PART 1: Registration, transfer credit and other academic matters

Information in this brochure is current as of February, 2014 and subject to change.
Photo by Anne Levy ‘14, Copenhagen, Denmark
Welcome to your Pre-departure Orientation Session! Please carefully read the information in the booklets provided to you. This booklet, Registration, Transfer Credit and other Academic Matters, is the first of five booklets in your Pre-departure packet: Registration, Transfer Credit and other Academic Matters, Money Matters, Life Overseas, Health and Safety, and UR Future.

The University of Rochester has a rich tradition of international education. Our faculty members have studied abroad, enjoyed international fellowships, or began their education elsewhere in the world. These experiences bear great influence on the research and teaching that takes place here. The University's commitment to international education and to preparing students to take their place in the global, political, and economic community has led to enthusiastic support for students who choose to enhance their education by studying abroad.

Both the University of Rochester and the City have a vigorous awareness of global issues. Rochester has a multitude of "Sister Cities" the world over, and is a lively center of international business. The University of Rochester is host to over 1000 foreign students and hundreds of Rochester students travel abroad each year. Since the late 1950s, when the Boeing 707 was introduced, international travel has become more and more accessible. Our casual expectation of global mobility was transformed on September 11, 2001. The horrific attacks challenged the freedom of movement that we had come to take for granted. Many of us continue to exercise that freedom, but it is impossible to do so without realizing the inherent risks involved, and without taking responsibility for those risks and their potential consequences, both good and bad.

Consult with us as you continue to make your plans. We are here to help you, to share your excitement, and to provide you with detailed and accurate information about conditions overseas, so that you and your family can make informed decisions about your travel plans. We also want you to continue to live the experience when you return from your time overseas.

As you will see from this course, there is much to think about before you leave for your studies abroad. We hope that you will share this information with your parents. If they would like a copy of the Pre-departure Handbook or the Guide to Study Abroad, we'll be glad to provide it. Also, to ensure that you have all the necessary information handy, be sure to pack these publications in your luggage when you travel overseas. These booklets are also available on our website: www.rochester.edu/abroad
Important Addresses and Contacts

Add to all addresses below, unless otherwise specified:
University of Rochester
Rochester, New York 14627 USA

Center for Study Abroad
Jacqueline Levine, Assistant Dean and Director
Heidi Kozireski, Assistant Director
Theodore Pagano, Assistant Director
Carla Gottschalk, Academic Counselor
Eric Phamdo, Program Manager
Claudia Hernandez, Secretary
Dewey 2-147, P.O. Box 270376
TEL (585) 275-7532
FAX (585) 473-6494
e-mail: abroad@admin.rochester.edu
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/URAbroad

University of Rochester Security
Contact: Bob Bennett
Maintenance & Trans. Bldg.
612 Wilson Blvd.
TEL (585) 275-3333
http://www.publicsafety.rochester.edu/

Bursar's Office
330 Meliora Hall
TEL (585) 275-3931
FAX (585) 461-3356
e-mail: bursar@admin.rochester.edu
http://www.rochester.edu/adminfinance/bursar/

Gwen M. Greene Career Center
Law professions, career planning
4-200 Dewey Hall
TEL (585) 275-2366
FAX (585) 461-3093
e-mail: career.center@rochester.edu
http://www.rochester.edu/careercenter/

College Center for Advising Services
General academic issues: any Academic Adviser
Certificate Programs: any Academic Adviser
Graduate Fellowships: Belinda Redden
Health Professions: Chip Bailey/Catherine Towsley/J.B. Rodgers/Danni Presgraves
Take Five: Contact CCAS  
Lattimore 312  
TEL (585) 275-2354  
FAX (585) 275-2190  
e-mail: cascas@mail.rochester.edu  
http://www.rochester.edu/College/CCAS/

Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning  
Dewey 1-154  
Box 270359  
TEL (585) 275-9049  
FAX (585) 273-1116  
Email: cetl@rochester.edu  
http://www.rochester.edu/college/cetl/contact.html

Financial Aid Office  
Contact: any financial aid counselor  
013 Wallis Hall  
TEL (585) 275-3226  
FAX (585) 756-7664  
http://enrollment.rochester.edu/financial-aid/contact/

International Services Office  
Contact: Cary Jensen  
Morey 213  
TEL (585) 275-2866  
FAX (585) 244-4503  
e-mail: questions@iso.rochester.edu  
http://www.iso.rochester.edu/

