

**Are you interested in a Non-NU Summer Study Abroad Program?
Do some research to ensure you're choosing a reputable program that's right for you!**

It can be difficult to choose a non-NU summer program since there are hundreds of existing summer study abroad programs run by other universities or study abroad program providers. The NU Study Abroad Office can offer general guidance on how to search for programs, but it's up to you to look into the specifics. Here are some questions to consider during your search...

ACADEMICS

- What is the GPA requirement for the program? Do you meet this requirement?
- Is there a foreign language requirement? Do you meet this requirement?
- What is the language of instruction?
- Where are courses taught? In a U.S. program center or facility or at a local university?
- Will you be in class with international students, students from the host country and/or other U.S. undergraduates?
- Who teaches the courses? Local university professors? If not, do the instructors have Ph.D.'s or other academic teaching credentials?
- How many courses and credits do students take over the summer? Is the program on the semester system, the quarter system (like NU), the European Credit Transfer System system, or a different system? What type of grading scale does the program use?
- What is the teaching format (lectures, seminars, tutorials, field study, etc.)? What is the typical student-to-teacher ratio?

LOGISTICS

- Does the program begin after NU's Spring quarter and exams end? Many summer programs start in late May or early June, and NU students are not eligible to participate due to Spring Quarter exams.
- Is the program at least 4-6 weeks long? The Study Abroad Office strongly recommends that students participate in programs that are 4-6 weeks in length, or 6-8 weeks for language programs.
- Is this program run directly by a foreign institution—meaning you apply directly to that institution—or by a U.S. university, college, or a study abroad organization?
- Do students on this program receive a transcript issued directly by a foreign institution or a U.S. university, college, or organization?
- When is the program's application deadline? Does the university/provider accept applications on a rolling admissions basis?

- Approximately how many students participate in this program over the summer? Does the program have an enrollment cap?
- Do students on this program need to apply for a visa?
- Does this program enroll students in HTH Worldwide health insurance? If the program does not enroll students in HTH, you will be required to purchase it, per Northwestern University policy. Details on this NU requirement can be found at:
http://www.northwestern.edu/studyabroad/health_safety/Health_Insurance.html
- What services does this program offer on site (an international office, on-site orientation, dining halls, guided field trips, counseling, etc.)?
- How much will the program cost (including tuition, housing, meals, roundtrip airfare, travelling, extra expenses, etc.)? Also, don't forget that you'll be charged a Northwestern Study Abroad Administrative Fee if you're approved to study abroad.
(http://www.northwestern.edu/studyabroad/financial_issues/Tuition_and_Fees.html#SAAF).

HOUSING

- What are the housing arrangements (host families, dormitories, etc.)? With whom will you be living (other U.S. participants, international students, host country students)?
- If there is a problem with your housing situation, who will handle it and how?
- Does the program have a meal plan or will you be responsible for cooking your meals?
- How long is the typical commute to class? What does this commute typically involve (public transportation, walking, etc.)?

CONTACT PROGRAM ALUMS

A crucial part of researching a program is talking to program alums about their experiences! Call or email a number of past participants and find out the nitty gritty details about the programs you're interested in. Northwestern Study Abroad may have names and emails of NU students who have gone on the program. If Northwestern students have not participated in the program, contact the program office and request contact information.

QUESTIONS?

- If you have questions about program details (courses offered, fees, housing, etc.), you'll need to contact the university or provider coordinating the program or check their website.
- If you have questions about credit transfer, verifying if the program's transcript can be accepted by NU's Registrar or the non-NU summer application process, please contact the Study Abroad Office at studyabroad@northwestern.edu or 847-467-6400.