



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Office of the Provost

Study Abroad™

TRAVEL
Learn
DISCOVER

TEXAS TECH STUDY ABROAD GUIDE FOR
PARENTS, GUARDIANS AND MENTORS



Dear Parents, Guardians and Mentors:

I am delighted that your student is thinking about study abroad or has already decided to participate. Studying abroad is often one of the most exciting and rewarding experiences a student will have during their college years. The Texas Tech Study Abroad team is here to assist and support your student throughout the entire study abroad process, but we recognize that parents, family members and guardians are critical partners in supporting student success. While Texas Tech Study Abroad urges students to undertake all of the necessary steps to prepare for their experience on their own, I hope this guide will provide you as loved ones with answers to your questions, and confidence that your student is in great hands with my office.

Whitney Longnecker

Director of Study Abroad, Texas Tech University

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Quick Facts

- In 2023, nearly 1,200 Red Raiders participated in study abroad programs in 35 countries.
- The three most popular destinations included Spain, Italy, and Costa Rica.
- In 2023, the Study Abroad Competitive Scholarship awarded over \$350,000 to deserving students. Other scholarships available for study abroad include the Buena Vista and Clinton Colgin scholarships.

Why should my student study abroad?

Every student who wants to succeed in a global society should study abroad. Studying abroad offers students competitive advantages and cross-cultural competence that provide immediate and long-term academic, personal and professional opportunities.

The study abroad experience:

- Offers students academic courses that can meet major, minor and/or general education requirements
- Enhances student resumes with real-world experiences like international internships, medical shadowing and research
- Helps student gain in-depth exposure to foreign cultures in a way that cannot be accomplished on a vacation
- Promotes intercultural competency and greater confidence, independence, and self-sufficiency

Successfully completing a study abroad program can enhance a résumé and help students stand out in the job market. By participating in a Texas Tech Study Abroad program, students receive Texas Tech credits and grades. Students can meet major, minor, and/or general education requirements while abroad as determined by their academic college or department.

Texas Tech Named Among

TOP 10

Leading Institutions in the U.S. by
Study Abroad Participation

– Institute of International Education,
Open Doors® Report, 2022



Myths About Study Abroad

1. *Studying abroad is more expensive than studying at Texas Tech.*

The Truth: Tuition and fees of some study abroad programs cost less than Texas Tech tuition. The 2022 – 2023 academic year estimated cost of attendance for Texas Tech undergraduate residents is approximately \$28,022. Students can use this number to compare program costs.

2. *Studying abroad is not a financial reality for some Red Raiders.*

The Truth: Students with financial concerns should consider more affordable programs and give themselves enough time to apply for multiple scholarships. Funding is available, but students must plan far enough in advance to meet application deadlines. Campus staff are eager to help. It is important to remember that available scholarships may not be exclusively for study abroad. A student may find a scholarship for “a male from Texas, studying math” that could apply. No single source offers enough to cover the complete cost of studying abroad, but a focused effort can yield a substantial amount of funding.

3. *Students who study abroad are more likely to graduate late.*

The Truth: According to research conducted at the University of Minnesota and the University of California at San Diego, “Higher graduation rates for students who study abroad can be observed across a wide variety of variables, including race, gender, major, first-generation status, parental income, SAT score, and grade-point average” (Redden, 2012).

4. *Study abroad is not safe for my student.*

The Truth: The safety and security of our students is paramount. The Study Abroad team monitors security situations abroad, vets host families, enrolls students in comprehensive health and accident insurance, and requires pre-departure as well as on-site orientations to help students adjust to their new surroundings.

5. *Study abroad is an expensive vacation.*

The Truth: At Texas Tech, we do not guarantee that study abroad will change your student’s life. Instead, we believe the possibilities are in your student’s hands. To be changed by international travel and education, students must make the conscious choice to enter into the experience with an open mind and maximize their time abroad by setting intentional goals. After all, study abroad is an intellectual endeavor – not a vacation.



Costs and Financial Aid



How much is it going to cost?

The programs offered through Texas Tech study abroad vary in cost depending on the features of the program, geographic location, length, inclusions such as excursions and cultural activities, and the level of on-site support. Program cost estimates are provided on a budget sheet linked on each program webpage.

It is absolutely possible to find a program that will work in just about any budget by considering a variety of factors including: program duration and location, program type, cost of living in host country, and personal spending habits.

After researching the program options on the Study Abroad website, students should meet with a Study Abroad Counselor or Engineering Program Manager. Counselors can help students find a program that meets their academic, personal and professional goals – plus their budget!

Can my student use financial aid and scholarships to cover some or all of the costs?

Yes and yes! Texas Tech students studying abroad on approved programs can use most components of their existing financial aid packages toward the cost of study abroad.

There are many, many scholarship and funding opportunities available to students. Study Abroad offers an Easy Guide to Study Abroad Scholarships. This is not a comprehensive list of all available scholarships but it is quite lengthy. Students are encouraged to search on their own for additional funding.

Support and Guidance from Texas Tech Study Abroad

What kind of support does Study Abroad provide for my student?

Study Abroad understands that preparing for and participating on a study abroad program can be at once exciting and overwhelming, so we provide support and guidance to students at all stages. However, we also require that students take an active role in preparing for their experience abroad, and we expect them to be responsible and complete all necessary steps prior to departure.

