In a rapidly globalizing world, the need for international experience is becoming more and more significant. One way for business students to gain such experience is through studying or interning abroad. Imagine studying alongside French and international students in Normandy, France, or taking classes at University of Stellenbosch Business School in Cape Town, South Africa. Travel to Spain and learn about Mediterranean business practices, or live in Seoul, Korea, one of the largest cities in the world. These, and many more programs, are open to you.

Study abroad can help you...

1. **Increase your employability.**
   Set yourself apart in a very competitive job market by preparing to work in an increasingly diverse and international workplace. Study abroad tests your assumptions and places you in ambiguous situations outside of your expectations, resulting in flexibility and adaptability. This is a trait that all employers look for in their employees.

2. **Understand business from an international perspective.**
   Studying abroad exposes you to how other people live and coordinate their work. You will be better able to contribute a variety of perspectives if you have interacted with a variety of perspectives. This is another trait that all employers look for in their employees.

3. **Gain an awareness of the larger global context.**
   See how other cultures learn while expanding your cross-cultural communication and problem-solving skills.

4. **Earn credit.**
   Use your courses abroad to help satisfy graduation requirements.

5. **Grow personally.**
   Aside from what you learn academically, the process of planning for your program, navigating your program, problem solving along the way, and unfolding your own adventure builds a very satisfying sense of accomplishment and “can-do” feeling.

6. **Return home with great stories to tell.**
   Your most embarrassing moments abroad become your favorite stories to tell back home. Your most challenging moments become the success stories that you tell to employers.

7. **Become fluent in another language.**
   The majority of programs are in English, but if you want to study a foreign language, there is no better way than to immerse yourself.

8. **Form a valuable new network.**
   Study abroad students live closely with their fellow students, faculty and/or host families. Students make connections with friends, faculty and hosts that will last a lifetime.
SET GOALS AND PLAN FOR RESULTS

Business students can study abroad at any time during the year. The process of selecting a study abroad program is similar to selecting your undergraduate major or minor. Begin at least six months in advance of your study abroad. It is never too early to start planning.

- Set some goals. There is not one program best suited for business students. There are many good study abroad programs, and the best one for you depends on what you want.
- Prioritize your goals. Consider your long-term academic and professional goals, as well as your on-campus degree requirements.
- Consider short-term programs and long-term programs.
- Prepare academically. You may need to take language or other prerequisite courses for your chosen program.
- Give yourself time to research and talk to advisers and students who have studied abroad.

With proper planning study abroad can help you prepare for your professional life in today’s global context.

ACADEMICS

In order to take courses in your major, you will need to plan ahead with your adviser. Here are some guidelines and suggestions that will be helpful as you sort through the offerings and find the best choice possible.

How will study abroad programs fulfill my degree requirements?

Study abroad programs may give you credits that count in one or all of these areas of your degree:

- General Education - Plan early to apply study abroad credits to the University's General Education requirements.
- Business Courses - After consulting with your academic adviser, it may be possible to fulfill business tool and core classes and courses specific to your chosen business major.
- Elective Courses - If you need free electives, study abroad programs are a great way to take unique and interesting classes to fulfill free electives.

Do I have to speak a foreign language?

No. The only programs that require foreign language proficiency are the language immersion programs.

Is there a minimum GPA required?

Most Belmont programs require a minimum GPA of 2.75 at the time of departure.
When should I study abroad?

The Center for International Business recommends that you study abroad during your sophomore or junior year or any summer.

If you choose to study abroad during other semesters, you will need to meet with your academic advisers to ensure that study abroad does not conflict with your major requirements.

As soon as you have chosen a study abroad program, use an Application to facilitate a discussion with your adviser. The Application can be obtained online or from the Rasmussen Center for International Education Office, 217 Gabhart Student Center.

