

The first step to finding the right study abroad program is to think through your priorities for your international experience. Ideally, the program you choose should be a good match for your academic goals as well as your personal interests and needs. Mark your preferences on the list below.

1. My main objective(s) is/are...
  - ☐ to immerse myself in another culture/language
  - ☐ to expand knowledge in my academic field
  - ☐ to gain skills/experience for my future career
  - ☐ to use my abilities to positively impact a local community
  - ☐ to conduct research in my field of study
2. I would feel most comfortable with...
  - ☐ a high level of on-site support and structure (planned activities, excursions, group meetings)
  - ☐ more independence and less structure
  - ☐ a good balance between support and independence
3. I would prefer to be in classes with...
  - ☐ WKU students
  - ☐ U.S. students
  - ☐ local students from my host culture
  - ☐ international students from various countries
4. I need to earn credit toward my...
  - ☐ major/minor
  - ☐ Colonnade requirements
  - ☐ graduate degree
5. I want to go on a program that is...
  - ☐ very short (1-3 weeks)
  - ☐ short, but not too short (1-2 months)
  - ☐ semester-length or more
6. Rank the factors below in order of importance to you:
  - ☐ cost/value
  - ☐ academic credit offered
  - ☐ term of study
  - ☐ location
  - ☐ on-site support
  - ☐ opportunities for immersion in host culture
  - ☐ hands-on learning opportunities
  - ☐ close affiliation with WKU

## Understanding Program Types

The chart below describes basic differences between types of study abroad programs offered through WKU.

	WKU Faculty Led	WKU Exchange	WKU Partner Programs	Program Providers
Description	Programs organized through WKU and with courses taught by WKU faculty	Programs that allow you to directly enroll at an international partner university (or at a U.S. university through National Student Exchange) and take classes with local and international students.	Programs with which WKU is closely affiliated, including KIIS & CCSA (on-campus consortia partners).	Programs with which WKU is affiliated but not directly involved (ISA, CIEE, CET, CISabroad, AIFS, USAC, Semester at Sea, LdM, Harlaxton, Hanyang Summer Program, etc). Students from across the U.S. participate.
Length	Short-term programs (1-6 weeks) that are typically offered during summer and winter	Usually semester or academic year, but a select few offer summer sessions	KIIS – summer, winter & semester programs CCSA – summer & winter	Wide variety of program lengths ranging from two weeks to a full academic year
Structure	You travel as a group during most of the program and often have instruction/class time in non-traditional settings (e.g. on a bus, in a museum)	Requires a high level of independence – You are an international student at the partner university and your point of contact for on-site support is the international office but there is less structure.	All of these programs offer a high level of on-site support and structure. U.S. faculty teach most courses, with the exception of KIIS semester programs.	Provider programs take many forms, and their structure varies by program provider. Most offer a high level of on-site support and structure. Some
Credit	WKU credit in a variety of disciplines. Can be major-specific or Colonnade credit	Academic disciplines vary by institution. Transfer credit.	Variety of subjects available. KIIS and CCSA offer WKU credit.	Wide variety of subjects available. Transfer credit.

Expenses	Program fee usually includes airfare, tuition, housing, all program-related activities, and some meals. Fees are charged through TopNet.	Very cost-effective – program fee is same cost as full-time resident WKU tuition, charged to TopNet; travel and living expenses are paid in country.	Program fees vary by program and location. Most fees are billed through Topnet and include tuition, housing, and some/most meals.	Program fees vary by program and location. Most fees are billed through Topnet and include tuition, housing, and excursions but not always meals.
<p><b>WKU Student Teaching Program:</b> This is a special program that is only available to students pursuing a teacher certification. You spend the final month of your student teaching semester teaching English at a school abroad. Costs include travel/living expenses and are affordable. See the WKU global learning program catalog for more information.</p> <p><b>Direct Enroll Programs:</b> Programs in which you can enroll directly in an international institution and pay their tuition. These are similar to exchanges but you pay tuition to the foreign university rather than WKU.</p>				

## Most affordable program types – for the budget-conscious

Short-term	Semester or Academic Year
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WKU Faculty Led</li> <li>• WKU International Student Teaching</li> <li>• KIIS</li> <li>• CCSA</li> <li>• USAC</li> <li>• CISabroad</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WKU Exchange</li> <li>• National Student Exchange</li> <li>• KIIS</li> <li>• USAC</li> <li>• CISabroad</li> <li>• Lorenzo de' Medici (LdM)</li> </ul>

## Programs with the highest level of on-site support

Short-term	Semester or Academic Year
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WKU Faculty Led</li> <li>• KIIS</li> <li>• CCSA</li> <li>• Most program providers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harlaxton College</li> <li>• KIIS</li> <li>• National Student Exchange</li> <li>• Most program providers</li> </ul>

## Interested in a WKU Exchange? Here are some considerations:

Exchange programs typically allow for the most immersive experience and are a right fit for students with a high level of self-reliance, adaptability, and tolerance for ambiguity. Enrollment at the partner institutions provide the flexibility to choose courses from the host university's catalog, all while taking courses with local and other international students from around the world. Support on site will be provided directly by the host institution, with limited on-site support from WKU.

## Next Steps:

- 1) Explore programs from the WKU Global homepage: [www.wku.edu/studyabroad](http://www.wku.edu/studyabroad).
- 2) Take notes on programs that interest you. Narrow down your options based on your preferences and needs.
- 3) Meet with WKU Global to discuss your plans and learn about funding opportunities. To schedule an appointment, click "Global Learning Advising" on the WKU Global website ([wku.edu/studyabroad](http://wku.edu/studyabroad)).
- 4) Use the Financial Planning Guide to budget for your study abroad experience and plan how you will fund it.
- 5) Apply for your program and for all applicable study abroad scholarships.

## Program Comparison Worksheet

Explore programs from the WKU Global homepage: [www.wku.edu/studyabroad](http://www.wku.edu/studyabroad). Take notes on programs that interest you and compare differences.

	Program 1:	Program 2:	Program 3:
Location			
Dates			
Program Fee			
What's included in the fee			
What's not included in the fee			
Academics <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Institution where courses are taught</li><li>• Courses offered</li><li>• Faculty</li></ul>			
Housing			
Support Services			
Excursions & Activities			
Additional Notes			

	Program 4:	Program 5:	Program 6:
Location			
Dates			
Program Fee			
What's included in the fee			
What's not included in the fee			
Academics <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Institution where courses are taught</li><li>Courses offered</li><li>Faculty</li></ul>			
Housing			
Support Services			
Excursions & Activities			
Additional Notes			

Notes:

---

---

---

---

---