

Study Abroad Program Selection Guide

The first step to finding the right study abroad program is to think through your priorities for your international experience. Ideally, the program you choose should be a good match for your academic goals as well as your personal interests and needs. Mark your preferences on the list below.

- My main objective(s) is/are...
 - to immerse myself in another culture/language
 - to expand knowledge in my academic field
 - to gain skills/experience for my future career
 - to use my abilities to positively impact a local community
 - to conduct research in my field of study
- I would feel most comfortable with...
 - a high level of on-site support and structure (planned activities, excursions, group meetings)
 - more independence and less structure
 - a good balance between support and independence
- I would prefer to be in classes with...
 - WKU students
 - U.S. students
 - local students from my host culture
 - international students from various countries
- I need to earn credit toward my...
 - major/minor
 - Colonnade requirements
 - graduate degree
- I want to go on a program that is...
 - very short (1-3 weeks)
 - short, but not too short (1-2 months)
 - semester-length or more
- Rank the factors below in order of importance to you:
 - cost/value
 - academic credit offered
 - term of study
 - location
 - on-site support
 - opportunities for immersion in host culture
 - hands-on learning opportunities
 - close affiliation with WKU

Understanding Program Types

The chart below describes basic differences between types of study abroad programs offered through WKU.

	WKU Faculty Led	WKU Exchange	WKU Partner Programs	Program Providers
Description	Programs organized through WKU and with courses taught by WKU faculty	Programs that allow you to directly enroll at an international partner university and take classes with local and international students	Programs with which WKU is closely affiliated, including KIIS & CCSA (on-campus consortia partners) and Harlaxton College	Programs with which WKU is affiliated but not directly involved (ISA, CIEE, CET, Sol, CISabroad, AIFS, USAC, Semester at Sea, LdM). Students from across the U.S. participate.
Length	Short-term programs (1-6 weeks) that are typically offered during summer and winter	Usually semester or academic year, but a select few offer summer sessions	KIIS – summer, winter & semester programs CCSA – summer & winter Harlaxton – semester & summer	Wide variety of program lengths ranging from two weeks to a full academic year
Structure	You travel as a group during most of the program and often have instruction/class time in non-traditional settings (e.g. on a bus, in a museum)	Requires a high level of independence – You are an international student at the partner university and your point of contact for on-site support is the international office but there is less structure.	All of these programs offer a high level of on-site support and structure. U.S. faculty teach most courses, with the exception of KIIS semester programs and a few Harlaxton courses.	Provider programs take many forms, and their structure varies by program provider. Most offer a high level of on-site support and structure. Some
Credit	WKU credit in a variety of disciplines. Can be major-specific or gen. ed. credit	Academic disciplines vary by institution. Credit transfers back to WKU.	Variety of subjects available. KIIS and CCSA offer WKU credit; all others offer transfer credit	Wide variety of subjects available. Credit transfers back to WKU.
Expenses	Program fee usually includes airfare, tuition, housing, and some meals. Fees are charged through Topnet.	Very cost-effective – no program fee. WKU in-state tuition and insurance are billed through Topnet; living expenses are paid in country.	Program fees vary by program and location. Most fees are billed through Topnet and include tuition, housing, and some/most meals.	Program fees vary by program and location. Most fees are billed through Topnet and include tuition, housing, and excursions but not always meals.

WKU Student Teaching Program: This is a special program that is only available to students pursuing a teacher certification. You spend the final month of your student teaching semester teaching English at a school abroad. Costs include travel/living expenses and are affordable. See the WKU study abroad program catalog for more information.

Direct Enroll Programs: Programs in which you can enroll directly in an international institution and pay their tuition. These are similar to exchanges but you pay tuition to the foreign university rather than WKU.

Most affordable program types – for the budget-conscious

Short-term	Semester or Academic Year
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WKU Faculty Led • WKU International Student Teaching • KIIS • CCSA • USAC • Sol Education Abroad • ISA • CISabroad 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WKU Exchange • Harlaxton College • KIIS • USAC • ISA • CISabroad • Sol Education Abroad • Lorenzo de’ Medici (LdM)

Programs with the highest level of on-site support

Short-term	Semester or Academic Year
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WKU Faculty Led • KIIS • CCSA • Most program providers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harlaxton College • KIIS • Most program providers

Next Steps:

- 1) Explore programs in the “Find My Program” catalog on the SAGL homepage: www.wku.edu/studyabroad.
- 2) Take notes on programs that interest you. Narrow down your options based on your preferences and needs.
- 3) Meet with a SAGL Advisor to discuss your plans and learn about funding opportunities. To schedule an appointment, click “Request Advising” on the SAGL website (wku.edu/studyabroad).
- 4) Use the Financial Planning Guide to budget for your study abroad experience and plan how you will fund it.
- 5) Apply for your program and for all applicable study abroad scholarships.

Notes:



Program Comparison Worksheet

Explore programs in the "Find My Program" catalog on the study abroad homepage: www.wku.edu/studyabroad. Take notes on programs that interest you and compare differences.

	Program 1:	Program 2:	Program 3:
Location			
Dates			
Program Fee			
What's included in the fee			
What's not included in the fee			
Academics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institution where courses are taught • Courses offered • Faculty 			
Housing			
Support Services			
Excursions & Activities			
Additional Notes			

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