



TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
Office of International Affairs
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 2018-2019, 1,385 Texas Tech students took part in study abroad programs in 55 countries.
- The three most popular destinations for Texas Tech students were Spain (404), Italy (189) and Brazil (69). Additionally, 99 students participated in programs that traveled to multiple countries.
- In 2018-2019, the Study Abroad Competitive Scholarship committee awarded over \$350,000 to deserving students. Other scholarships available to study abroad students include the Buena Vista and Clinton Colgin scholarships.

Why should my student study abroad?

Every student who hopes to succeed in the global economy should study abroad. Studying abroad offers students competitive advantages and cross-cultural competence that open up a wealth of immediate and long-term academic, personal and professional opportunities.

The study abroad experience:

- Helps students gain in-depth exposure to foreign cultures in a way that cannot be accomplished in the classroom or on a vacation
- Exposes students to new ways of thinking about the world and their own home country
- Promotes intercultural competency and greater confidence, independence, and self-sufficiency
- Develops or improves foreign language skills
- Brings a unique intercultural perspective to a student's chosen major or academic study

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.



“It is my belief that our study abroad students bring something special back to Texas Tech, and I want to thank you whole-heartedly for playing a vital part in the study abroad process – from their decision to participate all the way through their return. We are very proud of our study abroad students, and Texas Tech is dedicated to making your student’s study abroad one of the most meaningful and impactful experiences of their life.”

Sukant Misra, Ph.D.

Vice Provost of International Affairs; Professor of Agricultural & Applied Economics

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 2020-2021 academic year estimated cost of attendance for Texas Tech undergraduate residents is approximately \$27,156. Students can use this number to compare program costs.

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

The truth: Students for whom finances are a concern should consider more affordable program options 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. It is also true that, in the words of TTU’s former Vice Provost for International Affairs, “no place in the world is entirely safe” (2016). The Study Abroad staff 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 a student’s life. Instead, we believe the possibilities are in your 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 information page.

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 student's personal spending habits.

After researching the program options on the Study Abroad website, students should meet with a Study Abroad Counselor. 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. The Study Abroad Office offers an Easy Guide to Study Abroad Scholarships. This is not a comprehensive list of all available scholarships but it quite lengthy. Students are encouraged to search on their own for additional funding.

Please visit our website for additional information on financial aid, scholarships, and tips on keeping study abroad affordable. www.studyabroad.ttu.edu. Click the Financial Resources tab.

Support and Guidance from Texas Tech Study Abroad

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

Study Abroad staff members understand 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 in all stages of preparation. 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 are available to meet with students to:

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

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

- Assist with 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 the Study Abroad Office. These sessions will cover details about Texas Tech policies, academics, financial information, health and safety, cultural differences and culture shock.

Besides the mandatory orientation, Counselors 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. The Study Abroad Office has partnered with the on-campus Student Health Services to make this as convenient for students as possible.

- **While Abroad:**

Study Abroad Counselors work closely with on-site staff for all approved programs, and they are 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, the Study Abroad Office will coordinate with on-site colleagues and our insurance provider to ensure our students 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 staff 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

The Study Abroad Office 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.
- 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 with 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 staff 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 some 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 Texas Tech Study Abroad 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 in spring 2018.

STUDY ABROAD
IN
Sevilla, Spain



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**Fall or Spring semester at
The TTU Center in Sevilla, Spain:**

- Complete foreign language requirement (12 hours) in just one semester.
- Pre-Health Medical Shadowing: Spanish minor + shadowing experience.
- Obtain a Spanish minor in one semester! Take SPAN 3306, SPAN 3309, and SPAN 4343, plus complete an internship (SPAN 4335).
- Engineering classes routinely offered include: Thermodynamics, Solids, Fluids, Dynamics, Aerodynamics, and Engineering Economic Analysis.
- Other courses offered include Biology, Architecture, History, and Survival Spanish.

For more information, contact:

lanna.sheldon@ttu.edu or visit:

www.studyabroad.ttu.edu

**THINK GLOBAL
THINK TEXAS TECH**





10 steps to

STUDYING ABROAD



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



2. **Choose the program that aligns with your goals.**



3. **Start the online TTU Study Abroad application** for your chosen program.



4. **Research scholarship opportunities**, including the Study Abroad Competitive Scholarship, Clinton Colgin, and Buena Vista, and begin applications.



5. **Meet with the appropriate advisor for your major:** Center for Global Engagement (*Business students*), Engineering Program Manager (*Engineering students*), or Academic Advisor (*Students of all majors*).



6. **Schedule an appointment with a Study Abroad Counselor**, if necessary, by following the instructions in your online TTU Study Abroad application.



7. **Receive TTU approval** to study abroad.



8. **Contact Financial Aid Advisor Nikki Nordell** (nikki.nordell@ttu.edu) if you have questions about using federal financial aid or benefits.



9. **Commit to participating in your chosen program** and complete remaining requirements including pre-departure orientation.



10. **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.*