

Study Abroad Guide

Center for Global Engagement



A guide for Rose-Hulman students participating in study abroad programs.

ROSE-HULMAN
INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

**Center for Global Engagement
Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
Terre Haute, Indiana 47803 USA
Tel. 812-877-8810**

**global@rose-hulman.edu
global.rose-hulman.edu
facebook.com/RHOGP/
Instagram: rhit.abroad**



Jiaye Su, Spring 2017, Madrid, Spain

Please note that information in this guide is subject to change.

Welcome

Dear Study Abroad Student,

Congratulations on your decision to study abroad! You are about to have one of the greatest adventures of your life.

We in the Center for Global Engagement at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology are here to help you prepare for study abroad and communicate while you are away. When you return, we would love to hear about your experience and help you re-integrate into life at Rose. This guide is one tool during to help you through the process of studying abroad. You should also conduct some research on your own and explore where you will be studying. This can be done by visiting websites, utilizing our library resources, speaking with previous study abroad students, etc...

As you know, study abroad is a great way to enrich your undergraduate education, expand your worldview, challenge your intellectual and personal maturity, and foster self-confidence and independence. It will also help you enhance career prospects, among many other things. Please do not hesitate to contact us at the Center for Global Engagement, as we are here to assist you every step of the way.

We wish you the best in this adventure!

Sincerely,

Center for Global Engagement



Top Ten Reasons to Study Abroad:

Adapted from A Student Guide to Study Abroad, Chapter 1, "These are Global Times"

1. Learn more about yourself and become more self-aware.
2. Boost your self-confidence and independence.
3. Learn another language.
4. Learn about your own country.
5. Expand your worldview.
6. Strengthen adaptability, communications and team-building skills.
7. Enhance your career opportunities.
8. Experience another culture firsthand and enhance your cross-cultural competency.
9. Make new friends from around the world.
10. Travel.

“Studying abroad taught me to rely more on myself and my instincts. I feel like I can go almost anywhere in the world now and hold my own. I also gained tons of lifelong friends from many different cultures and backgrounds. Definitely would recommend this experience to anybody!”

Joseph Holtz, Spring 2017, Hochschule Esslingen, Germany



Top Ten Tips for Deciding to Study Abroad:

Adapted from A Student Guide to Study Abroad, Chapter 2, "Determining if Study Abroad is Right for You"

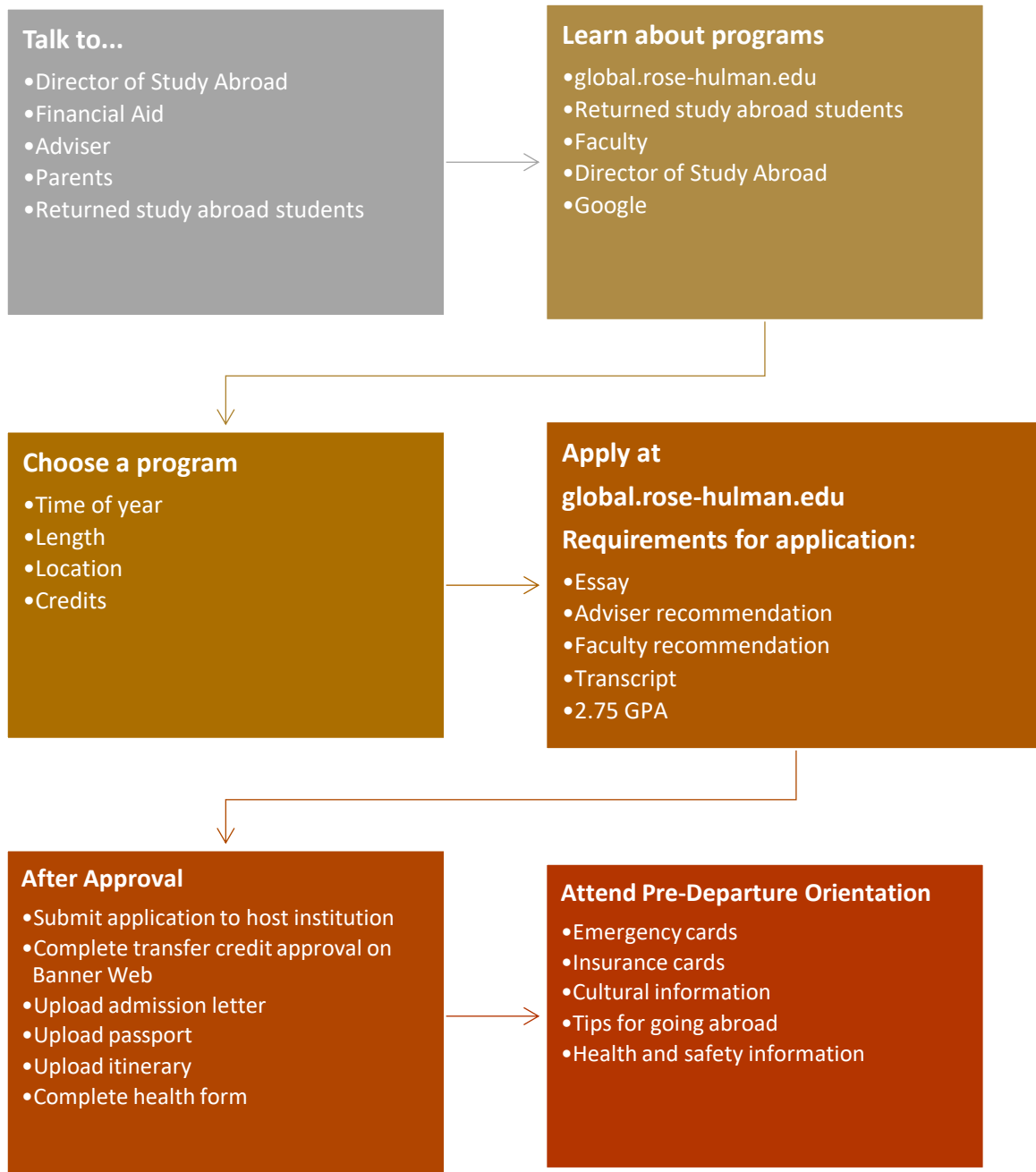
1. Make sure you are ready for the personal challenges.
2. Determine how studying abroad will enhance your degree.
3. Crunch the numbers to confirm you have the necessary funds (early planning is key).
4. Choose a place that you are particularly interested in or curious about.
5. Consider the important role of language learning abroad.
6. Confirm that credits can be transferred.
7. Recognize that you'll benefit more if you don't hang out primarily with other Americans.
8. Articulate your personal goals for studying abroad.
9. Talk with professors, advisers, parents, and friends about the opportunity.
10. Prepare properly to enhance your success abroad.



Joseph Holtz, Spring 2017, Hochschule Esslingen, Germany

I. Applying for Study Abroad through Rose:

This chart serves as a guide for the steps you need to complete to study abroad.



Types of programs at Rose:

- A. Direct partnerships**
 - a. Partnerships formed through written agreements between Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology and the institution abroad. Our current partnerships include institutions in Sweden, Germany, Spain, Japan, China, Ireland, and South Korea.
- B. Global E-3**
 - a. Consortium of institutions that you can choose to apply to. Through their application process you will list your top three. They have opportunities in 22 different countries.
- C. Faculty Led**
 - a. Programs led every summer by our faculty. These are always changing so please contact the Center for Global Engagement for an updated list of programs.
- D. Third Party**
 - a. These are companies with reputable history of helping students travel abroad. There are many different opportunities here if you do not find your best fit through Global E3 or our direct partnerships.

James Edwards, Spring 2016, University of Ulm (Direct Partnership)
“The best part of studying abroad was the ability to travel (relatively) easily throughout Europe.”



Victoria Heckenlively, Fall 2016, Univ. of New South Wales (Global E3),

“Traveling halfway around the world to live by myself in the big city of Sydney was no doubt one of the scariest decisions I have ever made. Even so, I wouldn’t trade for anything.”

