



## STUDY ABROAD FAQs

- **What does the Office of Study Abroad/Study Away do?** We advise students through the process of planning a study abroad experience. We help through the process of research, application process, pre-departure orientation and re-entry. We also serve as a liaison and support while they are away from the university. We offer the same services for those students who will study away for a domestic exchange through the National Student Exchange program. We also bring in international students who come to UNCA as exchange students for a semester or a year. Working with admissions and the international student advisor, we admit, advise and orient international students and serve as support while they are here on campus.
- **At what point can students study abroad or away?** Students must have completed a year on campus before studying abroad/away and must be on campus their last semester before graduating. UNCA students can study abroad for a semester, an academic year or a summer session. Although the UNCA minimum required g.p.a. is 2.50, most study abroad programs require a 2.75 g.p.a. and some require a 3.0. The National Student Exchange program minimum is a 2.5 g.p.a.
- **Where can students study abroad?** Students have the possibility to go all over the world. There are several ways that a student can study abroad:
  - 1) **Direct Exchange through UNCA:** UNCA has exchange agreements with universities in England, Hong Kong, Japan, France and S. Korea. Students can study on exchange, allowing students to come here from those universities and UNCA students to study at these particular universities.
  - 2) **Exchange through UNC-EP and ISEP:** Students can study on exchange through the UNC system wide exchange program (UNC-EP) and through our membership in the International Student Exchange Program (ISEP). This offers access to over 200 universities in over 40 countries as possibilities for students to study abroad.
  - 3) **Direct Enrollment in Third Party Providers:** Sometimes students cannot find what they really want through our direct exchange options, UNC-EP and ISEP. We allow students to enroll in programs sometimes called third party providers as long as they receive credit through an accredited institution and the program is approved through the Office of Study Abroad.
  - 4) **Summer and Short-term Programs:** Students can attend study abroad programs that are led by UNCA faculty in the break periods or summer terms. Some students attend other universities' summer programs and transfer their credit back to UNCA.
- **Where can students study away?** Through the National Student Exchange students can study at any member institution in the U.S., Canada and Puerto Rico. This is a great option for students who are not quite ready to go to another country and need an option closer to home. It's also a good opportunity for students to experience a different region within their own country and earn credit toward graduation from UNCA.
- **How do I apply?** It depends on the program. Please contact the Office of Study Abroad so that we can make sure you complete the correct application.



## STUDY ABROAD FAQs (pg 2)

- **What are the deadlines?** Please see [www.unca.edu/studyabroad](http://www.unca.edu/studyabroad) for deadlines for particular programs. In general, deadline for studying abroad in spring tend to be mid-October. Deadlines for fall and summer tend to be mid-February. All applications for all programs come through the Office of Study Abroad.
- **Can I use my financial aid to study abroad?** Yes, you can use your financial aid on approved programs. Jeremy Scroggs is the contact person in financial aid for study abroad.
- **Is there other funding available?** UNCA has received two generous gifts that are to be used to help students with the cost of studying abroad. The International Experience Grant is a need-based grant available for any international experience of at least one week in duration. The International Service Learning Grant – “Mountains to the World” is available to students who are engaged in significant service learning outside the U.S. Applications for both grants can be found in the Office of Study Abroad and on the website: [www.unca.edu/studyabroad](http://www.unca.edu/studyabroad). Also, on our website is a list of outside resources for other scholarships & grants.
- **How does my credit transfer back to UNCA?** Good planning is essential. Students work with their advisor to plan the right time to go abroad and the right classes to take. In general, all classes will transfer back as elective credit. Grades do not transfer. Students will need to fill out a Permission to Study Abroad form (available on our website or in our office) which will list where they are going and what courses they will take. They need to get pre-approval for these courses from their advisor and/or the department chair. This is very important! It’s used to register them for study abroad courses (SABR) while they are away and keeps them enrolled at UNCA during this time.
- **How does a student pay for their study abroad/study away program?** The Office of Study Abroad works with the Bursar (Philip Turbyfil) to make sure that students are billed correctly.

Direct Exchange through UNCA participants are charged tuition and fees

UNC-EP participants are charged tuition and fees

ISEP Exchange participants are charged tuition/fees/room/board

ISEP Direct participants are not charged by UNCA but are charged through ISEP

Outside program participants – not charged by UNCA

NSE participants are charged tuition and fees

Summer UNCA faculty-led program participants are charged program fees and UNCA summer tuition (no fees for off-campus programs)

- **How do student pre-register for the following semester when they are away?** The Office of Study Abroad contacts students by email, reminding them to get their RAN from their advisor and pre-register online during their registration period.