



A Parent's Guide

to Study Abroad

Global **IDEA** Series™
The Initiative to Diversify Education Abroad

IES
ABROAD®
Leading Study Abroad Since 1950™

Why Study Abroad?



IES Abroad seeks to make the life-changing experience of study abroad accessible to all students. But as a parent you probably have many questions about studying abroad: What are the benefits? How will it impact my student's academic schedule? Is it affordable? Will my student be safe? Let IES Abroad help you answer these questions.

•• Academic Benefits

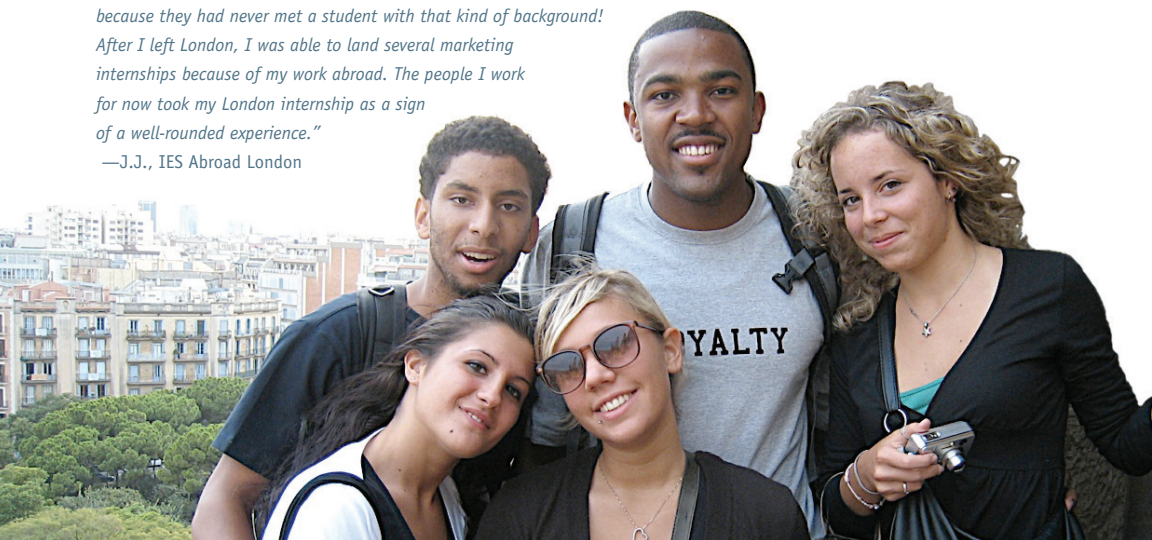
Returning students not only acknowledge their personal growth, but also note the influence studying abroad has on their academic interests and commitment to their studies. 87% of returning students said that study abroad influenced subsequent educational experiences. 80% reported an enhanced interest in academic study. 52% of students attained graduate degrees after studying abroad.*

•• Career Benefits

The value of studying abroad continues beyond the personal and academic. Students and employers acknowledge that international experience on a resume is a competitive advantage in today's job market. In many cases, students add professional experience to their resumes through internships in fields such as business and medicine, while earning academic credit. 76% of students said that they acquired skill sets while studying abroad that influenced their career path, and 62% said that study abroad ignited interest in their career direction.*

My new employers were so excited to hear of my international work because they had never met a student with that kind of background! After I left London, I was able to land several marketing internships because of my work abroad. The people I work for now took my London internship as a sign of a well-rounded experience."

—J.J., IES Abroad London



On Track, On Time

With advanced planning, your student's study abroad experience does not have to delay graduation. IES Abroad has formal agreements with more than 175 top-tier American colleges and universities that approve IES Abroad programs and accept IES Abroad credit.

Students often use credits from study abroad courses to fulfill a range of curricular requirements, including major, minor, language, general education, elective, and internship requirements.

Funding

Studying abroad can be affordable. The same federal and state aid, institutional scholarships, grants, and loans that finance your student's education now can also contribute to funding his or her study abroad experience. Be sure to consult the financial aid office at your student's institution to learn more.

IES Abroad commits \$2 million each year in need- and merit-based awards to, among other things, assist students in covering study abroad expenses and to encourage and support diversity.

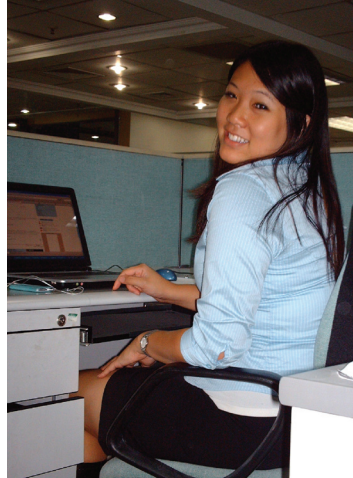
Several additional organizations also encourage and support under-represented students in studying abroad. To learn more, visit www.IESabroad.org > [Scholarships](#) > [Additional Resources](#).

Student Support

IES Abroad is dedicated to offering students personal assistance. Our academic and social support services range from predeparture Advisors to a full-time Diversity Coordinator and dedicated Student Affairs staff who assist in your student's cultural and academic adjustment.

Health & Safety

IES Abroad makes the safety of our students its highest priority. Our well-trained staff and established safety procedures for crisis management help distinguish us in the field of study abroad.



What Students Say

"I took five classes, all of which I got credit for at my university. I am a double major and got credit for two classes in each of my majors, and the last class counted as an elective."

— Janieasha, IES Abroad
Santiago, Chile

"I have loans and scholarships for school. Whatever funds went to my home school just transferred to studying abroad. I also received an IES Abroad scholarship and the Gilman Scholarship."

— Melanie, IES Abroad Auckland,
New Zealand

What a Parent Says

"My daughter had a wonderful time abroad and was well-served by IES Abroad. I thank you for the dedicated staff there who have guided the students so well."

— Louise Peterson, Parent of IES
Abroad Vienna Alumna



Steps for Staying Involved



Talk with your student

Discuss his or her goals for study abroad and how they fit into his or her academic plan. Then work together to set up a budget.

Visit websites

The IES Abroad website and the study abroad website at your student's institution provide information specifically for parents and guardians. Topics include financing, planning, and procedures for studying abroad. For additional resources and information, consult www.IESabroad.org > Parents.

Consult the financial aid office

Learn more about your student's institutional policies regarding scholarships & financial aid transfer.

Review materials

Upon acceptance, IES Abroad sends specific materials to inform you of what to expect in the planning and onsite logistics of a program. These materials include a program-specific *Get SET! Guide*, the *Family Guide*, and a Visa Starter Packet (if applicable).

Ask questions

Feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns you may have at any point in your student's application or study abroad experience.

About IES Abroad

IES Abroad is one of the nation's oldest, largest, and most reputable study abroad providers. Founded in 1950, IES Abroad is a growing Chicago-based, not-for-profit organization that enrolls more than 5,000 students annually. Committed to quality, IES Abroad is comprised of a consortium of more than 175 highly-selective U.S. colleges and universities. With more than 90 programs in 32 locations, IES Abroad is dedicated to offering students outstanding academic options coupled with everyday opportunities for immersion in the local culture.

IES Abroad believes that every student should study abroad and encourages students from all backgrounds to embark on this life-changing experience.



Diversity Coordinator
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