**STUDENT GUIDE TO STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS AT CCSU**

This document includes guidelines to inform students of the regulations that apply to all CCSU Study Abroad programs, including semester/year-long programs as well as short-term (faculty-led) programs abroad, administered by the Center for International Education (CIE). Students are encouraged to consult with a member of the CIE’s study abroad team for further clarification or advice.

**WHY SHOULD I STUDY ABROAD?**

- Students who studied abroad are more likely to get a job within 12 months of graduation than students who did not study abroad.
- Study abroad is an effective means for students to develop resiliency while experiencing another culture, language, environment, and educational system.
- Living abroad for an extended period teaches students to appreciate differences as they interact with people from other countries and cultures.
- Studying abroad helps dispel stereotypes and promotes cross-cultural understanding.
- Students who study abroad gain a global perspective and awareness.

**WHAT STEPS SHOULD I FOLLOW TO SELECT A STUDY ABROAD PROGRAM?**

Students should start by taking the following steps – and finish with credits AND a career!

- **Plan Early!** The early a student plans for an international experience, the more options they have.
- **Attend an information session or one of the study abroad fairs.**
- **Choose a program** by researching options on the Center for International Education’s Study Abroad Website.
- **Meet with your Academic Advisor** to plan the academic component of the study abroad program
- **Meet the International Education Coordinator** to discuss the many programs available.
- **Submit the study abroad application on time!** Please view the multiple programs and check the application deadlines at the CIE Website at [www.ccsu.edu/cie](http://www.ccsu.edu/cie).
- Make an appointment with the **Financial Aid Office** to talk about CCSU funding options.
- **Visit the CIE’s Websites at** [www.ccsu.edu/studyabroad](http://www.ccsu.edu/studyabroad) and [www.ccsu.edu/coursesabroad](http://www.ccsu.edu/coursesabroad) for more details and to obtain the appropriate forms.

**WHAT STUDY ABROAD CHOICES DO I HAVE?**

There are two types of programs available: full semester/year programs and short-term, faculty-led Course Abroad programs; credits earned on both programs count toward the fulfillment of CCSU’s General Education International Course Requirement.

**Full-Semester/Year Study Abroad**

CIE assists CCSU students who wish to study and live abroad for a full semester or full academic year to gain valuable educational and first-hand experiences with foreign languages and cultures.

**Short-term Study Abroad**

These are faculty-led courses individually designed and taught by CCSU professors. Course Abroad programs are intense, credit-bearing classes offered in Winter Session, Summer Session, or embedded in full-semester spring courses where the travel component occurs either over Spring Break or in early summer. Course Abroad programs include courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels.
FULL-SEMESTER/YEAR STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS

Semester/year-long programs are available to students through a network of university partnerships around the world. In addition to the exchange programs, CIE also offers full semester programs through various Third-Party Provider Programs.

ADMISSION CRITERIA FOR FULL-SEMESTER/YEAR STUDY ABROAD

- Students must be at least 18 years of age by the start of the program to participate
- A GPA of at least 2.75 is required for study abroad placement
- Sophomore standing or higher
- Transfer students must spend at least one semester at CCSU before studying abroad
- Matriculated students at Eastern, Southern, or Western Connecticut State universities are eligible
- Good Academic and Judicial Standing
- Completed Application Form and Essay

FULL-SEMESTER/YEAR STUDY ABROAD COST

If a student chooses a CCSU Partnership Program, in most cases s/he will pay normal tuition, fees, insurance, and, in some cases, accommodation charges to CCSU. Some programs require paying tuition, fees, and/or housing directly to the Host University. Meal plans are not common at campuses overseas, but dormitory accommodations are often equipped with kitchens shared by several students. Otherwise, meals are available at a university cafeteria on a pay-as-you-go basis. Students will be responsible for making their own air transportation arrangements.

If a student selects a CCSU Approved Program, payments vary. Students should consult the provider’s website for specific information.

In all cases, the International Education Coordinator can provide estimated cost-of-attendance information for specific overseas program.

CREDITS AND GRADES FOR CCSU-SPONSORED PROGRAMS ABROAD

Credits earned abroad on CCSU Partnership Programs, approved third-party providers are counted as residency credit at CCSU, not as transfer credits. Grades earned abroad will appear on the student’s CCSU transcript and calculate into the student’s GPA.

SHORT-TERM STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS

COURSES ABROAD PROGRAMS (CREDIT-BEARING)

Usually Center for International Education (CIE) offers more than 20 Course Abroad programs annually. Course Abroad programs are offered in Winter Session, Summer Session, and embedded in full-semester Spring courses, where the travel component occurs either over Spring Break or in early Summer. All Course Abroad programs offer the opportunity to earn at least three credits. Many programs offer courses at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Registration deadlines vary. Students should consult the website for specific program deadlines. Students are advised to register for the programs early as many programs fill well before the registration deadline. Course Abroad programs are open to all matriculated students in good academic and judicial standing. Current Courses Abroad program descriptions are available at www.ccsu.edu/coursesabroad.

ADMISSION CRITERIA FOR COURSES ABROAD

- Matriculated students with good Academic and Judicial Standing
- Permission of Instructor is required for some programs
- Students must be at least 18 years of age by the start of the program to participate
FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS

How does financial aid work when students study abroad?
Most forms of financial aid can be continued while studying abroad on a full semester/year CCSU program since the student’s status is maintained. Full semester/year study abroad may make students eligible for other low-interest student loans. If a student is planning to apply for any form of financial aid, s/he must do so several months in advance of the program start date. Students should consult the Financial Aid Office in advance.

Are CIE scholarships available?
Center for International Education Scholarships provide financial assistance to CCSU students accepted into a CCSU Course Abroad program. Criteria: matriculated CCSU undergraduate or graduate student in good academic standing and with a GPA of 3.0 or higher. Applications for CIE Scholarships are included in the program registration form.

CIE scholarships are not available for a full semester or year study abroad programs, but students are encouraged to apply for the many external scholarships and loans that are available.

GENERAL EDUCATION INTERNATIONAL REQUIREMENT

All credits earned overseas on a CCSU-sponsored study abroad program, including courses offered in conjunction with Course Abroad programs, automatically receive “I designation” and count toward fulfillment of the University’s General Education International Requirement (6 credits of I-designated coursework).

PROGRAMS NOT SPONSORED BY CCSU

There are many external study abroad programs available. If you plan to participate in a program that is not sponsored by CCSU, you will be required to take a leave of absence from the university through the Office of the Registrar and follow the guidelines.

KEY CONTACTS FOR STUDY ABROAD

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Follow us on social media for the latest information!

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