II. Pre-Departure Logistics

Top Ten Tips to Prepare for your Trip:

Adapted from A Student Guide to Study Abroad, Chapter 5, "Preparing to Study Abroad"

1. Complete your application in time.
2. Secure all necessary documentation, including passport and visas.
3. Confirm your travel plans.
4. Take care of personal and financial business.
5. Take care of your health.
6. Think globally.
7. Become familiar with your new country before you leave.
8. Brush up on your American history and current events.
9. Plan to keep a journal and/or set up a blog.
10. Pack wisely.



Tyler Rarick and David Caggiano, Spring 2017, University of Aizu, Japan

Passport:

One of the first steps to prepare for a study abroad experience is to obtain a passport. If you do not currently have a passport that is valid for **at least six months after your program abroad ends**, you must apply for or renew your passport immediately. It can take four to six weeks or more to process a passport, depending on application volume. In addition to this, student visas are not issued without a valid passport.

A new US passport costs \$135.00* (processing fee included). If you are renewing your passport, the cost is \$110.00* (if you qualify to renew by mail).

A complete application for a passport includes:

1. Completed passport application (see: <http://travel.state.gov/passport/>)
2. Passport application fee
3. Valid proof of citizenship (an expired US passport, a certified [original] birth certificate, etc.)
4. Proof of identity (a valid driver's license or government identification card)
5. Two identical 2 X 2-inch passport photographs taken within six months of applying for your passport:
 - We can take your passport pictures for **FREE!** Just email global@rose-hulman.edu to make an appointment.



Important: Many countries require that your passport be valid for six months *beyond* the dates of your trip. In addition, some countries in the Middle East and Africa will deny entry if your passport indicates travel to Israel; check with the embassy or consulate of the country in which you will be studying for any special requirements.

For more information on travel and passport application:

<http://travel.state.gov/passport/>

*Passport pricing as of September 2017.



Student Visa:

A student visa is an endorsement on a passport indicating that the holder is allowed to enter, leave, or stay for a specified period of time in a country. Most countries require you to have a student visa in order to enter the country and stay there legally as a student.

Each country has specific visa rules, so you will need to check on the regulations for the country in which you will be studying. Most countries will require that you apply or at least make your visa appointment through the consular office that has jurisdiction over your primary area of residence.

You can find more information for students abroad at:

<https://travel.state.gov/content/studentsabroad/en.html>

Visa applications will usually require one or more of the following (always double-check with the country you will be studying abroad in for their specific requirements):

1. Current valid passport
2. Visa application form
3. Visa application fee
4. One or more passport-size photos
5. Letter of acceptance from the host institution
6. Evidence of financial support during your period of study abroad
7. Physical examination
8. Proof of medical insurance

Some students like to use their study abroad opportunity to visit other countries during their period of study or after the program ends. If this is the case for you, check entrance requirements of each country before you leave home. **It is your responsibility to have proper documentation abroad.**

****International students**, please remember that study abroad may affect your international student status. You must speak with the Director of International Student Services, Karen DeGrange at 812-877-8285 or via email at: Karen.degrange@rose-hulman.edu to discuss your plans well in advance of studying abroad.

Important note: DO NOT wait until the last minute to apply for your student visa. Similar to getting a passport, this process can take many weeks, and if you do not have a valid student visa (and passport), you could miss your flight and/or program. In addition, some visas require in-person appointments, and it can be hard to book an appointment at the last minute.

Disability Services:

Accommodations and/or services provided overseas can be different and/or unavailable than those provided at Rose-Hulman, be sure you confirm with your host institution what services and accommodations are provided. Bring along necessary documentation: prescriptions, descriptions of disability, physician or specialist contact information, etc.

Patty Eaton is Director of Student Accessibility Services in the Office of Student Affairs at Rose-Hulman. Patty is available to answer your questions. Please contact her at 812-877-8040 or by email at eaton1@rose-hulman.edu.

Registering at the Embassy:

All US citizens should register themselves with the U.S. Embassy in their country of destination prior to their departure from the US. In the event of any international, political, or family emergencies, or if your passport is lost or stolen the US Embassy is better able to assist you if you are registered. You can complete this quick process online through the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program or STEP at <https://step.state.gov/step/>.

Print the confirmation page of your enrollment and keep multiple copies of it with you, as well as one at home. Students of other nationalities should check with their own embassies to see if there is any registration to be done prior to departure.



Flight Arrangements:

Start looking for flights as early as possible. However, do **NOT** book your ticket until you have received acceptance from your program/university abroad and have been approved to study abroad by Rose-Hulman. The host institution should communicate with you directly after receiving your application, and will inform you of the exact date that you are expected to arrive on campus and when your program or university session ends. Be aware of final exam dates as these change from country to country and might require you to stay longer. During your flight research, investigate student fares, student discounts, or possibly travelling with another student.



At Rose-Hulman, it is the student's responsibility to book their flights.

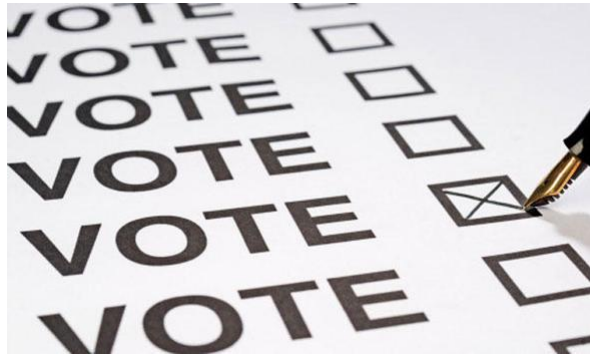
Some travel sites to consider:

Student Universe: <http://www.studentuniverse.com/>

****When booking flights, pay close attention to restrictions on cancellation or re-booking.**

Absentee voting:

If you wish to vote in any US election, you should arrange for an absentee ballot prior to departure. Visit the Federal Voting Assistance Program at <http://www.fvap.gov> for your state's requirements.



“I was surprised by how friendly everyone was. Whenever I seemed lost, a stranger was bound to ask if I needed help finding my way around. Even if they didn’t speak much English, that didn’t stop them from doing their best to help a foreigner get around.” (Sabrina Wicker, Spring 2016, American Center of Chengdu, China)

Staying in touch:

Communicating with family and friends is always important during your study abroad experience. In the modern world, there are more than enough ways to keep in touch. However, we still encourage students to immerse themselves in the country they are visiting as much as possible.

There are numerous free programs and ways to communicate with family and friends.

- Skype: a real-time face-to-face video over the internet with anyone else who has a Skype account.
- Viber, Tango, or WhatsApp: applications on your cell phone that allow you to make international calls and send texts.
- FaceTime if you have an iPhone.
- Facebook chat allows you to have audio and video phone calls, as well as chat with your family. Google through Gmail, allows you to talk, voice, and video through hangouts.



Cell Phones:

Depending on the country, and your cell phone company, it may be more economical and convenient for in-country communication to purchase a SIM card or phone upon arrival. Some students opt for buying a sim card that can be reloaded in country. If you want to use your U.S. cell phone while abroad, contact your cell phone provider directly and ask about options for managing your account while abroad. For more information follow this link:

https://www.studyabroad.com/resources/parent_guide_cell

Time Away from Studies:

Shopping, entertainment, cultural excursions, and eating out can all be important parts of learning about the culture in another country. Hours of operation can differ drastically in other countries, with stores opening later in the day, closing earlier, and closing for lunch in the middle of the day. Most restaurants post a menu outside, so it is a good idea to check it out before you go in to eat. Refer to guidebooks to determine the normal policy of tipping in your particular country.

Sightseeing and Travel:

Traveling in the area can be one of the best rewards of studying abroad. Typically, travel to nearby countries can be very affordable by plane, bus, or train. Many times student discounts are available for public transportation. Do some research before you leave the United States, so you know your options. It is a good idea to find someone to travel with you, so that you can split the costs and feel safe. There are so many options of things to do while studying abroad, including attending plays, visiting museums, taking walking and hiking tours, and exploring the city or town where you are living. Discounts are often available for students.