- **Initial Search Phase:**

Study Abroad Counselors and Engineering Program Managers are available to meet with students to:

- Help identify programs that meet academic, personal and professional goals

- Discuss program-specific details such as cost, housing, and available courses

- Guide the application process

- Discuss financial aid and scholarship opportunities

- Discuss health insurance and other safety concerns

- **After Acceptance:**

All students are required to complete pre-departure orientation facilitated by Study Abroad. Orientation will cover details about Texas Tech policies, academics, financial information, health and safety, cultural differences and culture shock.

Besides the mandatory orientation, Counselors and Engineering Program Managers are available by appointment to discuss any questions or concerns the student may have about their upcoming time abroad.

All students must be medically recommended for travel. Study Abroad has partnered with the on-campus Student Health Services to make this as convenient for students as possible.

- **While Abroad:**

Study Abroad works closely with on-site staff for all approved programs and is in direct communication regarding any issue or emergency occurring abroad.

In the unlikely case there is a natural disaster, political upheaval or other dangerous situation, Study Abroad will coordinate with on-site colleagues and our insurance provider to ensure Red Raiders are safe and, if need be, evacuate them from the country.

- **Back at Texas Tech:**

Once the student completes their study abroad program, the Study Abroad team will facilitate the course equivalency process (issuing Texas Tech credit and grades for coursework taken abroad).

Returned students can stay involved with Study Abroad by becoming a Peer Adviser, volunteering at Study Abroad events like the annual Study Abroad Fair, or joining several internationally-focused student groups on campus.

What we can promise parents, guardians and mentors

Study Abroad will:

- Comply with the FERPA laws that affect what information we can and cannot share with family members and/or guardians. If a student would like for their information to be made available to others, they must first complete a FERPA waiver. For more information, scan the included QR code.
- Prepare your student to adapt, learn, and excel in their new environment.
- Mitigate risks appropriately in all locations where we place students.
- Communicate with your student's host university or program appropriately with information pertinent to their experience before, during, and after their experience.
- Listen to your student and respond promptly to their concerns regarding registration, billing, and other university matters.



How can you work with us?

As a parent, guardian or mentor, you should:

- Ensure your student understands the importance of their role in co-creating a positive study abroad experience to include disclosing any needs they have which might affect their health, safety, or wellness.
- Make time to discuss your student's goals and expectations for their international experience.
- Ask your student to share financial aid and cost information.
- Ask that your student disclose to you as well as the Study Abroad team any additional travel and activities they have planned which are independent of their study abroad program.
- Be aware that your student – rather than Texas Tech staff or the study abroad program – may be the most appropriate source for information.
- Develop a communication plan with your student that addresses when and how often to be in contact while abroad. It is particularly important to discuss the need for a call home upon arrival in the host country.




Health and Safety

How can my student stay safe and healthy abroad?

Texas Tech Study Abroad considers the health and safety of our students a top priority.

- All students must be medically recommended for travel. The medical clearance process is facilitated by Study Abroad and on-campus Student Health Services. Students should ensure all routine vaccinations are up-to-date and discuss health concerns, plus health maintenance abroad, with a nurse or medical provider.
- International health insurance is provided to all students who are enrolled in an approved program. This is a comprehensive insurance plan that provides a wide variety of services for students abroad, including 24/7 emergency assistance.
- Though it is not likely, a student may experience a personal emergency while studying abroad. Texas Tech Study Abroad staff offer orientation sessions to students that should help them prepare for possible in-country scenarios, but it is impossible to predict and prevent every possible situation. In the event of an emergency, it is important to remain as calm as possible so that the student can communicate the issue to the proper authorities, medical professionals, host university representatives, their families, and/or Texas Tech.



“My goodness, going abroad opened our daughter up socially and that in itself was worth it! She met a great group of students from all over the world and they went on many trips together. She went out socially and experienced life in Europe. She came back from Ireland with a new look on life and school. Now she is very open to working abroad in the future.”

Julie Workman,

Mother of Jasmine Workman.

Jasmine studied abroad in Ireland.



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY®
Center in Sevilla, Spain



set yourself apart in
Sevilla, Spain

**Program options at
The TTU Center in Sevilla, Spain:**

- Spanish language classes available year-round. Studying Spanish in Sevilla can be a real time-saver and helps you achieve degree requirements more quickly.
- Medical shadowing available in local clinics and hospitals. Complement the shadowing with a Medical Spanish course.
- Engineering classes routinely offered include: Thermodynamics, Solids, Fluids, Dynamics, Aerodynamics, and Engineering Economic Analysis.
- Other courses offered include Architecture, and Survival Spanish.

For more information, contact:
lanna.sheldon@ttu.edu or visit:

www.studyabroad.ttu.edu





Steps to Study Abroad

Review your program options on the TTU Study Abroad website and decide whether to take classes, intern, research, or serve abroad.

- Choose the program that aligns with your goals.
- Start the online TTU Study Abroad application.
- Research and apply for scholarships.
- Meet with the appropriate advisors for your major.
- Schedule an appointment with a Study Abroad Counselor or Engineering Program Manager.
- Receive TTU approval to study abroad.
- Contact important stakeholders like Financial Aid, family and friends, and others who are supporting your study abroad.
- Commit to participating in your chosen program and prepare to depart.

• **GO ABROAD!**





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*This guide was adapted from the following sources:
IIE: A Parent Guide to Study Abroad; IES Abroad: Family Guide; NAFSA: What
Parents Need to Know; and Penn State Education Abroad.*