- Look for courses abroad that will fulfill your major and/or General Education requirements.
- Be sure to meet with your adviser at least three months prior to departing for your program.
- Once you have chosen the courses that you want to take abroad (always choose more courses than you intend to take), have descriptions for those courses, and have begun filling out the application, you will need a signature from the CIB study abroad adviser. A particular course or schedule may not be available on your study abroad site, thus it will be useful to have received prior feedback on additional courses. If your courses do change, inform your adviser.

What if I’ve fulfilled the requirements I should have saved for study abroad?

Planning appropriately and saving the right credits ensures all study abroad credits apply towards your degree. If you have used some of the credits, study abroad can be taken partially as personal enrichment. Most study abroad grades appear on your transcript and affect your GPA, but the personal enrichment credits will not move you towards graduation.

Ireland 2009

“My major does not require me to study abroad, but I chose to spend a semester in Ireland for several reasons. I felt like it would be a shame to pass up the opportunity to spend four months studying in another country for the same price that Belmont costs. I knew that studying abroad would challenge me culturally, emotionally, and spiritually.

My semester in Ireland helped me to see just how small the business world can be. Sitting in classrooms across the ocean, with students who sounded so different than I do, I was able to see how similar their course material and discussions are to classes I’ve had at Belmont. I feel blessed, too, to have been able to spend time learning in a new environment. I came back to Belmont this year with clearer perspectives on the world, especially the business world, around me.

Putting myself outside of my comfort zone helped me to identify certain fears and confidences in myself that I hadn’t been able to zero in on at home. I really value the time I had in Dublin as a time of self-exploration. It is so worth to see the world beyond where you grew up. Immersing yourself in a country’s culture is the best way to meet people and learn about new places.”

Emily Hollingsworth, Entrepreneurship
# CHOOSE A PROGRAM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Program</th>
<th>Belmont-Sponsored</th>
<th>Partner-Sponsored</th>
<th>Direct Exchange</th>
<th>Affiliate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Term &amp; Duration?</strong></td>
<td>Summer: 2-4 weeks</td>
<td>Summer: 2-6 weeks</td>
<td>Full semester</td>
<td>Varies</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Led by Belmont faculty?</strong></td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Possibly, though most programs are delivered by the partner</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Travel with other Belmont students?</strong></td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>You may be the only Belmont student participating</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>You may be the only Belmont student participating</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Enrolled &amp; earning credits at Belmont?</strong></td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes, although you MAY also be enrolled in the foreign university</td>
<td>Yes, although you WILL be enrolled in the foreign university</td>
<td>No Belmont registration. Course registration at US or foreign university</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Language of instruction?</strong></td>
<td>English</td>
<td>English and/or host country language (language immersion programs)</td>
<td>English and/or host country language</td>
<td>English and/or host country language (language immersion programs)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Housing</strong></td>
<td>Hotel and/or student residence</td>
<td>Hotel, student residence and/or homestays (language immersion programs)</td>
<td>Student residence or homestays</td>
<td>Student residence or homestays</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Who do I pay?</strong></td>
<td>All tuition and program fees are paid to Belmont</td>
<td>All tuition and program fees are paid to Belmont</td>
<td>All tuition and most program fees are paid to Belmont (student pays room and board at the host institution)</td>
<td>Student pays Belmont tuition plus a $3000 study abroad fee (or the actual cost of the program, whichever is greater)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Do financial aid &amp; scholarships apply?</strong></td>
<td>Federal &amp; Belmont financial aid applies Belmont scholarships apply Tuition waivers apply</td>
<td>Federal &amp; Belmont financial aid applies Belmont scholarships apply Tuition waivers apply</td>
<td>Federal &amp; Belmont financial aid applies Belmont scholarships apply Tuition waivers apply</td>
<td>Federal aid applies Belmont financial aid does not apply Belmont scholarships do not apply Tuition waivers do not apply</td>
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<td>Direct Exchange</td>
<td>Affiliate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Argentina (Mendoza):</td>
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<td>SUNY Cortland: <a href="http://www2.cortland.edu/studyabroad">www2.cortland.edu/studyabroad</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Business</td>
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<td>Study Abroad Italy: <a href="http://www.studyabroaditaly.com">www.studyabroaditaly.com</a></td>
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<td>Argentina (Buenos Aires):</td>
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<td>Australearn: <a href="http://www.australearn.org">www.australearn.org</a></td>
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<td>Spanish</td>
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<tr>
<td>China &amp; Hong Kong:</td>
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<td>Business, Chinese, and</td>
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<td>Humanities</td>
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<td>IFSA Butler: <a href="http://www.ifsa-butler.org">www.ifsa-butler.org</a></td>
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<td>Germany (Berlin):</td>
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<td>Cooperative Center for Study Abroad: <a href="http://www.ccsa.cc">www.ccsa.cc</a></td>
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<td>German</td>
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<td>Guatemala: Business</td>
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<td>and Humanities</td>
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<td>Japan: Business and</td>
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<tr>
<td>Humanities</td>
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<td>Spain (Valencia):</td>
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<td>Spain – FSU Valencia</td>
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<td>Business and General Education</td>
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<td>Spain - Universidad de Santiago de Compostela:</td>
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</table>
COST/ FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Can I afford to study abroad?