Language practice:

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology has partnered with Mango languages to provide students with a great online tool to learn and practice a foreign language. A fun-infused way to learn a new language, Mango prepares learners for realistic conversations and strengthens everyday communication skills in over 70 world languages. You can practice this online on your computer or straight from your phone with their interactive app.

Link: <https://connect.mangolanguages.com/rose-hulman/login?u=12030>



III. Packing

Do not overpack; pack lightly!

It is very difficult to pack everything you could want while going to study abroad. (Most importantly, if your bag is extremely heavy, remember you will be the one carrying it throughout your travels.) Every airline has restrictions on how many bags you can check and carry, and how much they can weigh. Paying for baggage over the limit can get quite expensive. Check with the airline before you leave home on the specific requirements. Also, keep in mind that you will buy things while abroad that you will want to bring back and will need space for that.



Packing Suggestions

Documents:

- Identification (passport, driver's license, student ID card) and copies packed separately
- Medication doses/prescription (must be in original packaging)
- Credit/Debit/ ATM cards, and some currency from your host country
- Money belt and/or passport pouch
- Proof of insurance/ insurance card
- Personal medical records
- Acceptance letter from your host university and/or approval email from Rose-Hulman
- Travel information and in-country staff contact information provided by your university abroad
- Your academic adviser's email address
- Extra passport-size photos for any ID cards you may need abroad

Medical/Health:

- Prescription medications in original containers and copies of prescriptions in generic form
- Eyeglasses/contact lenses, including extras and prescriptions
- Travel first aid kit and sewing kit

Practical necessities:

- Converter and/or electrical adapter
- Camera and equipment
- Country travel guide
- Gift items for host family and/or friends you meet abroad
- Toiletries, including feminine products (availability depends on the country you are visiting)
- Dress clothes and shoes in case of a presentation or a company visit
- Swim suit and exercise clothes
- Flip flops
- Insect repellent and sunscreen
- Jacket or sweater (depending on the time of year you will study abroad)
- Hat/scarf/gloves (depending on the time of year you will study abroad)
- Comfortable and casual clothing
- Comfortable shoes



IV. Let's Talk MONEY

Managing money abroad can be challenging, and you need to plan. Before you go, pay attention to the exchange rate between the U.S. dollar and the currency of your host country, and learn to think about this. Check the exchange rate at: <http://www.x-rates.com> or <http://www.xe.com>.

Fees for Study Abroad:

Understand all program fees prior to departure. Many programs will require a deposit or payment in full prior to your departure. At times students overlook living and transportation expenses they may incur in country, so add that to your budget plan. In general, most study abroad experiences can be achieved within the cost of a quarter at Rose-Hulman. You are encouraged to speak with returning study abroad students to get an idea of the true expenses of study abroad.

Rose-Hulman Study Abroad Fees:

All Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology students studying abroad are charged:

- Rose-Hulman tuition (exchange programs, only); Study Abroad Fee (all other academic year study abroad programs)
- Technology Fee
- Rose-Hulman Health Insurance: (Unless you complete the waiver. Please contact the Business Office about this if you have student health insurance.)

How Much Money Should I Take?

The amount of money that you take depends on the country and you as a person. Some programs or universities provide students with an estimated breakdown of expenses that can be of help. Also, do not forget to consult students who have returned from studying in your destination city or country.

Students who plan to regularly go shopping or have a more active nightlife in their host city will probably need more money than those who do not. If you intend to travel before or after your program, you should also budget for that. Several airlines provide “bare bones” amenities for students but can be worth using for a short weekend trip. Look at train and bus travel when investigating inexpensive ways to travel.

Finally, take enough money to last for the time there. Those students using financial aid should note that the disbursement of such could be delayed and should have a plan B if that happens.



How to carry your money?

You are advised not to carry large amounts of cash, but it is always a great idea to have some small money in the currency of the country you are visiting. You can exchange money at any international airport; however, exchange rates and fees are much higher. You are encouraged to exchange money prior to departure or use ATM's. Money can be carried in credit card, debit card, international bank drafts, and cash. Check with your program or with the international office at the host university to find out the best way to transport money to your particular host country.

Banking:

If you will be staying in a country for over two months, you may find it useful to open a local bank account upon arrival. Some host institutions will require you to open bank accounts in order to make payments to them easier. This may be more convenient at times and less expensive than withdrawing funds from a U.S. account. The international office of your home institution will be a good resource for bank inquiries. Always ask about any restrictions that may apply to international students.

ATMs:

In many countries around the world, you can use your ATM card from home to withdraw money from your U.S. account in the local currency. Cards are usually required to have a Visa or MasterCard logo. Check with your personal bank for transaction fees, as well as making sure your PIN number is valid abroad. Do not forget to notify your bank that you will be abroad, so they do not assume fraudulent activity and sometimes cancel or freeze your account.



Traveler's Checks:

Traveler's checks have become less popular in recent years. You may find that banks in smaller cities might not recognize these and refuse to cash them for you, which leaves you with money you cannot access. Traveler's checks usually have a serial number that you should write down. If your checks are lost or stolen, the full amount could be reimbursed if you have the serial numbers. Identification is necessary to cash these checks and they usually incur a 2-3% transaction fee. Generally, traveler's checks are not recommended, as they are a less convenient form of payment.

Credit Cards and Debit Cards:

In most places around the world, it is a good idea to have a credit card for daily purchases and/or emergencies that may arise. Credit cards can be useful for large purchases or for hotel or travel reservations, and they can be used for cash advances from banks. Visa, MasterCard and American Express are the most widely used and accepted. Check with your credit card provider about foreign transactions fees, which can be around 3% per transaction. You may also want to consider getting a credit card with no annual fee or foreign transaction fee for your time abroad. You can also have a debit card, which allows you to spend money directly from your bank account. Again, verify that you have a working PIN number abroad, and be aware of any foreign transaction fees.

Wire Transfer:

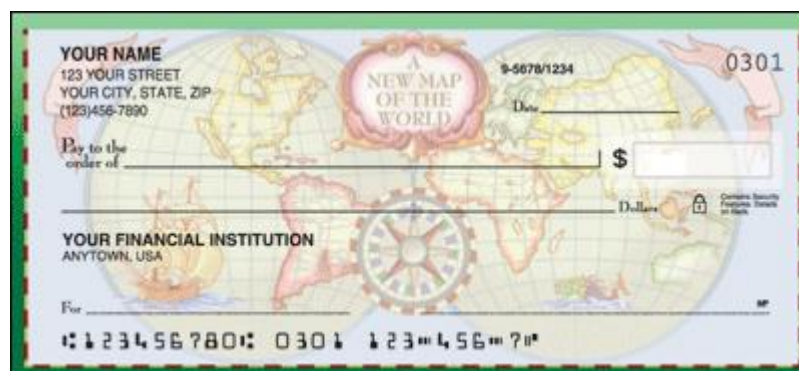
A wire transfer is completed to send funds from one bank to another. There are fees for international wire transfer, and these should be discussed with your personal bank. International wire transfers can be expensive. In some cases, they request more proof and an actual account abroad to receive the money. Keep in mind, different countries have different rules about the amount of money you can receive during an amount of time.

Bank Drafts:

In most countries, checking accounts are not used as commonly as in the United States. A foreign currency draft does not have a beneficial exchange rate for the recipient. Do not use personal checks while abroad.

Common Study Abroad Expenses:

- Tuition
- Room/accommodation
- Meals
- University fees
- Study abroad fees
- Airfare
- Transportation in country
- Passport/visa
- Immunizations/ preventative medicines
- Books and supplies
- Communication (phone, internet, postage)
- Health insurance (included at Rose)
- Clothes
- Gifts
- Recreation and travel
- Expenses during breaks



Financial Aid:

U.S. citizens eligible to receive Federal grants and loans can usually use these towards approved study abroad by Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology. One of the requirements of studying abroad is to meet with the Office of Financial Aid for more detailed information about this.

