

## FAQs for Outgoing Study Abroad

### When should I start planning to study abroad?

Now! We encourage you to start your study abroad research as First Year Students. Visit the International Center and let us help you find the programs that best match your academics, interests and career goals. Attend the Study Abroad Fair and information sessions during the fall semester. Meet with your academic advisor and talk about the best time to go abroad. Most students apply during their Sophomore year to study abroad during their Junior year.

### Why should I study abroad?

Returned exchange students are usually bursting with enthusiasm about their experiences. By studying abroad you will:

- Learn a lot – academically and personally
- Return with more self-confidence and maturity
- Gain experience of a new culture, plus a greater appreciation of US culture
- Have the chance to add value to your degree – you'll experience different teaching and learning styles, and take classes that may not be available at Clarkson University.

### Who can study abroad?

To be eligible to study abroad you should:

- Be a full-time student in a bachelor's degree at Clarkson University
- Have completed your second year of study by the time you go on abroad
- Have maintained a **3.0 GPA** (reasonable exceptions are considered)
- Be a good ambassador for Clarkson University and the United States
- Have a strong commitment to making the most of the student exchange opportunity both academically and personally
- Postgraduate student exchange: You can also apply for a student exchange if you're a Master of Business Administration (MBA) student. Other postgraduate exchanges may be possible – contact Outgoing Study Abroad Coordinator

### Do I still pay my Clarkson University tuition?

Yes. You still pay your standard tuition fees to Clarkson University, but you don't pay tuition fees to your host university. Your grants, scholarships, and loans will be applied to your tuition as usual. You are still enrolled at Clarkson!

### What extra costs should I expect?

In addition to your tuition which you still pay to Clarkson you will need to consider the following extra costs which vary by the country and school you are accepted to.

- Flights
- Additional Travel
- Visa / Residence permit (vary by country)
- Insurance (health & travel)
- Academic expenses (ex. textbooks)
- Accommodation and food
- Living expenses
- Entertainment

### When is the best time to Study Abroad?

We recommend that you apply during your Sophomore year to go abroad during your Junior year. It is recommended that you begin planning your study abroad experience during your first year. Meet with your academic advisor and see when studying abroad works in your schedule. Factors to consider:

- Summer Internships / Co-ops
- Are certain core classes offered at Clarkson only spring or fall that you need to take?
- Are you on track with the number of credits that you need so you don't get behind?
- Is the program available for the semester I want to study abroad?
- Timing of the semester abroad – not all programs line up exactly to the Clarkson academic calendar (can cut into internship/co-op time)

### **Is there a GPA requirement to study abroad?**

Yes, Clarkson requires a 3.0 GPA to apply. Special circumstances are considered on a one on one basis. Please make an appointment to discuss.

Some programs abroad also have their own GPA requirements.

### **What is CU Global?**

This is our portal for students interested in study abroad programs. All program information is listed with dates and deadlines about each program deadline.

### **Where can I study abroad?**

Check our list of [Study Abroad Programs](https://clarkson-horizons.symplicity.com/) in **CU GLOBAL** - <https://clarkson-horizons.symplicity.com/>

For more information about CU Global please see our handout **What is CU Global?**

### **Where can I find a list of International Center events and information sessions?**

**CU Global** - <https://clarkson-horizons.symplicity.com/> Choose the Events tab at the top of the page.

### **Where can I live while studying abroad?**

Many universities have on-campus housing and you will apply for this when you complete their application. If there is not on-campus housing, the university typically provide you with a list of housing companies that they recommend. Housing abroad is organized by you. You will be invoiced directly for housing. A deposit may be required in advance.

### **Is it possible to study abroad multiple times?**

Yes, as long as you plan early, it is usually possible.

### **Can I work while overseas while studying?**

This varies depending on the country you are studying in. If you wish to work while studying, you may be limited to a certain number of hours per week. Check the embassy or consulate websites by country for more information. [GoInGlobal](#) may give you details on this as well.

Working after your studies are over may be a possibility. An internship or research experience may be possible depending on the program you choose. Many partner's Career Centers will assist with your search once you arrive. When searching programs in CU Global choose **Special Features / Post Study Work Experience** to see possibilities.

### **Will it take longer to complete my degree if I study abroad?**

No. A study abroad should not add any extra time onto obtaining your degree, as all the classes you study overseas are pre-approved by your academic department prior to departure.

You'll need to choose a university that offers classes similar to what you're studying at Clarkson. You will complete off campus coursework permission forms for each class you take abroad. These will be your insurance that the classes will transfer back to Clarkson toward your required classes.

### **Who can I contact if I need more information?**

Email: [internationalcenter@clarkson.edu](mailto:internationalcenter@clarkson.edu)

Set up an appointment in CU Global after choosing reset password and completing your profile information.

We have a list of past participants who can also answer questions you may have.

### **Do I receive grades for the classes I take abroad?**

You will receive transfer credit for the classes you take abroad, given that you pass the class. As with all transfer credits, you need to receive a grade equivalent to a C or better to receive credit. We use the following grade conversion guide website: <https://www.wes.org/gradeconversionguide/>

### **Will my course load and number of credits I take be the same abroad?**

No, typically students take what is equivalent of 4 US classes while abroad. Credit values differ throughout the world so you will need to be sure you are enrolled in what is equal to a minimum of 12 US credits to remain in full time academic status.

### **Will I know what courses I am taking before I go abroad on a semester program?**

Sometimes, but not always. For some programs, you may not register until you get there. Regardless of whether you can officially pre-register, you must research the classes available and **provide Off-Campus Coursework Permission forms** for the classes you intend to take while abroad.

### **How do I apply for a passport? Where can I get a passport photo taken?**

Please visit the [U.S. State Department website](#) for detailed instructions.

The local Potsdam postal office has passport services. Businesses that have in-store photo processing may have passport photo services. Note: The cost and number of pictures that you receive may vary by store. (In Potsdam, Walgreens or Kinney's, takes passport photos.)

**If you already have a passport, you will need to be sure it does not expire prior to 6 months from the END of your programs abroad.**

- **Do I need a visa or residence permit? A visa** is an official stamp or document affixed inside a passport, or provided to you as a separate document, that has been issued by a foreign government (via a consulate) granting permission for entry specifically to study, work or live in a particular country for a specified time period.
- **A residence permit** is a document or card required in some regions, allowing a foreign national to reside in a country for a fixed or indefinite length of time. These may be **permits** for temporary **residency**, or permanent **residency**.

***There is no guarantee or right to a visa or residence permit, even upon presentation of all the required documents.***

Some programs do require a visa or a residence permit. The cost of these, as well as their application process, varies by country you are going to and by your nationality. If a visa or residence permit is required, you will not be able to apply until you are issued an acceptance letter by the overseas program. The program abroad will also give you instructions about how to proceed with the process. You can also find the information in the Program information in CU Global so you can prepare in advance. Each program in CU Global outlines whether a visa or residence permit is required.

**It is the responsibility of the student to complete the necessary process in time for their program abroad.**