Residential Life  
Contact: Laurel Contomanolis  
Gates 020  
TEL (585) 275-3166  
FAX (585) 276-1886  
e-mail: lauc@mail.rochester.edu  
http://www.rochester.edu/reslife/index.html

Registrar's Office  
Contact: Carl Dickinson  
Lattimore 127A  
TEL (585) 275-8131  
FAX (585) 275-2190  
e-mail: registrar@mail.rochester.edu  
http://www.rochester.edu/registrar/
River Campus Parking Office
Fauver 15, RC Box 270348
TEL (585) 275-3983
FAX (585) 275-8097
e-mail: rcpark@services.rochester.edu

Simon School of Business (MBA, 3/2 Programs)
Contact: Rebekah Lewin, Executive Director of M.B.A. Admissions and Administration
Schlegel Hall 304D
TEL (585) 275-0492
FAX (585) 271-3907
e-mail: rebekah.lewin@simon.rochester.edu

University Health Service (UHS Health Insurance Coverage)
Contact: Linda Dudman
University Health Services Building/Box 270617
Rochester NY 14642 USA
TEL (585) 275-2662
FAX (585) 276-0149
e-mail: ldudman@uhs.rochester.edu

Warner Graduate School of Education & Human Development (MA, 3/2)
LeChase Hall
TEL (585) 275-3950
FAX (585) 473-7598
Pre-departure Orientation, SAB 090

Welcome to your Study Abroad Orientation!

Course Overview

The Study Abroad Pre-departure Orientation has several purposes. First, it is designed to provide "one-stop shopping" for all of the logistics that you need to take care of before you depart for your term overseas. Second, the Orientation offers you an opportunity to learn about the cross-cultural transitions inherent in international education, and the implications of those transitions, especially with regards to health and safety. Finally, the orientation provides a framework for integrating the study abroad semester or year into your undergraduate studies. Study abroad optimally becomes an educational experience that contributes to the methods of inquiry that you employ in your courses, and it facilitates civic engagement on a global scale.

All students who submitted a Study Abroad Proposal form will be enrolled in a non-credit and non-graded course (SAB 090) for the Orientation. This course starts with online resources in Blackboard. The resources include online reading assignments and quizzes to test for understanding. The Orientation will also include a mandatory pre-departure meeting for all students preparing to study abroad next semester. The meeting will address health, safety, and cross-cultural matters in an interactive format with study abroad returnees. For your convenience, the class meeting will be offered three times. You may attend any of these meetings, but you must attend one:

   Wednesday, 2/26, from 6-7, in Dewey Hall 1-101  
   Tuesday, 3/18, from 6-7, in Dewey 2-162  
   Friday, 4/4, from 3-4, in Dewey 2-162

The orientation will include an online quiz for each Pre-departure packet. You may repeat the quizzes as many times as necessary to provide the correct answer for each question. All quizzes must be successfully completed by May 12, or your permission to study abroad may be rescinded. You are responsible for completing the following quizzes. You are expected to respond to all email regarding study abroad from the Center for Study Abroad.

Center for Study Abroad Agreement (Check boxes indicating you understand and agree)

Registration: Information about registering for your study abroad semester, and registering for courses in your return semester. Also, it will cover Study Abroad Status, as well as how to ensure proper transfer credit from study abroad courses.

Study Abroad Finances: Study Abroad Orientation will focus on managing your finances for your semester abroad. Topics covered will include financial aid, UR billing, costs, currency exchange, budgeting and credit card debt.
Communication: Keeping in touch while you're abroad. Topics covered will include: email access, calling home, UR mailings, keeping in touch with program staff and UR, and emergency contact information.

Housing and Student Life Abroad: Covers housing while you are abroad as well as for your return semester at UR. Topics will also include pointers on cross-cultural adjustment, traveling, packing, calling home, food, shopping and other advice about differences in everyday student life overseas.

Health: Information on how to stay healthy and what to do in case of emergencies. Other topics covered include: health insurance, alcohol use abroad, safe sex, emergency preparedness, and vaccinations.

Safety Abroad: The Study Abroad Code of Conduct will be reviewed; representing UR while abroad; how to be a street-wise traveler; how to avoid being targeted for petty crime; how to avoid being an "Ugly American"; and emergency preparedness.

Life After Study Abroad: Topics covered will include: resume building, fellowships for graduate study and further overseas travel, Take 5, MCATs, GREs, and Internships in the Study Abroad Office.

