



## Questions to Ask Your Study Abroad Advisor

Come prepared! Your study abroad advisor will ask you a few questions. You don't need to know all the answers, but it's helpful to think about the following ahead of time:

- How long do you want to study abroad?
- Where do you want to study abroad?
- What kinds of credits (major, minor, core and/or electives) are you hoping to earn?
- Have you discussed study abroad with your academic advisor?

### 1. What programs make the most sense for me?

Study abroad advisors will not pick your program for you, but they can help narrow your list of program options if you explain the kinds of classes or credits you need, your preferred region or country, and the type of experience you hope to gain.

### 2. What kind of classes are offered on this program? How many classes and credits should I expect to take?

Study abroad programs have different class offerings. If you're hoping to earn major credit, make sure that the program you're considering offers classes in your discipline. Most programs have requirements about the number of classes you must take. During a semester, students take 3 – 5 courses (12 – 16 credits) and during the summer students take 1 – 2 courses (3 – 6 credits).

### 3. Am I eligible for this program?

TCU requires that students are in good standing with the university. All semester programs require a minimum 2.8 GPA and two semesters at TCU prior to studying abroad. Individual programs may have additional requirements such as a 3.0 GPA, junior or senior standing, 2 semesters of previous language study, etc.

### 4. When should I start my application? What are the deadlines?

Most students apply the semester before they go abroad, but some programs have earlier deadlines. Ask when your program's application is due and how early you should start.

### 5. What are the costs?

Study abroad students are charged for TCU tuition and a program fee, but they also need to budget for additional expenses like airfare and meals. Program fees and additional expenses vary by location and determine if a program is more or less expensive than a term at TCU. Be sure to ask about the costs. Remember, TCU scholarships and aid apply to study abroad.

**6. What scholarships should I apply for?**

TCU offers significant scholarships and aid for study abroad, but there are also scholarships outside the university, through government, private and nonprofit organizations. Your study abroad advisor may be able to help you find scholarships that match you and your program.

**7. What is the housing like?**

Study abroad students may live in residence halls, homestays or apartments. Each program has different housing arrangements and options.

**8. What is the city or university culture?**

Not all study abroad programs are alike – even when they're in the same city! Some programs are campus-based and residential. Others may be in urban, rural, or even tropical settings. Ask about the size and culture of your school. What is the city and local culture like? How do people get around? All of these questions will help you determine if a program is the right fit.

**9. What do I need to do now?**

Even before applying to a program, there will be things to do such as applying for or renewing your passport and meeting with your academic advisor. Talk to your study abroad advisor about a general timeline of tasks.