Follow this link for their contact information:

<http://www.rose-hulman.edu/admissions-and-aid/financial-aid/index.html>

Follow this link for external scholarship information:

[External Scholarship Opportunities](#)

Follow this link for the Rose-Hulman Global Experience Fellowship application:

[Apply Here](#)

At times, finding financial aid and completing the paperwork can seem overwhelming. However, please do not get discouraged and reach out to our staff at the Center for Global Engagement and the Office of Financial Aid with any questions you may have.



International Travel Grant

The Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology International Travel Grant demonstrates the Institute's commitment to enriching students' knowledge of the world and enhancing their global competitiveness. The Global Experience Fellowship is designed to:

- Increase the number of Rose-Hulman students who can study abroad
- Ensure the continuing quality of the international exchange program and
- Enhance a Rose-Hulman education with a global experience

General Information

The Rose-Hulman International Travel Grant provides financial grants for students each quarter for travel and living expenses while participating in study abroad, international internship, and other Rose-Hulman sponsored global projects. Grants are awarded on a competitive basis for the spring, summer, fall and winter quarters of the academic year. Award recipients will receive a grant if selected as a Rose-Hulman Global International Travel Grant recipient.

Eligibility

To be eligible to become a recipient, a candidate must:

- Be in good standing at Rose-Hulman with a GPA of at least 2.8
- Participate in an approved study or internship abroad program
- Complete an application including an essay by the specified deadlines

Note--The International Travel Grant will be granted only once to any recipient.

Selection Criteria

A committee comprised of members of faculty and staff will review all International Travel Grant applications. The committee may take into account other financial support offered by the Institute and other estimated out-of pocket program costs when determining awards. The committee will evaluate applications using the following criteria:

- Passion for international study and plans for this specific international experience as demonstrated by the scholarship essay—40 pts.
- Academic ability and achievement—30 pts.
- Leadership and public service—30 pts.



Preference:

- Students who can best explain how the program first into their plan of study
- Students with higher GPA's than minimum requirements
- Students with demonstrated financial need
- Involvement in leadership and external activities

Requirements

Selected recipients must agree to comply with program requirements and requests for the duration of the fellowship. Some key requirements are:

- Assist the Center for Global Engagement in marketing the benefits of the global experience by participating in activities throughout the academic year.
- Write a required report upon the completion of the global experience detailing the benefits of the experience that may be used on the Rose-Hulman website and in print media. Include 3-5 photos on your program. Report must be completed no later than one month after your program end date.
- Use grant funds only for expenses related to the approved global experience



Top Ten Tips to Make Study Abroad More Affordable:

Adapted from A Student Guide to Study Abroad, Chapter 4, "Figuring out the Financials"

1. Start saving money today.
2. Determine whether you can apply your financial aid to your study abroad program.
3. Research study abroad scholarships, including those from your own college.
4. If feasible, pursue destinations off the beaten track.
5. Opt for a short course if your budget requires it.
6. Review what's included in the overall program, including excursions, and go for the no-frills options.
7. Research the cost of living in your target location and budget for currency fluctuations.
8. Look for ways to save money on the ground.
9. If possible, work or intern while abroad (but follow the law!).
10. Listen to the advice and experience of those who have been there and done that.



Patrick McGowan
Spring 2017
Politecnico di Milano, Italy

V. Academics Matter

Rose-Hulman Approval:

In order to study abroad, you **MUST** be approved by Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology. You are required to submit an application to the Center for Global Engagement depending on your term of desired study.

Study during Fall and Winter: Apply by Spring Quarter

Study during Spring: Apply by Fall Quarter

Study during Summer: Apply by Winter Quarter

Check our online application system for updated specific dates of application every quarter.

For more information on approval contact our Director of Study Abroad, Maria del Mar Aponte at aponte@rose-hulman.edu

Grades:

All courses must be graded; this means there will not be any credit awarded for P/F classes. All grades earned on approved study abroad programs will be recorded on the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology transcripts but will **NOT** be calculated into the grade point average. To get a general idea of grade conversion, follow this link: <https://www.wes.org/gradeconversionguide/index.asp>

Transcripts:

At the end of your time abroad, your program or university should send all official transcripts directly to:

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
Office of the Registrar
5500 Wabash Avenue
Terre Haute, IN 47803
Phone: 812-877-8298
Fax: 812-877-8141



IMPORTANT: Do not assume your program or university knows where to send your transcript; please double-check that they have the correct information. In addition, please ensure that an official transcript is sent directly from your host university. It is the student's responsibility to request a transcript (copies are not accepted).

Course Selection and Transfer Credit:

How to choose courses and achieve credit for studying abroad:

1. Meet with your academic adviser and work carefully to choose appropriate classes.
2. Select the courses you take abroad carefully, as they all need to be approved by the Department Head **prior to departure**.
3. You must take a **normal full course load** as defined by Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, 12 credit hours. Lighter loads will affect your standing and heavier loads are not recommended while abroad.
4. In the event that exams are part of the course taken abroad, you must attend and take those exams.
5. To receive major or minor credit for courses taken abroad, you will need to have the courses individually approved by the appropriate department chair using our Banner Web system.

Note: It is the student's responsibility to get the courses approved by the appropriate Department Head. If the student arrives at their host institution and classes that were previously approved are no longer available, the student must immediately contact their adviser and Department Head for approval of any new courses that will be taken.



Guidelines
for Academic
Credit

Academic Environment Abroad:

In deciding to study abroad, students must be prepared to learn about different educational environments overseas. Many foreign educational cultures focus on the individualistic style of learning, which means students need to be self-motivated and are usually assessed at the end of the course.

Many of the institutions you will attend abroad will be much larger than Rose, and you will get to experience large university culture that will force you to evaluate how it compares to home. In the US, we usually have smaller classes and/or seminars, small group work, and much more homework. Participation in university classes abroad is often not expected like in the US. Assessment depends on the class but is sometimes centered on papers, exams, and /or assignments. However, in the vast majority of countries abroad, the largest part of your grade for the course is determined by your final examination.

Code of Ethics:

All students studying abroad are expected to uphold the Rose Honor code. Intellectual and academic honesty are very important for our students, and this does not change because you are studying abroad.

Link: https://www.rose-hulman.edu/campus-life/student-life/_assets/Student-Handbook.pdf

VI. Health

Travel and study abroad will definitely affect your health in one way or another. Many factors will influence your daily life and environment. Be sure to plan properly by considering the following health guidelines.

See Your Health Care Practitioners:

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology requires all students to complete the Health Center Clearance form. The Health Center can provide students with information on the country they will be visiting, as well as, any necessary health care they must obtain prior to departure.

- Ensure that health records are up to date and that you discuss any medical issues you might encounter abroad.
- Take copies of your medical records with you abroad, especially if you have medical conditions.
- Bring enough of any prescription medications (in their original containers) with you. You will need a physician's prescription for medication and medical supplies to pass through customs in your host country.
- **In addition to this, some medication is considered illegal in some countries and requires prior authorization.** It is your responsibility to ensure your medicine is legal and that you do not need any prior authorization. Should you need prior authorization, our Director of Study Abroad and International Exchanges, can assist you with the process.

Immunizations:

Some countries require specific immunizations in order to enter, and there are also immunizations recommended for travel to specific areas of the world. Be sure to check this well in advance of your departure, as some immunizations require a series of vaccinations starting many months before your scheduled departure date.

Detailed information can be obtained from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at: <https://www.cdc.gov/>

Also contact our Health Services for any additional questions via email at healthservices@rose-hulman.edu or through their website: <http://www.rose-hulman.edu/campus-life/student-services/wellness-and-health-services/health-services/index.html>





Medical Insurance:

All Rose-Hulman students participating in study abroad are required to have international medical insurance coverage through the institution.