Visas: This information will cover the complexities of visa applications and procedures should you need to apply for a visa for study abroad.

**Study Abroad Checklists**

*How to Begin...*

- Apply for or renew your passport.
- If you are an Eastman student, visit the Office of the Dean of Academic Affairs at the Eastman School of Music, 274-1020
- Discuss your plans with your parents/guardians.
- Submit all UR-sponsored program applications to the Center for Study Abroad. Send non-UR program applications directly to the program. Be sure to keep a copy of your application.
- Complete the Study Abroad Orientation Blackboard course.
- Meet with your faculty adviser. Declare your major and discuss how it will be affected by a semester or year abroad.
- Estimate costs for the study abroad programs to which you are applying. Study abroad staff and Peer Advisers can help you with these figures.
Meet with a counselor in the Financial Aid Office in Wallis Hall if you receive any financial aid (this includes need-based aid or merit awards, i.e. scholarships).

Work with a counselor in the Center for Study Abroad to apply for any special study abroad scholarships or financial aid. All UR students who apply to IES & CIEE programs are required to apply for IES & CIEE scholarships.

Registration for study abroad status.

If you have not been admitted to a study abroad program at registration and housing lottery time, register for next semester's classes and enter the housing lottery to keep your options open should your study abroad plans change.

If you are an international student, or do not hold a U.S. passport, meet with an adviser in the International Services Office.

If you have a disability, meet with an adviser in Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning to discuss accommodations needed. 275-9049.

After being accepted...

Apply for visa(s), if necessary.

Notify the Center for Study Abroad of your acceptance to a program.

Obtain course approvals for foreign language courses and for courses you wish to use toward a major, minor, or certificate. If you are going on a non-UR program, you will need to have all courses approved for transfer credit.

Research the city and country where you will be studying.

Determine the health risks and requirements for the areas where you will travel and get any necessary vaccinations.

Find out about your banking options. Your program will most likely give you some information about banking in your host country.

Before you leave campus...

Make several photocopies of your passport.

Visit the River Campus post office to give a forwarding address and to maintain your CPU box. This can be done online.

Pack this guide and your pre-departure orientation materials in your carry-on luggage.
While you are away...

- Register for your return semester at the University of Rochester.
- Expedite your registration, housing, and parking materials, via email or fax them without delay.
- Notify our office of any changes in coursework.
- Consider applying for graduate fellowships. Many fellowships (such as Fulbright and Marshall) are available for graduate study abroad.

Registering for your term abroad (Study Abroad Status)

A. Instructions for Study Abroad Registration

On-line registration is scheduled to begin on April 7, 2014 (by class standing). In order to ensure correct billing for the fall 2014 semester, you must register for study abroad by the end of online registration. It is essential that you check your registration carefully. Specific study abroad course titles, numbers, and CRNs are listed below. Please follow these instructions carefully.

If you are going on a **UR-sponsored program** (except Internships in Europe, Cologne Exchange, or Arezzo program) register for:
CRN 69961, 1SAB 301 Study Abroad UR Program (16 credits)

If you are going on a **non-UR program**, register for:
CRN 69976, SAB 302 Study Abroad Non-UR Program (0 credits)

If you are going on the **Cologne Exchange** Program Register for:
CRN 69987, 1SAB 328 Cologne Exchange, Germany (16 credits)

If you are going on an **Internships in Europe (EPA) Program**, register for site AND internship type:

1. the appropriate site e.g. EPA London Courses - UR (8 credits)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CRN</th>
<th>Course Number</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>70044</td>
<td>1SAB 334</td>
<td>London Internship (EPA) semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70025</td>
<td>1SAB 332</td>
<td>Brussels Internship (EPA) semester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70000</td>
<td>1SAB 330</td>
<td>Germany Internship (EPA) semester</td>
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<tr>
<td>70066</td>
<td>1SAB 336</td>
<td>Madrid Internship (EPA) semester</td>
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<tr>
<td>70082</td>
<td>1SAB 338</td>
<td>Edinburgh Internship (EPA) semester</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2. Your internship type e.g. European Politics Internship (8 credits)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CRN</th>
<th>Course Number</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>66599</td>
<td>1PSC 397</td>
<td>European Politics Internship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19603</td>
<td>1CAS 397A</td>
<td>European Health Science Internship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19612</td>
<td>1CAS 397B</td>
<td>European Business Internship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10974</td>
<td>1AH 397</td>
<td>European Arts Internship</td>
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</tbody>
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If you are going on the Rochester in Arezzo, Italy Program, register for:

