

The Way to Success

TRIO Student Support Services Newsletter

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Office of International
Programs**

**Success Strategy:
Steps to Studying
Abroad**

Program Staff

Therese Hlavin, Director
t-hlavin@neiu.edu LIB-407

Marianyelli Hanna,
Coordinator
m-hanna11@neiu.edu
LIB-409

Monica Teixeira, Coordinator
m-teixeira@neiu.edu LIB-404

Jesse Rutschman,
Coordinator
j-rutschman@neiu.edu
LIB-405

Marcial Garibay, Advisor
m-garibay@neiu.edu LIB-406

Richie Heard, Advisor
r-heard@neiu.edu LIB-411

Amie Jatta, Advisor
a-jatta@neiu.edu LIB-410

Ann Segó, Office Support
a-sego@neiu.edu LIB-403

Vernon Collins, Office Support
v-collins@neiu.edu LIB-412

General Information
Ronald Williams Library LIB-412
www.neiu.edu/trioss
(773) 442-4971 or 4981

THE BEST KEPT SECRET AT NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY: STUDYING ABROAD

What would you do if you could pay the same tuition and fees that you pay every semester (receiving the same financial aid if that applies to you) and spend that semester overseas? Well ... you can. Northeastern's Office of International Programs has been working to identify universities in various parts of the world that offer courses in the disciplines that Northeastern offers ... in English! That would mean that you could not only have that international experience, but you could also complete courses that will fulfill requirements in general education or even in your major. While we don't have partner universities everywhere and not every partner has classes in English available in every program, we are continually searching for universities and locations that add new countries to our portfolio and offer a wider variety of options for Northeastern students. So, whether you're majoring in business or music, education or social work, chemistry or political science, your semester in China, Colombia, Finland, France, or India (or many other options) could be the life-changing experience you're looking for—and it will certainly add something unique to your resume when you start looking for that dream job after graduation.

Each year the Office of International Programs welcomes students from our partner universities to Northeastern, where they take classes with the rest of our students and serve as ambassadors for their home universities. Getting to know them could be a first step in identifying where you'd like to spend your semester abroad. And if a semester is something that you just can't manage, International Programs also works with Northeastern faculty to offer short-term (usually one to two weeks) study tours to a variety of destinations. It might be worth it for you to take the time to visit the Office of International Programs on the lower level of Lech Walesa Hall and to speak with someone about the opportunities available to you.

For more information please contact:
Mr. Wojciech Wloch, Coordinator
W-Wloch@neiu.edu
(773) 442-4068



Study Abroad



STEPS TO STUDYING ABROAD

A. FIRST ASK YOURSELF

- Why do I want to study abroad?
- Where do I want to go, and why?
- What degree of cultural immersion am I ready for?
- When do I want to go and how long would I like to stay?
- How much money can I afford to spend? (Costs vary depending on the length and location of the program).

B. EXPLORE POSSIBLE PROGRAMS

- Consult literature available in the office and on-line using the OIP's guide Study Abroad Internet Resources, which follows, to identify programs right for you.
- Check out study abroad scholarships for which you may be eligible (list follows).
- "Brainstorm" with your study abroad advisor.

C. CHOOSE A PROGRAM THAT'S RIGHT FOR YOU

- Ask yourself more questions about the program:
 - What is the program's academic focus? What types of courses are offered in this program?
 - Do I have to have the required GPA or language ability?
 - When is the application deadline? Is there an application fee? Is it refundable?
 - How much will the total cost be (including tuition and fees, housing, meals, airfare, insurance, etc.)?
- Any time you need advice or encouragement, make an appointment to see your study abroad advisor.
- If you have academic questions, meet with your academic adviser or department chairperson. Although your study abroad advisor will get the necessary approvals for your courses once you've chosen a program, consulting with the department advisor or chairperson can sometimes be helpful as you evaluate programs. **BE AWARE THAT THE APPLICATION OF CREDITS TOWARD MAJOR REQUIREMENTS IS A DEPARTMENTAL DECISION.**

D. APPLY TO THE PROGRAM OF YOUR CHOICE

- Your study abroad advisor will gladly discuss your program choices with you, but the final decision is yours. Follow the application guidelines laid down by your chosen program(s).
- Any questions regarding financial aid should be directed to the Office of Financial Aid, but keep your study abroad advisor informed. (Also see Financial Aid Information for Study Abroad in this booklet for financial aid deadlines.)

Additional information about studying abroad can be found at: <http://www.neiu.edu/~deptip/studyabroad.html>