The OGP and the Office of Insurance and Risk Management have worked together to find affordable international medical insurance for all Rose-Hulman students going abroad on approved global experiences. Institutional Administrators, Inc. (EIIA) provides coverage. Students are automatically covered under this insurance policy. Card and information sheet for the insurance will be provided during the Pre-Departure Orientation.

EIIA coverage is mandatory and cannot be opted out of for any reason including but not limited to a student having additional international insurance. You may also choose to have additional insurance to supplement this policy.

For more detailed information on insurance please reach out to our office of Insurance and Risk management at: <http://www.rose-hulman.edu/campus-life/student-services/insurance-and-risk-management.html>

You can also access our insurance directly at: <http://www.eiaa.org/>

Medical Treatment Abroad:

You should expect cultural and regional differences in health care. Doctor-patient relationships, health care delivery, and other aspects of healthcare can be different from what you experience in the United States.

Health questions to consider:

- * Are there illnesses that are endemic to the region? What medications should you take to prevent these illnesses?
- * What is the quality of water in your host country, and what precautions, if any, do you need to take with your drinking water and food preparation?
- * What are the customs, beliefs, and laws in your host country regarding behavior, alcohol and drugs?

- * What is the time difference? Keep in mind you may experience jet lag.

VII. Safety and Legal Issues

Safety abroad is a concern for all parties involved. Crime can happen anywhere, including the United States, and the media play a role in intensifying fear. Having an unreasonable amount of fear can limit your experience abroad, and take away from what you would learn. However, as a study abroad student, you should remain aware that you would stand out, especially upon arrival.

Always remember that there are certain things you can do to minimize your risk abroad. Below you will find a list of precautions you can take to ensure your study abroad experience is a safe one:

- * Review the U.S. State Department's Travel advisories/alerts/warnings at <http://travel.state.gov/>
- * Register with the US Consulate or Embassy having jurisdiction over the area in which you are living
- * Pay attention to the local conditions. Stay informed about local and regional news by reading newspapers and looking online.
- * Always have a valid identification with you. Also, leave photocopies at home of all your personal documents.
- * Your foreign language skills, clothing, body language, and your speech will make you recognizable as a foreigner. As a result, spend time observing locals and asking about their daily interactions. As you adapt to your new surroundings, you will be less obvious as a foreigner.
- * Avoid walking by or taking part in any protests or violent situations.
- * Realize that adjusting to a new city takes time, but it will be easier as days go by.
- * Do not leave your backpack unattended or carry many valuables in it. Zippers can easily be opened from the back while you are walking or on train/subway. Instead of putting your passport or money in your backpack, wear it on your person. If you have a handbag, wear it across your body instead of your arm.
- * Thieves have many tricks and ask you for directions or other questions that will make you let your guard down. Be aware of this and pay attention to your surroundings.
- * If you must exchange money, do it at a time when you can go directly home and not have to carry large amounts of cash with you.
- * Do not carry your address and personal information all in the same place.
- * Keep your apartment locked at all times.
- * Ensure your family at home knows how to contact you in case of emergency. Leave your itinerary with your parents if you are traveling and with the local international student office for your institution.
- * Avoid walking alone at night. Go places with friends.
- * Travel with host country friends, instead of just American friends. This will also provide a degree of safety.

- * Keep in mind that the use of alcohol can impair judgment.
- * Do not use illegal drugs.
- * Minimize the display of money, jewelry, cameras, or other valuable items.
- * Familiarize yourself with your neighborhood, locate your nearest police station and hospital, and be sure to have any emergency phone numbers.
- * Regarding road travel, be aware that driving customs vary a great deal, and in most countries, pedestrians are not given the right of way. You are advised to not drive while abroad.

Terra Dotta Alert Traveler Application:

- * During the pre-departure, students will be guided to download our new application.
- * This application will help us know where students are, have them check-in with us in case of an event, and receive alerts from the city/country they are located in on their phone.
- * Link on how to download:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GLbjIJD4kCM&feature=youtu.be>



Terrorism:

Unfortunately, terrorism is a reality of the modern world. Although it is very unlikely for you to witness a terrorist act, there are precautions you can take to minimize your exposure to this risk:

- * Do not draw attention to yourself.
- * Avoid traveling in extremely large groups.
- * Avoid areas where Americans congregate.
- * Avoid crowds and protests.
- * Keep your eye on the news and stay in contact with your family.

Legal Issues:

It is important for you to understand that when you are abroad you are subject to the laws of the country in which you are living and studying. The laws are most likely different from the ones in the US. Please remember that if you were to get yourself in any legal problems in your host country, there is nothing that Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology can do for you, and very little the US Embassy or Consulate can do. This varies from country to country, but generally, there is little to no intervention on behalf of a student from the US.

For more information on safety please visit the State Department Travel Advisories/Alerts/ Warnings at: <http://travel.state.gov/>

Additional information on legal issues:

The US Embassy or Consulate is only able to provide you with a list of local attorneys, contact your next of kin in case of emergency, and/or contact friends or relatives to request funds if necessary. They cannot get you out of jail.

Being in jail in a foreign country is to be avoided at all costs. In many cases, the conditions are subpar and bail does not exist like in the US.

You should avoid all involvement in illegal drugs. In most cases, the drug laws in foreign countries are more severe than those in the United States. Regardless of what you are being charged with, if it is related to illegal drugs, sentences can carry up to life in prison or execution.



Curtis Humm, Spring 2017, University of Aizu, Japan

Top Ten Tips for Staying Safe While Studying Abroad:

Adapted from A Student Guide to Study Abroad, Chapter 7, "Staying Safe and Healthy while Studying Abroad"

1. Take health and safety precautions before you leave the United States.
2. Familiarize yourself with local laws and don't break them.
3. Practice smart safety always; don't put yourself in dangerous situations.
4. Get to know your new neighborhoods and locate the necessities: bank, food stores, hospital, post office, laundry, internet café.
5. Stay healthy.
6. Use common sense.
7. Stay calm and make decisions carefully.
8. Stay informed about local news.
9. Guard against petty theft and pickpockets.
10. If something unfortunate does happen, seek professional guidance and assistance.



**Jack Wassom, Tanner Metzmeier, Joseph Holtz, Mandi Routon, Cliffs of Moher, Ireland
Spring 2017, Hochschule Esslingen, Germany**

VIII. Cross-Cultural Issues

Top Ten Tips for Immersing Yourself in the Culture:

Adapted from A Student Guide to Study Abroad, Chapter 6, "Immersing Yourself in the Culture"

1. Take your cross-cultural preparation seriously.
2. Request cross-cultural training.
3. Seek out others who have gone before you.
4. Embrace your new home and friends to be made.
5. Explore your neighborhood, the campus, and public transportation.
6. Serve as a cultural ambassador.
7. Recognize the signs of culture shock and how to deal with it.
8. Do not be too hard on yourself if you make mistakes.
9. Pay attention and listen carefully.
10. Have fun.