CRN 69949, 1SAB 293: Rochester in Arezzo, Italy (0 credits)*

*For the Arezzo program, you also need to register for the following courses for a total of 18 credits:

CRN 48155, 1IT 223: Monuments of Ancient Italy: History, Structure, and Form (cross listed with AH 226/CLA 223) 4 credits
CRN 48187, IT 244: Art History: Art, Architecture & Literature in the Age of Dante (cross listed with AH 244) 4 credits
CRN 48176, IT 228: History: Italy from Napoleon to the First Republic (cross listed with HIS 228/CLT 207C) 4 credits
CRN 48079, IT 111: Elementary Italian or 48128, IT 153: Accelerated Italian, 4 credits
CRN 48104, IT 150: Italian Culture in Context, 2 credits

Important Notes:

- If you are going on a non-UR program, you will be charged by UR only for the Study Abroad administrative Fee ($1,440*) for your semester away.

- Credits associated with UR programs are anticipated, not actual, credits.

- If you plan to study abroad for the entire academic year (fall, 2014, and spring, 2015), you will register online for your second study abroad semester in spring, 2014 while abroad.

- Your Study Abroad Status /registration may be rescinded for the following reasons: 1) if you do not successfully complete Pre-departure orientation (Blackboard and in-person portions), 2) your major is not officially declared, 3) you are placed on academic or disciplinary probation, 4) or if you have grades of I or N.

*This is an estimated fee for 2014-15.
B. Change of Status Information

All UR students studying abroad who wish to receive academic credit for their work are placed on Study Abroad Status. Study Abroad status maintains the student's classification as a full-time matriculated, University of Rochester student. All students studying on non-UR sponsored programs are assessed an administrative fee of $1,440* per semester which is charged to the term bill. This fee covers costs incurred by the University for administrative services in connection with study abroad. It guarantees that credit will be awarded for courses taken abroad when we receive an official transcript and course approval forms. Students may not declare Inactive Status (used for leave of absence from UR) and still receive academic credit for a study abroad program. Students on study abroad status are eligible for continuation of UR health insurance while abroad.

*This is an estimated fee for 2014-15.

C. Registering for Courses Abroad

Registration procedures vary from program to program and from one overseas university to another. Many study abroad program applications will ask you to indicate a list of possible courses that you wish to take while you're abroad. If you're applying to an island program with a limited number of courses available, then you may be reasonably sure of the courses in advance, and your application form will serve to register you for the courses you choose.

However, many overseas universities do not conduct course registration on campus until a short time (a week or even less) before the classes begin, and so they do not publish an updated course schedule in advance. You may have to rely on the course schedule from a previous semester or year. In this case, in addition to choosing the courses that you hope to take, you should also choose several alternate courses, since you may discover upon arrival that courses that you hoped to take are not available or have been cancelled. In this case, your final registration will take place overseas, after you arrive in the country. This is typically the case for integrated programs, exchange programs, and independent enrollment. Please keep in contact with your study abroad adviser if you course selection changes. You may be able to receive approval for elective credit through email.

Keep in mind, regardless of the program to which you're applying, that you must complete a full course load while you're abroad: that is, the equivalent of 16 Rochester credits per semester. Underloads or overloads are not permitted during study abroad. In any case, try to have your courses approved BEFORE you go overseas.

Most programs will allow you to change courses (drop/add) at the beginning of the semester. Notify your UR advisers (including faculty advisers and advisers in the Center for Study Abroad) if you make any changes to your schedule.
Some programs allow students to complete courses on a Satisfactory/Fail basis (S/F option). Check with an adviser in the Center for Study Abroad before you sign up for this option. Because you must earn a grade of "C" or better in order to transfer credit to the UR, you may not be able to complete a course as S/F (unless the program can document that the "S" or "Pass" grade is equivalent to "C" or better on the UR scale).

For further guidelines about transferring credit, see the section below called 'Transferring Credit back to the University of Rochester'.

D. Registering for Courses for your Return Semester

Schedules, Courses and Registration

If you study abroad, you will be out of the country during the usual registration period next semester. Nonetheless, you will be able to use the online course schedules and descriptions to select your classes and sign on to the Web Registration system using your Net ID and password, or University ID and PIN. Instructions for registration can be found on the Registrar's home page at: [www.rochester.edu/registrar](http://www.rochester.edu/registrar). Questions can be directed to Associate Registrar Carl Dickinson, [carl.dickinson@rochester.edu](mailto:carl.dickinson@rochester.edu).

