



UNIVERSITY
PROGRAMS

Center for International Studies

Study Abroad Questions to Ask Your Academic Advisor

Your academic advisor may have limited information about study abroad, but he or she is an expert in your degree plan and can share important information that will help you plan ahead for study abroad.

1. When should I study abroad?

The best time to study abroad depends on your degree plan. Some colleges and departments have specific recommendations, so this is an important question. For example, if students want to study abroad for a semester, the Harris College will advise them to go fall of sophomore year, while the Neeley School will tell them to go spring of junior year.

If it sounds like you can't fit a semester of study abroad into your degree plan, remember that TCU offers hundreds of summer and short-term study abroad programs too!

2. What kinds of major or minor classes can I take off campus, if any?

Departments teach certain courses that must be taken on campus from TCU faculty. But many departments allow students to earn some of their major credits away from campus, including on study abroad. These might be classes for certain types of credit (such as major electives) or commonly-taught subjects (such as Spanish Literature or Developmental Psychology). Find out what courses you may be able to take away from campus and save some for study abroad.

3. What TCU Core Credit do I still need to take?

If you have TCU Core left, save some for study abroad! Semester students can earn FAR, HUM, SSC, HT, LT, RT or CA. Summer and short-term programs are usually taught by TCU faculty, so they might offer any type of TCU Core, including CA, GA, CSV and WEM.

4. How many general elective hours do I have left?

Every TCU student has to take a certain number of general electives, the easiest type of credit to earn abroad. If you can, save one or two because you'll find unique and interesting courses on study abroad – everything from Aboriginal Studies and Korean Language to Marine Biology and Structural Engineering. Generally, courses taken abroad count as upper-level residency credit at TCU.

5. Can I earn major credit for an internship abroad?

On some programs, internships are offered for academic credit. It is not common to receive major credit for internships, but elective credit is often approved. If you're interested, check with your department to see whether and how internships might be approved.

6. What other information should I know?

Your advisor probably meets with many TCU students interested in study abroad. They may have other tips and advice that will help you plan your journey.