**Rachel Neudeck and Anna Scott,
Summer 2017, Seoul, South Korea**



**Jiaye Su, Spring 2017,
Spring Break in Morocco**



The Cultural Iceberg by Language and Culture Worldwide, LLC

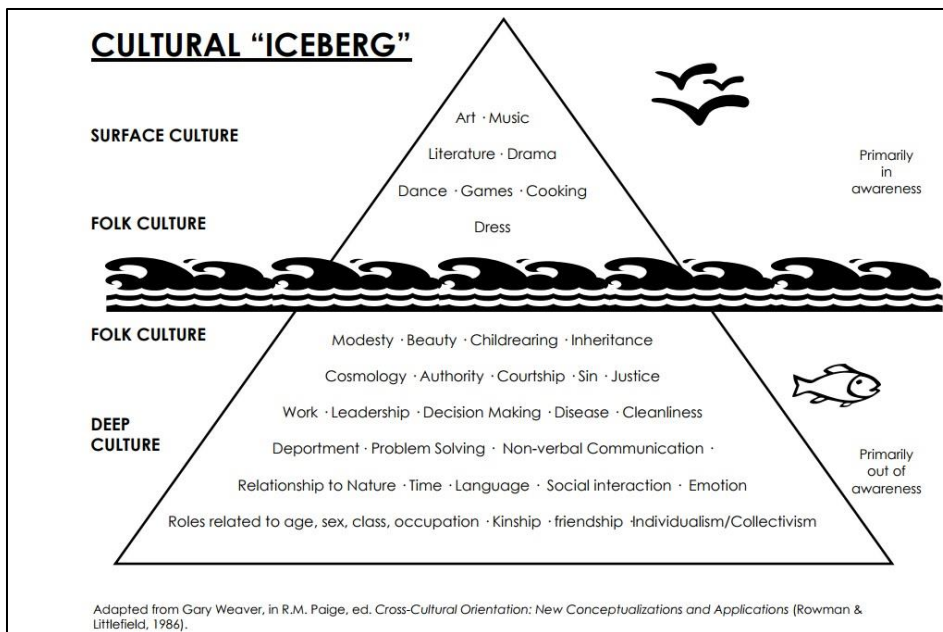
When we see an iceberg, the portion which is visible above water is, in reality, only a small piece of a much larger whole. Similarly, people often think of culture as the numerous observable characteristics of a group that we can *see* with our eyes, be it their food, dances, music, arts, or greeting rituals. The reality, however, is that these are merely an external manifestation of the deeper and broader components of culture -- the complex ideas and deeply-held preferences and priorities known as attitudes and values.

Deep below the "water line" are a culture's **Core values**. These are primarily learned ideas of what is good, right, desirable, and acceptable -- as well as what is bad, wrong, undesirable, and unacceptable. In many cases, different cultural groups share similar core values (such as "honesty", or "respect", or "family"), but these are often interpreted differently in different situations and incorporated in unique ways into our daily lives. Ultimately, our **Interpretations** of our core values become visible to the casual observer in the form of **Observable Behaviors**, such as the words we use, the way we act, the laws we enact, and the ways we communicate with each other.

It is also important to note that the core values of a culture do not change quickly or easily. They are passed on from generation to generation by numerous factors which surround us and influence us. These Formative Factors are powerful forces which guide us and teach us. The things our educators and parents teach us, the opinions and ideas we see and hear in the media, the way our laws and social norms structure our world -- all of these things (and many more) mold us and our cultural values. Cultural change is never quick; and forces, ideas, and beliefs -- both new and old -- continually impact our way of seeing the world and deciding what matters to us (our **Core Values**), what that means in our personal and professional lives (our **Interpretations**), and how we ultimately act (our **Observable Behaviors**).

So, like an iceberg, there are things that we can see and describe easily... but there are also many deeply rooted ideas that we can only understand by analyzing values, studying formative factors, and in many cases, reflecting on our own core values.

Online link: <https://www.languageandculture.com/cultural-iceberg>



Online link:

http://hsp.org/sites/default/files/legacy_files/migrated/culturaliceberg2.pdf



“I now feel like you could put me anywhere in Europe by myself and I could survive, and that really gives you a new level of confidence.”

Tanner Metzmerier, Spring 2017, Hochschule Esslingen, Germany

Tanner Metzmeier, Mandi Routon, Joseph Holtz, Jack Wassom, and students from Esslingen in the Black Forest! Spring 2017, Hochschule Esslingen

Being an American Abroad:

Frequently, the stereotype of the American is not very flattering, and can be characterized by:

- * Arrogant patriotism
- * Loudness
- * Excessive friendliness
- * Drunkenness
- * Immature behavior
- * Promiscuity
- * Being always in a hurry
- * Ignorance of other countries' history, politics, current events, language, and customs



Handling anti-American Sentiment:

There may be times when you feel as though you are being personally attacked for being American. Sometimes you will be asked questions about current situations in the US and American Foreign policy. There is not a right or wrong way of dealing with anti-American sentiments, but you will need to remember you are portraying America. Try to engage the person in a calm, quiet, and respectful discussion on their topic of interest, and see if they can explain their thoughts better to you.

In order to be well prepared, we encourage students to be aware of any US foreign policies that might affect the country you are traveling to, and understand the reasons for them. In addition to this, please be aware of the history of American politics and culture. You will be surprised at how much information people around the world know about the United States.

Being an International Student in the U.S., and then Going Abroad:

Studying abroad allows you to have certain advantages over those that have never left their country. You have already been to the United States, and adapted to a new culture, educational system, and language. These skills will definitely come in handy when studying abroad. However, do not forget that you might still experience culture shock, feelings of isolation, or adjustment difficulties. This is all part of the process.

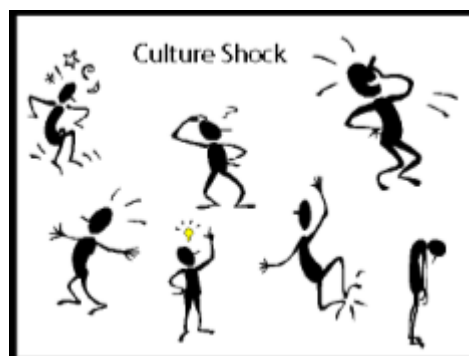
Cross-Cultural Adjustment

CULTURE SHOCK:

Study Abroad veteran Renatha Lussa explains what “culture shock” means and how to cope when you encounter it. (From www.topuniversities.com)

Going to live abroad is an exciting experience that requires preparation.

I am not talking about technical issues such as how many pairs of socks you should bring with you. I am talking about the big preparation, the one that is essential to making your experience rich and positive. Before you go, get prepared to experience culture shock.



Some of you may say, “Culture Shock? Not for me. Where I am going is only an hour’s flight from home.” It is true that the degree of difference in one’s own and the host culture is important, but this is not the only variable. And let’s not forget the concept of culture can also be used for an organization, institution, or a group. As a result, even simple reorganization may generate culture shock.

So, what is culture shock? Well, it’s a mix of emotions. Feelings of loss, confusion, stress, anxiety, and impotence that comes from both the challenge of new cultural surroundings and from the loss of a familiar cultural environment



In my experience, culture shock can be divided into four stages:

1. The Honeymoon Phase
2. The Crisis Phase
3. The Adjustment Phase
4. The Resolution Phase

1. The Honeymoon

"Oh, this is wonderful. Let's go there. Amaaazing!" You are obviously excited and have an idealized view of the new culture. Anxiety and stress may be present but your general euphoria overtakes them.

Karim Sanaz is an Iranian student at Uppsala University in Sweden. He remembers that when he arrived in Sweden everything seemed really different from his homeland. "I actually didn't feel any sense of belonging. To me it was more like watching a beautiful movie without being part of it."

2. The Crisis Phase

"I am tired. No one understands me. I want to go home!" This could be something you would say just before you kick the closet with your bare foot. Reality is back.

This phase occurs anywhere from the first two weeks to several months. Some of these differences you found so "amaaazing" in the first place, start to really get on your nerves. Perhaps you are struggling to make yourself understood by locals, you feel like a child; confused and tired.

3. The Adjustment Phase

You are still here. Well done. Understanding, acceptance and adaptation is key now. In this phase you will start to face new challenges in a positive way.

You will finally understand the new culture is different, accept it as it is and start to adapt your values, personality and behavior to the host culture.

4. The Resolution Phase

"This is home guys!" You have developed your routine and the efforts you put in place in the previous stage are now imperceptible. You are stable emotionally and you feel comfortable.

Clarisse Mergen is currently studying a master's degree in. She arrived in Montreal three months ago and already feels like she's in the resolution phase. "I've learned new

behaviors that are now automatic reflexes, like waste recycling. I am also now more curious about the country's politics and the way institutions work.

"Coping with Culture Shock

If you feel tired, if you are emotionally sensitive, if you are critical of the culture, if you want to go home then you will know it is a normal reaction and you should not give up. Just understand, accept and adapt.