You will be able to register for classes on the first day of your eligibility during the normal registration period. Classes that are restricted—that is, those requiring instructor's permissions—will not be registered until you have obtained the appropriate permission code. This permission code will be provided to you by the appropriate faculty member. You may want to discuss these options with faculty before you leave Rochester next semester.

The Registrar's Office will do everything possible to assist you in seeing that you are registered for the classes you request. If you have questions at any time during the process you may call (585) 275-2931 or email Carl Dickinson [carl.dickinson@rochester.edu](mailto:carl.dickinson@rochester.edu).

Course schedules and descriptions are available online through the University of Rochester home page. The home page can be accessed at www.rochester.edu. You will be able to access the registration system at: [http://www.rochester.edu/registrar/](http://www.rochester.edu/registrar/)

After you Register:

Use the UR ACCESS Plus system to view your schedule, grades, academic history, financial information and hold information. Go to the UR home page and follow the instructions above to use UR ACCESS plus. You will need your UID and PIN to use ACCESS. If you have forgotten your PIN or need instructions on using ACCESS, please come to or call the Registrar's office for assistance BEFORE YOU LEAVE THE COUNTRY.
We look forward to serving you while you are studying abroad. If you have problems, questions or comments, email the Registrar's Office at carl.dickinson@rochester.edu or call us at (585) 275-8131.

Transferring Credit back to the University of Rochester

If you go abroad on a program sponsored by an accredited American college, or if you enroll at an overseas university which issues an American-style transcript, credit is transferred as from any American college. The institution simply sends a transcript to the Center for Study Abroad, and a study abroad adviser evaluates the transcript and applies the credits toward your University of Rochester record, as appropriate. This process usually takes 6-8 weeks after you finish your studies overseas, so do not expect your credits to appear instantly on your transcript.

Credits may be transferred for elective and major credit. Course Approval Forms for this purpose are available at the Center for Study Abroad and the Center for Academic Support. You may transfer courses toward an existing cluster if you consult with the authorized faculty member in the relevant department (see below). It is your responsibility to ensure that you fulfill graduation requirements in a timely manner. If you have any questions about this please contact an adviser.

A. Credit for Language Courses

The Department of Modern Languages and Cultures and the Department of Religion & Classics will NOT grant credit to students who enroll in a class (in particular a language/grammar class) that is at the same or a lower level as a class they have taken before their semester abroad. For example, if a student has taken an intermediate language course at the U of R, they may not receive credit for taking a basic or beginning language or the same intermediate class abroad. In addition, courses that duplicate the literature, film, or culture content of MLC courses taken before study abroad will not be granted credit. In order to avoid credit transfer confusion or problems it is imperative that each student consult with the appropriate adviser in MLC before departure and registration. All foreign language courses need approval from the Department of Modern Languages and Cultures or the Department of Religion and Classics. Please note that languages not offered at the University of Rochester may be approved for credit. Please meet with a Study Abroad adviser to discuss.

B. Elective Credit

Bring or send an official catalogue description of each course to the Center for Study Abroad, preferably before you leave for your semester abroad. Courses on UR-sponsored programs that are broadly comparable to those offered at the University of Rochester will be approved for elective credit. An example of an approved course is "PSC 350 Europe, Russia, and the Eastern Borderlands" (from Syracuse University's program in Strasbourg, France). An example of a course not approved is “Rock Climbing Contexts and Techniques” (from the IES program at the University of Canterbury,
Christchurch). In some cases, you may be asked to submit the description to a faculty member for approval. All foreign language courses need approval from the Department of Modern Languages and Cultures or the Department of Religion and Classics. Please note that languages not offered at the University of Rochester may be approved for credit.

C. Major and Minor Credit

Bring a Course Approval Form, along with the description(s) of the course(s) in question, to the appropriate faculty member. The names of the faculty members in charge of approving study abroad transfer credit are posted at the Academic Information Counter at the Center for Academic Support and may be found online at:

http://www.rochester.edu/College/CCAS/students/curriculum/authsign.html

In some instances, academic departments have posted previously approved courses and equivalencies directly on their website. For example, the Hajim School of Engineering and Applies Sciences has a cumulative list of courses:

http://www.hajim.rochester.edu/undergraduate/studyabroad/study_abroad_programs.html

D. Clusters

The College's Curriculum Committee will allow students to transfer courses from study abroad programs into Clusters. This may be done by proposing an exception to an existing, departmental Cluster, or by proposing an individualized interdepartmental Cluster. Please note that approval is not automatic. Consult with a study abroad adviser for details. Exception form:

http://www.rochester.edu/college/CCAS/assets/pdf/ClusterException.pdf

E. Receiving Credit

Transcripts

On completion of the program, it is your responsibility to see that the college which sponsored your program sends an official transcript to the Center for Study Abroad. Credit will be granted for all approved courses in which you have earned a C or better.

