

# Northwestern Career Advancement

## Study Abroad Transferrable skills

Transferrable skills are the skills you have acquired during any activity in your life that are *transferrable and applicable* to what you want to do in a particular position. As a study abroad returnee, you have developed a wide range of skills that have prepared you for multiple career options after graduation. In the table below you will find a list of skills commonly developed through study abroad and suggestions for you to “think about” how you may have developed these skills through your experience.

<i>Skills/Competencies</i>	<i>Skills in this area include.....</i>	<i>Think about....</i>
Communication & teamwork	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ability to clearly convey and receive messages.</li> <li>• The ability to transmit information between people and groups.</li> <li>• Reading, speaking, writing, editing, making presentations and interpersonal relations.</li> <li>• Listening well and interpreting what you hear in an accurate manner.</li> </ul>	<p>...a group experience that was successful due to your interpersonal relationships.</p> <p>...a presentation where you had to summarize, organize and present information.</p> <p>...a time when you had to persuade others to implement your idea.</p>
Foreign language skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ability to converse with people in a foreign language.</li> <li>• The ability to clearly convey and receive messages in a foreign language.</li> <li>• The ability to read, write and present information in a foreign language.</li> <li>• Understanding the cultural constructs of a foreign language.</li> </ul>	<p>...you held a conversation with a student native to that country.</p> <p>...a time you had to translate a message for a fellow study abroad participant.</p> <p>...a time you had to interpret and then follow directions/maps.</p> <p>...a time you had to give a presentation in a foreign language</p>
Problem solving skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ability to identify critical issues quickly and</li> </ul>	<p>...a time you needed to be resourceful</p>

	<p>react appropriately.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Being able to define the parameters of a problem.</li> <li>• Create innovative solutions to complex problems.</li> <li>• Adapt to changing conventions and norms.</li> </ul>	<p>...a time you overcame an obstacle during your travels</p> <p>...you took initiative in coming up with a solution for a group of people.</p> <p>...when you had to manage your class load and activities abroad.</p>
Cultural awareness & sensitivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interacting with people from an ethnic and cultural background different from your own.</li> <li>• Understanding the unique perspectives, thoughts feelings and actions from another cultural group.</li> <li>• Motivation to learn across differences.</li> <li>• Admitting and eliminating personal biases.</li> </ul>	<p>...where you studied abroad and what you learned about another cultural group.</p> <p>...how you challenge your beliefs and assumptions after living in another country for an extended period of time.</p> <p>...what you learned about your own culture-based biases.</p> <p>...how your international experiences have affected your interests.</p>
Resilience & adaptability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding how important persistence and perseverance are in learning the extent of our capabilities.</li> <li>• The ability to recognize the value and learning opportunity in any apparent failure.</li> <li>• Being able to successfully acclimate to a new culture and new environment.</li> </ul>	<p>...a time when you experienced personal or academic failure during study abroad, and how you used the lessons you learned to build a new strategy or behavior.</p> <p>...how you felt upon arriving in the new country and how you adjusted to its new environment.</p> <p>...how you acclimated to the changes in academic expectations.</p>
Independence & self confidence	<p>Build autonomy through volunteering for individual projects and activities.</p> <p>Pursue individual passion and interests.</p> <p>Become more willing to take on new challenges.</p>	<p>...a time when you became involved in something separate from other study abroad participants.</p> <p>...took a class/classes based on your interests.</p> <p>...a time you took on a project/activity that initially intimidated you.</p>