Before you go, read some books about the place where you will be staying. This will help you develop more realistic expectations.

You can also create a sense of safety and reassurance by bringing familiar items with you. Mergen admits: "I brought some pictures of my friends and family – as well as my teddy bear! It actually helped me feel at home at the beginning of my stay."

Keep in touch with home. It may be difficult sometimes to keep a relationship going only by email, so do pick up your phone from time to time, it really makes the difference.

In times of instability, a feeling for your own culture when abroad is always comforting. But be careful not to overdo it, as this can be a way of resisting the change.

Maintain a network of people you love, you trust and who will give you confidence when you feel unsettled. This is generally a good way to meet local people in a relaxed atmosphere.

Now you should be more equipped to face culture shock if it happens. Indeed, some people don't feel it at all, while others feel it strongly. The intensity of culture shock depends on so many factors that you can't really generalize. But at least you are aware of it, and you'll know you're not the only one feeling this way!



David Shumate, Spring 2015, Univ. of New South Wales,

Bondi Beach, Sydney

Top Ten Tips for Making the Most of Your Time Abroad:

Adapted from A Student Guide to Study Abroad, Chapter 8, "Making the Most of Your Time Abroad"

1. Hone your cross-cultural skills.
2. Learn from your mistakes.
3. Adapt to prevailing norms.
4. Make an effort to get to know people.
5. Plan your time.
6. Pay attention.
7. Learn the language.
8. Limit your use of distracting technology.
9. Explore people, places and culture.
10. Step it up a notch by working or interning.



Swiss Alps



Historic Topography of Istanbul (Faculty-Led)

IX. While You're Away

Keeping in Touch with Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology:

It is important that you give the Center for Global Engagement your updated contact information abroad. This includes your mailing address and phone number if you change it. Remember, you know where we are, but we do not usually know where you are. If you do not know the address abroad in advance, please let us know as soon as you get settled.

Course Registration for the Quarter You Return To Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology:

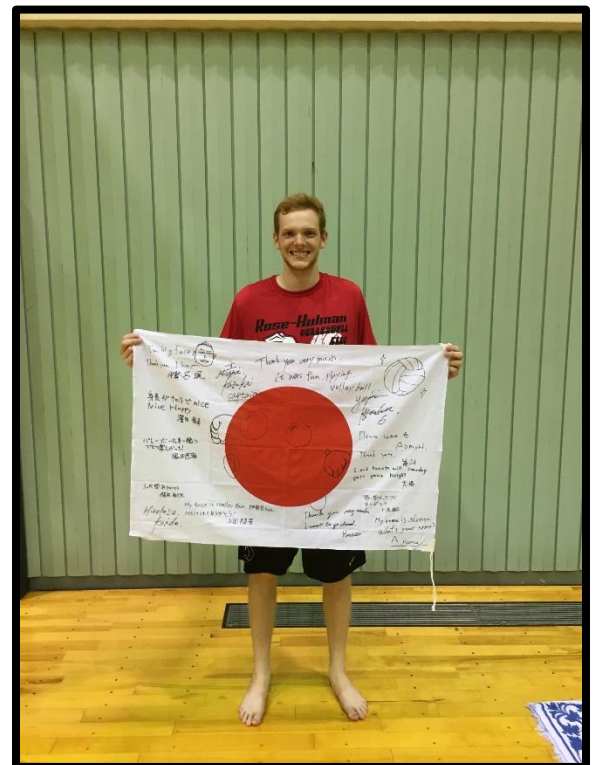
You are still a Rose-Hulman student. The OGP office will send your name to the Registrar for study abroad registration during the quarter you are away. However, that means you will need to register for classes and reserve on-campus housing at the same times you normally would preceding an academic quarter. While studying abroad, you may NOT take any class that comes back as Pass or Fail.

Housing for the Quarter You Return To Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology:

You are responsible for contacting housing at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology and ensuring that you will have a place when you return if you are living on campus. If you live off-campus, you are responsible for that as well.

“There is no better way to learn a language or about a culture than to fully immerse yourself in that environment.”

**Brandon Wohlfarth, Summer 2017,
Kanazawa Institute of Technology, Japan**



X. Returning Home

“To travel is to take a journey into yourself,” ~Danny Kaye~

Transitioning Back to Life in the States:

Alas, it is time to go home. Whether it has only been a few weeks or a whole year, your study abroad experience probably just flew by, and you are wondering where the time went. Undoubtedly, there are things that you still want to do and see, and perhaps you have already extended your visit. Or maybe you are ready to go home. When it is finally time to return home, most people feel a combination of excitement and nervousness: excitement because you are going home to see your family, friends, and catch up on all the things that you have missed. But you're probably also feeling a twinge, if not more, of nervousness. You may be worried about how you will reintegrate with your friends, who have gone on with their lives while you have been away. Perhaps there is a club or team that you have been absent from, and you are not sure that you will be able to just slide back in smoothly. Or maybe you left a boyfriend or girlfriend behind, and you're concerned about what is going to happen next.

Prepare for reverse culture shock:

Many returning students find that they suffer from reverse culture shock. This comes because you expect things to just be the same as they were before you left. But they won't be because you have grown accustomed to dealing with everyday things in a different way in your new environment. Readjusting will require using the same skills and approach that you had to use to adapt when you landed overseas. You can do it, and you will, but it takes some time. Here are some of the things you can do to deal with reverse culture shock:

1. Learn to tell a good story.
2. Prepare to experience culture shock.
3. Recognize that you have changed.
4. Keep in touch with your overseas friends.
5. Seek out others who have recently returned.
6. Listen to others and relate your stories to them.
7. Seek out authentic international culture at home.
8. Look at photos and videos every now and then.
9. Plan to go abroad again.
10. Put your international experience to work.

Adapted from A Student Guide to Study Abroad, Chapter 9, "Transitioning Back to Life in the States"

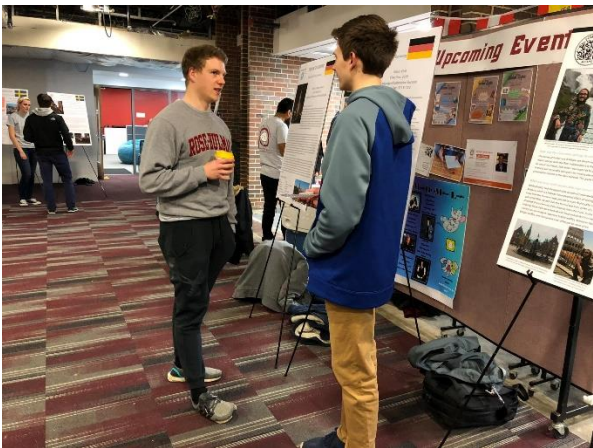
Advocate for Study Abroad:

One of the best ways to relive your experience once you return is to get involved with the Center for Global Engagement and their study abroad events. We are always looking for our students to help give first-hand experience and advice to all of our students going abroad. We need you to help spread the word and get students excited about this great opportunity. Please keep in contact with our office upon return, and volunteer at our events because your experience is important.