Be aware that grades and transcripts are often issued by study abroad programs several months after you complete your studies overseas. Transcripts from spring semester programs may arrive in our office from July until October. Fall program transcripts normally arrive between February and May. If you go abroad as a first-semester senior, it is essential to request your transcript from the program as early as possible.
Credit Calculation

Many American colleges and universities are based on a 120 credit system, in contrast to UR, which requires 128 credits to complete the undergraduate degree. Transfer credit is awarded on a proportional basis. If you take five three-credit courses on another school's program, credit will be evaluated according to this formula: $\frac{15}{120} = \frac{x}{128}$; $x = 16$ credits. In most cases, a full semester (or year) of study completed elsewhere is worth a full semester (or year) at UR. In any event, study abroad students must complete the equivalent of 16 Rochester credits per semester. **Underloads and overloads are not permitted during study abroad.** Even if the program allows for an underload, Rochester students are required to carry a full load. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that they are registered for the equivalency of a UR full course load. For programs that employ the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS), the University of Rochester awards credit at a rate of .5 UR credits for each ECTS credit.

Internships, Independent Study, and Service learning courses

With the exception of the University's Internships in Europe program, independent studies or internships taken on study abroad programs cannot receive pre-approval for transfer credit. While completing the independent study or internship, be sure to keep documentation of all academic work. Upon return, you will need to submit this documentation to an appropriate faculty member in order for transfer credit to be granted. It is in your best interest to discuss your plans with faculty before going overseas because some departments do not grant transfer credit for independent studies or internships, even for elective credit. The same guidelines apply for service learning. A course approval form needs to be submitted in order for credit to transfer successfully; verbal approval from a faculty member only will not suffice.

Grading

Grades for courses graded by University of Rochester faculty appear on the transcript and are calculated into the grade point average (GPA). In most cases, study abroad courses are not graded by Rochester faculty. The two most notable exceptions are the "Rochester in Arezzo" program, and the internship portion of the "Internships in Europe" programs. Grades received on University of Rochester-sponsored programs appear on your UR transcript but do not count in your GPA.

Grades earned on programs sponsored by other colleges do not appear on your University of Rochester transcript and do not count in your GPA and are not used to calculate Latin Honors.

**Academic Environment Overseas**

Students participating on study abroad programs should be aware that the academic environment at overseas universities differs significantly from their home university, especially in programs where students take courses directly at an overseas
institution. For example, most European countries require at least one more year of secondary education before entry to the university than is required by U.S. colleges, and assume that first year students have done their liberal arts study at the high school level. Your specific pre-departure program guides should provide guidance and information on what you might expect in your overseas academic environment. Study abroad returnees report having different student-teacher expectations, assessment styles, and classroom interaction. What may be expected in an Australian classroom environment will differ significantly in Peru. Study Abroad returnees are great resources to help manage expectations of academic workload and classroom styles.

Most overseas universities do not employ a system of continuous examination; pop quizzes, midterms, and class discussions do not exist. In some instances, the entire grade rests upon the final examination, a paper, or an oral presentation given at the end of the course and is usually based on outside readings as well as thorough knowledge of the course materials. The classroom will be entirely different from what you experience on your home campus. Professors are not “accountable” for their students’ learning in the same way that instructors at UR might be. The concept of a course syllabus is often foreign at most European institutions and students will be provided with a long reading list. Professors assume the students is aware of what is to be covered and that is it his or her responsibility to identify appropriate readings or resource materials and become knowledgeable on that subject.

Please be aware that at most overseas universities students will not have twenty four hour access at their campus library. Please check with your Program Director upon arrival to get details on the hours of library. For intensive language programs, students should be aware that there will be a language pledge where students are required to converse only in the host language. Feedback from students on past programs indicates that although a welcomed part of the experience, it does not come without challenges. Students participating in integrated programs should expect services on campus not to be centralized as on their home campus. Please direct any questions to your study abroad adviser who can connect you with a study abroad returnee.