Study Abroad FAQ’s for Advisors

What is the role of the Academic Advisor in the study abroad process?
To help students fully consider the academic, intercultural, and career advantages of study abroad.

What questions should advisors ask their advisees about SA?
1. What are your academic goals for study abroad? Is there a particular course you must take?
2. What are your linguistic goals for study abroad?
3. What are your intercultural goals for study abroad?
4. How much effort are you personally willing to invest in the study abroad process?

Will all classes taken on study abroad transfer back to K?
Courses taken on study abroad, as long as they are in the Liberal Arts Tradition, may be used to fulfill general College graduation requirements. Students are encouraged to obtain approval from the department in advance to use a course from study abroad to satisfy major, minor or concentration requirements. No credit for duplicate/repeated courses. PE credit is possible.

Does study abroad have to be connected to the major?
Study abroad at Kalamazoo College is typically not connected to the major. It is not Bio major study abroad, but study abroad for Bio majors. Paul Sotherland, Bio, agrees it should be the latter: “We’ll help them learn the science through coursework and research; we want our students to have a study abroad experience that will provide them with opportunities to grow and explore as humans in other cultures.”

That is not to say that student cannot take majors classes on study abroad or earn credit toward the major. Typical departments limit to 1 or 2 the number of credits that students can apply to their majors from study abroad. These are almost always electives. We tell students to get permission from the major department (in writing) if they are planning to use study abroad credit to satisfy a non-elective major course requirement.

What’s the difference between short-term, long-term and extended-term?
Study abroad programs have different durations than K quarters.

- **Short-term winter programs (WT)** are typically 9-10 weeks long and take place during winter quarter. Units: 3 K units
- **Short-term spring programs (ST)** are typically 9-10 weeks long and take place during spring quarter except for Oaxaca, Mexico (ST) which takes place during winter quarter. Units: 3 K units
- **Long-term programs (LT)** are typically 18 weeks long (for K programs) and one semester for non-K programs). Students depart for these programs from July through September. Students are expected to return to campus in the spring. All long-term programs allow students to earn 2/3 of a year’s credit. Units: 6 K units. Students participate during their junior year.
- **Extended-term programs (ET)** are typically 30 weeks long. Students depart for these programs in August through September and are away for the entire academic year. Extended-term programs are only available to
declared foreign language or international and area studies majors with the endorsement/approval of department.

**Which courses do students take on the specific programs?**
The typical units available for each program are listed on the “List of Study Abroad Programs” and on Hornet Passport, which is searchable by program at:
For some programs, students choose from the general university offerings and these courses cannot be determined until the student is on-site.

**What is the ICRP? Does it fulfill a graduation requirement?**
The Integrative Cultural Project (often referred to by its acronym, ICRP) was created to foster greater cultural integration of study abroad participants into the everyday life of their host culture. All students participating in LT or ET K-programs, in consultation with the ICRP Coordinators of their programs, select an activity (often a service or volunteer project, a cultural internship or the collecting of life histories) that will require them to interact closely with local people. The Integrative Cultural Project will be recorded on the Kalamazoo College transcript as ICRP and will not be assigned to a specific academic rubric. The ICRP carries one K unit. More information on the ICRP can be found at: https://reason.kzoo.edu/cip/ICRP/

**How should I advise athletes regarding study abroad?**
Some student athletes have difficulty choosing between study abroad and their sport. If they decide that they don’t want to miss a sport season by going on study abroad, there may be options for these students, and they are encouraged to consider a short-term program in the spring if their season is either fall or winter quarter.

**My advisee is really worried about the cost of study abroad. How much does it really cost?**
Study abroad participants are charged a comprehensive fee. Information on the costs included in that fee and those that are not is available in the Study Abroad Handbook on the CIP website (as well as in the academic catalog). Students should consult the Office of Financial Aid about their financial concerns. The College has $150,000 in travel subsidy money available to study abroad students each year. More information on travel subsidies and outside scholarships are available on https://reason.kzoo.edu/cip/aid/

**When are the application deadlines?**
- Winter Short-term program: September 29th
- Spring Short-term programs: October 25th
- Long- and Extended-term programs: January 17th

**How can students find out more?**
- See the CIP Event Calendar at https://reason.kzoo.edu/cip/calendar/
- Attend the CIP Sophomore Meeting during Fall quarter (watch for announcements)
- Attend the Study Abroad Fair during Fall quarter
- Come to the CIP and speak with a PA or meet with a CIP staff member during walk-in hours (2:00-4:30pm Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday)
- Follow CIP on Facebook and check out the website at www.kzoo.edu/cip