

IS IT A VACATION?

Study abroad is an *academic* experience. While students may be studying in an exotic locale, your son or daughter is still a student and expected to attend classes and dedicate time to coursework. Likewise, as an international student, your son or daughter will be facing new challenges in their host country which will also demand more of them as individuals than a vacation would. They will not only be adjusting to a new way of life, but a new academic system, a new city, for some a language barrier, and for others their first time living independently.

IS STUDY ABROAD AFFORDABLE?

Study abroad *is* affordable! Although the cost of a study abroad program may be greater than a semester at Brookdale while residing at home, study abroad is an investment in your son or daughter's education. The IEC works with the Office of Financial Aid to create a personalized study abroad cost estimate for students. This estimate includes everything from actual program costs to estimated travel and personal expenses. The student will meet with a Financial Aid Officer to discuss their award and opportunities for additional aid. Any federal financial aid a student receives can be applied to study abroad programs and students may be eligible to access additional funding in the form of loans to assist in financing their academic investment.

Likewise, many scholarships are available for study abroad participants. The Elaine Baran Scholarship is an internal scholarship available to Brookdale degree-seeking students participating in CCIS or faculty-led programs. Many external scholarships are available also, some awarding up to \$10,000. The IEC provides scholarship advising, a Scholarship Success Workshop, and will review applications to ensure they are highly competitive. Students can also sign-up with the IEC to receive email alerts about study abroad funding, international opportunities, and upcoming deadlines.

With exciting opportunities and challenges, study abroad will be a profound and life-changing experience for your son or daughter. Not only will they have the opportunity to gain an in-depth understanding of a foreign culture, but they will develop a more intimate understanding of their own culture and person as well. As your son or daughter prepares to enter the workforce or continue their studies, participation in study abroad will speak volumes about their intercultural competency, ambition, and flexibility. Supporting your student throughout this incredible experience will facilitate the transition and evolution of your son or daughter into a global citizen.

*THE WORLD
IS OUR
COMMUNITY!*

International Education Center

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BROOKDALE
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



Parent Guide To Study Abroad



**Information regarding
programs, academics, health,
safety, and funding**

STUDY ABROAD 101

WHY STUDY ABROAD?

Study abroad provides a global experience that students will utilize throughout their personal life and professional career. Through studying abroad students:

- Learn about a new country and culture
- Complete coursework towards their degree
- Gain a global perspective and international experience
- Improve skills in a foreign language
- Develop a global network of friends and professionals
- Enhance resume and marketability
- Participate in service-learning or internship activities

WHERE AND WHEN?

Through the College Consortium for International Studies (CCIS), the Brookdale International Education Center (IEC) offers over 80 exciting programs available in 30 countries throughout the academic year ranging from 4 week summer programs to an entire semester. In addition, each year the IEC hosts a series of faculty-led short-term programs during the summer and winter terms lasting between 7 – 14 days, with destinations and course offerings changing by the year. It is recommended students setup an appointment to meet with an IEC staff member to discuss program options and funding; parents are welcomed to attend appointments as well. Early planning for timely preparation is greatly encouraged.

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS?

To participate in CCIS programs, students must have at least a 2.5 GPA. Some programs may require the completion of 12-15 credits or 2.75 – 3.5 GPA. Faculty-led short-term programs are open to students and the community at least 18 years of age.

WILL THE COURSES TRANSFER?

For students participating in CCIS programs, the IEC works closely with students and staff to ensure the student's course choices transfer back to Brookdale. After meeting with the IEC, the student will meet with an academic advisor to discuss their academic plan and select courses for their program. Through a course pre-approval process, courses are pre-approved by Brookdale Department Chairs and the Dean of the student's program. Once a student has completed their study abroad program, courses will be transferred back to their Brookdale transcript as letter grades.

For faculty-led programs, the international experience is embedded into a Brookdale course. For a given destination, students will have one or two Brookdale course options which award 3-4 credits. Students will attend some pre-departure classes and will complete assignments before, during, and after travel.

WHERE WILL MY SON/DAUGHTER STAY?

For CCIS Programs, students receive assistance in securing accommodations. Students live in dormitories, shared apartment housing, or with a host family. Programs provide students the opportunity to purchase a meal plan or will have kitchen facilities available for student use.

For faculty-led programs, participants stay in 2-3 star hotels and share a room or may request a private room.

WHAT OTHER OPPORTUNITIES WILL MY SON/DAUGHTER HAVE ABROAD?

Many CCIS programs offer international student orientation, excursion and fieldtrips, volunteer opportunities, or have an active student life which hosts clubs and organizations for international student involvement. Some programs also provide students the opportunity to complete internships or service-learning. Likewise, through available student discounts, the ease of transportation and the economy of travel while abroad, students often explore the surrounding regions and countries.

IS STUDY ABROAD DANGEROUS?

Safety is the number one priority whether at Brookdale or abroad. Although no country, including our own, can guarantee 100% security, the IEC employs the following procedures to facilitate student health and safety:

- Carefully monitors Travel Alerts issued by the US Department of State for prospective and current participants, providing alert and advising to situations which might impact the individual or the program
- Require participants to submit a Medical Report Form completed by their doctor to ensure they are physically and emotionally fit for participation
- Provide international health insurance coverage through MEDEX, Cultural Insurance Services International, or via the CCIS program sponsor
- Conduct a mandatory pre-departure orientation and provide a Study Abroad Handbook both addressing travel, culture, academics, and health and safety issues
- Distribute Consular Information Sheet from the Department of State as well as Emergency Contact Information for personnel at Brookdale and abroad
- Educate participants on registering with the US Embassy before departure

Through CCIS, students have access to a variety of support services and personnel which can include an onsite orientation, international program coordinator, student health center, disability services, and personal and academic counselors. All CCIS programs undergo periodic site reviews to ensure health, safety, and academic standards met and maintained.

For faculty-led short-term programs, faculty are both experienced travelers and have completed an orientation program preparing them for emergency and non-emergency situations alike. The IEC will also register the group with the US Embassy before departure.