Events to get involved in upon return to Rose:

1. Fall Study Abroad Fair/ Summer Study Abroad Fair
2. Pre-departure sessions
3. Individual meetings with interested students
4. Information sessions
5. Global Expo

Global Expo 2017/18



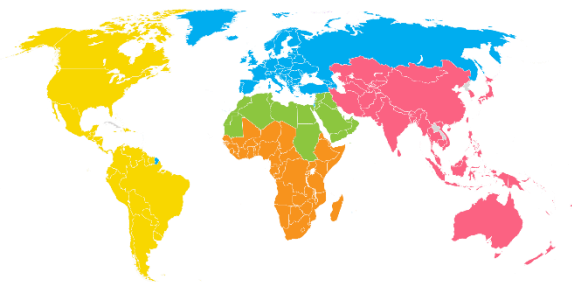
Study Abroad Fair 2016/17



Appendix A:

Important Phone Numbers and Useful Websites:

- Rose-Hulman Office of Public Safety: (812) 877-8590
- Rose-Hulman Center for Global Engagement: (812) 877-8810
- Rose-Hulman Financial Aid Office: (812) 877-8672
- Rose-Hulman Registrar: (812) 877-8298
- US Department of State – information on travel and living abroad
 - www.travel.state.gov
- US Department of State – listing of all countries
 - www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/
- US Embassies Listing
 - <https://www.usembassy.gov/>
- CIA World Factbook – information on every country
 - www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index
- Centers for Disease Control
 - www.cdc.gov
- The Study Abroad Safety Handbook: <http://www.studentsabroad.com>
- NY Times International Headlines: www.nytimes.com/pages/world
- BBC News World Headlines: www.news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/
- Federal Aviation Administration (FAA): <http://www.faa.gov>
- Lonely Planet Travel Guide: <http://www.lonelyplanet.com>
- Rail Europe – www.raileurope.com
 - Largest U.S. provider of Eurail Passes, which must be purchased in the U.S. before you travel.
- Hostelling International: American Youth Hostels – www.hiusa.org
- Download Mango, language practice application:
 - <https://connect.mangolanguages.com/rose-hulman/login?u=207013>



Appendix B:

Adapted from A Student Guide to Study Abroad, Chapter 5, "Preparing to Study Abroad"

Pack your carry on with...

- Two days' worth of clothes/personal items in case your checked bags are lost, plus:
- Passport, visa and plane ticket
- Cash
- ATM and credit/debit cards (at least two of each)
- Health insurance card
- Student ID (home institution or international card)
- Copies of your documentation
- Contact information including phone numbers, emails and physical addresses for the following: your destination, your host institution, your home institution and adviser, your doctors at home, local US embassy and emergency numbers, and family/friends
- Medical information including a list of prescriptions, allergies and blood type
- Money belt, waist pack, or small purse to wear for cash and credit cards
- Electronics: camera, laptop, mobile phone, iPod, chargers/adapters, USB flash drive
- Prescriptions for one month or longer, extra pair of contacts and eyeglasses
- Sunglasses
- Travel guide and a paperback book to read and swap later
- Food to eat on the trip, but not any fresh fruits, vegetables, meats, cheeses etc...that are not allowed to be brought into your host country (except what you will eat on the plane—good to have fresh fruits and veggies for that)



Appendix C:

Adapted from A Student Guide to Study Abroad, Chapter 5, "Preparing to Study Abroad"

Pack your checked luggage with...

- Seven days' worth of clothes you'll wear to school that: complement each other in color and style to mix and match, can be layered for different weather, can be hand washed if necessary, don't wrinkle too much
- Underwear and weather-appropriate socks
- Warm/cold clothes to anticipate weather/seasonal change
- One dressier outfit (or more depending on your program requirements)
- One coat with hood (waterproof or wind resistant)
- Two pairs of pajamas
- Sturdy shoes plus a pair of sneakers
- Bathing suit, cover up and hat
- Flip-flops for the shower or pool
- A medium-sized towel and a small washcloth
- Travel umbrella
- Small supply of general toiletries
- Specific toiletries you do not want to be without
- First-aid kit including tweezers and nail kit
- Pocket knife with bottle opener, can opener, corkscrew
- Journal (if you have room, pack it in your carry-on)
- Necessary school supplies (at least one notebook, a few pencils/pens)
- Small inexpensive gifts (playing cards, music, postcard from home, candy)
- You may also want to bring some food items for comfort, such as a jar of peanut butter, a special jam, or certain cookies you like. But if you do, bring only sealed items and be sure to check which types of food are allowed into the country.



Appendix D:

Why Studying Abroad is Important for STEM Majors

by Emily Hurt; 16 January 2015 (www.goabroad.com)

While I can certainly understand the many arguments against studying abroad in a rigorous major, including the expenses, required courses strictly offered during certain semesters, and the mammoth fear of having to tack on additional semesters to complete your program, the benefits of studying abroad for STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) students outweigh the costs in both the short and long-term. With all the arguments against it, STEM majors get discouraged from studying abroad quite easily and don't often hear about the arguments in favor of studying abroad.

1. Multi-Nationality in the Business World

In the twenty-first century world, the companies that have set themselves apart are the ones that are able to and willing to work with international agencies. Breaking down cultural and language barriers and sharing ideas have allowed businesses to come out ahead in innovation and creativity, and STEM fields are not excluded. Studying abroad is a mind-opening experience, no matter where you choose to go, and this valuable international experience may help you network and make connections applicable to the professional industry. Ironically, engineering and technology fields are some of the most internationally minded, and yet have some of the lowest numbers of study abroad experience.

2. Making Yourself Marketable

Though STEM jobs haven't been hit as hard as some industries in the recent economic recession, finding work after graduation can still be a difficult task for some. One thing that is often forgotten is that studying abroad can go, and should go, on your resume. For some reasons already mentioned, companies are looking for employees that can work on the global scale, with international corporations and feel comfortable traveling or communicating cross-culturally. You can set yourself apart from your peers – most of whom will not study abroad – by studying abroad, and when you are interviewing it will be as easy as talking about your meaningful travel experience (which you will find to be extremely easy to do for hours).

3. Other Interests

By the time we get to college, many of us interested in science and math subjects have convinced ourselves that school and research are our only passions in life. While being passionate about STEM subjects is certainly a calling, it is often limiting in other walks of life. Studying abroad introduces you to new cultural experiences, as you'll find yourself sampling new foods, visiting new museums, and living life in a completely different way. Though I never expected art and

engineering to mix, I personally discovered my passion for the arts while I was abroad, and it has brought a unique and satisfying balance to my life, personally and academically. You too may find new connections between engineering and other interests that could direct you to a very specific career that combines the two in the future, or just simply find a new thing to explore outside the classroom.



4. Experience

Though the stereotype of STEM majors holing up in the library for the weekend isn't always true, we do tend to get the short end of the stick socially, with demanding coursework and required mastery of skills, such as programming or calculus, that require quite a bit of practice. Your study abroad classes may include one or two difficult subjects, but are likely to be scheduled around general education requirements and cultural enrichment experiences. Your semester abroad can open a whole new world of community for you, where you're free to make friends, go out to new places, and see new things. If anything, your summer or semester abroad will be a well-deserved break from the stress of your program back home.

5. No Time like the Present

It's not the most convincing argument, but if you have an interest in studying abroad and an interest in STEM industry after you graduate, there aren't a ton of opportunities to travel once you've graduated and are fully employed. Although college may be arduous and time-demanding, the professional world is even more so, making your college years the ideal time to go overseas if you're interested. Seize the opportunity of a lifetime to travel abroad and have it count toward your degree too, all while having valuable cultural and life experiences. There's no time like the present!

Additional Tips and Information

The biggest piece of advice I can offer you is, if studying abroad appeals to you at all, seek out information sooner rather than later. STEM majors are typically offered some flexibility in their freshman and sophomore years, making studying abroad in these early semesters – or even summer semesters– much more realistic than during the junior or senior years, when the rigor of your program truly begins and summers start to be booked up with internships or co-ops. If planned ahead, studying abroad doesn't have to offset you from your goals within your major or bankrupt you (and, fortunately, planning ahead is one of the things STEM majors are apt to do!). Luckily, people have blazed the path before you, and can offer you some excellent tips on how to plan your trip, your way.



“The places that I visited were absolutely breathtaking, but traveling would not be the same without my new friends to share the experience with.”

Mandi Routon, Spring 2017, Hochschule Esslingen, Germany with Joseph Holtz and Jack Wassom in Barcelona, Spain.

Get out...see the world!



Luo Peng, Spring 2017, Hochschule
Ulm, Germany

Charlotte and Carol Yoder, Yuan Xue,
Summer 2015 Universität Stuttgart, Germany



Thomas D'Agostino, Spring 2016,
Politecnico di Milano, Milan, Italy



Angela Hanson, Spring 2016
Universidad de Chile

