

Special Considerations for International Students Who Plan to Study Abroad

International students can study abroad! Here are a few things to be aware of:

Visas

Visa and immigration requirements may be different for international students than for U.S. citizens, depending on where you choose to go. Consult the appropriate embassies and consulates as soon as possible. In some cases, you may be able to apply for a visa in the U.S.; some countries may require you to apply for a visa in your home country. Normally, you can apply for a visa after you've been admitted to the study abroad program, and beginning 90 days prior to the program start date.

For students with citizenship of more than one country

In some cases, holding multiple citizenships and passports may eliminate your need to acquire a visa to study abroad. In other cases, it may complicate the process; agreements between countries dictate the policies. It is essential that you seek detailed information from the consulate or embassy of the country in which you plan to study. For example, under which citizenship should you apply? To which consulate? If you're going to your second country prior to your study abroad country, under which citizenship should you enter?

English language requirements

Some countries (or universities) where English is the native language, such as the United Kingdom, Ireland, and Australia, may require proof of English language proficiency as part of the visa and/or university application requirement. In most cases, they will not take into consideration the fact that your university (or even your high school education) has taken place in the United States. Every country sets its own policies.

In some cases, the English language requirements of the host university in which you plan to study may differ from the requirements of your host country. In any case, you will need to achieve the higher score required, whether of the country or of the university.

Here are some of the most common countries that require English language testing for speakers of other languages:

[Australia](#)

[Ireland](#)

United Kingdom – 2 options:

[Short-term Study Visa](#)

[Tier IV visa](#)

Important notes about UK requirements:

- Your English language exam results must have been taken fewer than two years before you apply for your visa. If it has been more than two years, you will be required to take another examination.

- For new examinations, the UK no longer accepts the TOEFL. One acceptable examination is the [IELTS](#).

For details, visit the UK website [here](#) and select “List of Approved Tests and Providers”.

International Services Office

You will need to discuss your plans with an adviser in the International Services Office. Find out how to maintain your U.S. immigration status, including documentation requirements and travel permissions, if you study in another country for a semester or academic year.

This information is correct as of January 2018 and is subject to change. It is your responsibility to determine the requirements of each country in which you plan to study or to visit, in a timely manner.