman](#) (for students with Pell Grants), [Freeman-Asia](#) (for study in Asia), and the [Boren](#) (for extended study abroad involving critical languages and critical issues.) Programs such as CIEE and SIT offer need-based scholarships.



Myth 7: International students can't study abroad.

Reality: International students study abroad at the same rate as domestic students.

Let's aim for 50% of all students studying abroad, including international students.



Myth 8: Study Abroad is not Liberal Arts in Practice.

Reality: Students practice the liberal arts when they study abroad by

- identifying goals in keeping with their interests, studies, and assets,
- developing plans for meeting the goals,
- applying learning in new contexts (both in and out of the classroom),
- critically reflecting on their experiences, and
- connecting study abroad to past, present, and future endeavors.



Resources: Web Information

Off-Campus Study webpages

- students' experiences
- where students can study abroad
- what it will cost
- access for students traditionally underrepresented in study abroad
- how to apply
- roadmap for studying abroad



Application Deadlines

November 1 & February 1: study abroad in the following academic year

February 1: domestic off-campus study in the following academic year

September 15: international and domestic study in spring of the same year, budget permitting

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