

think: study abroad

Your Study Abroad Goals

Those of us who have studied, interned, researched, worked etc. abroad know that the experience mandates growth. What do YOU hope to gain?

Thinking about your goals as you are planning your experience abroad will help guide your selection of programs, but also help to make your international experience more meaningful. Please plan to review your ideas when you meet with an advisor to plan your experience abroad.

Decision Factors

What are the most important factors for you when choosing a program abroad?

Location, cost, living arrangement, coursework, internship, research, service-learning, etc.

Examples:

- *I want to be able to take Engineering courses while abroad so I graduate on time.*
- *I would like to study at a program whose cost is similar to that of CWRU.*
- *I want to study in Latin America or Spain to improve my Spanish language skills.*

Academic and Professional Learning

What would you like to be able to say that you now know or can do academically or professionally when you return from your experience abroad?

Improve language skills, learn and understand your major from a different cultural and academic perspective, gain valuable experience interning or conducting research abroad, fulfill general education requirements, increase knowledge base of norms and cultures in another country, etc.

Examples:

- *I became fluent in French while studying abroad in France.*
- *I conducted STEM research abroad during the summer between my junior and senior year.*
- *I studied and learned politics through a new lens during my academic year abroad at LSE.*

Skills and Abilities

What skills would you like to learn and strengthen during your experience abroad?

Confidence, self-direction, problem-solving, critical thinking skills, intercultural communication, flexibility, working with individuals from diverse backgrounds, working with adversity, etc.

Examples:

- *I learned how to navigate the Tokyo metro even though at the start of my study abroad program in Japan, even though I didn't speak Japanese.*
- *I realized time is not the same in all cultures. Except for my classes, no one expected me to be on time in Argentina.*
- *In Morocco, I was one of two citizens from my home country in my study abroad program, which afforded me the opportunity to work on class projects with peers from many different backgrounds.*

Attitudes and Awareness

Considering the variety of perspectives you will be exposed to, how do you wish to stretch your own thinking to grow personally, academically and professionally during your experience abroad?

Intercultural awareness and competence, awareness of global issues, ability to evaluate competing perspectives on global issues, interest in community involvement, appreciation of differences, awareness of one's own culture and values, new perspectives on my home country and its role in the world, etc.

Examples:

- *Adapt to a new daily routine and culture with roommates or host family.*
- *Experience a different classroom environment from CWRU and learned how I work best.*
- *Learn how my home country's policies affect the host country I am studying in.*

These are examples to help you in your own planning and goal setting for your experience abroad. Please feel free to discuss your ideas, questions and concerns when you meet with your advisor.

Start Your Journey Today!



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