- YES! Early planning for study abroad helps you make cost-effective program decisions, and it also helps you prepare your finances through savings, scholarships, and financial aid. Financial aid applies to study abroad and, in some cases, your eligibility will increase to cover additional expenses.

- Belmont University has a special study abroad tuition rate for short-term study programs - you pay only 1/3 tuition!

- The Rasmussen Center for International Education Office offers some small scholarships and provides resources on a variety of other scholarships.

- Suggested strategies to fund study abroad:
  - Start saving as a freshman. Plan for a program one to two years out and use the time to save.
  - Develop a budget.
  - Schedule your first meeting with your study abroad advisor at least six months prior to your program.
  - Explore all possible sources of external funding.
  - Don’t make assumptions about your financial eligibility. All students should talk with Belmont Student Financial Services about funding study abroad.

APPLYING

What are my next steps?

Attend a First-Step Meeting

- Learn about study abroad resources and advising by visiting the Rasmussen Center for International Education Office, 217 Gabhart Student Center.

Investigate Programs

- Use the Rasmussen Center for International Education catalog, website, and advisers to find a program that fits your goals.

- Talk to your adviser or the Center for International Business to determine appropriate classes that fit your curriculum.

Apply

- Complete the appropriate forms and submit them along with a $500 deposit by the deadline for each individual program.

- Get pre-approval for specific courses.

- If necessary, you will also need to apply for a visa to enter and reside in the foreign country.
Your opportunities for significant overseas learning experiences are not limited to study abroad. Whether as an alternative to study abroad or a complement to it, you might want to consider overseas work, an internship, or volunteer experience. To explore your options, begin by talking with the Rasmussen Center for International Education Office or the Center for International Business for more information on specific opportunities. These sorts of learning abroad programs may also be used to generate academic credit.

**Internships abroad**

Students sometimes arrange free-standing internships, either through established programs that connect them with a host organization, through a faculty member or other connections. Internships are rarely paid. Two such providers are AustraLearn (opportunities in a wide variety of Australian settings) and International Cooperative Education (ICE) which offers internships in a wide variety of fields in Europe, Asia, Australia, and South America.

**Work abroad**

Most countries prohibit foreigners from taking paid employment without a work permit. Several programs help students obtain work permits for limited periods abroad. However, other programs, including BUNAC (for work in Australia, Britain, Canada, Ireland, and New Zealand) and CEI (for work in France), can arrange a job for you or just assist with obtaining a work permit. You are responsible for finding your own job and housing. Other programs such as Alliance Abroad (for Australia, France, England, Costa Rica, Brazil, and China) and InterExchange (for Australia, Belgium, Costa Rica, France, Germany, Britain, Netherlands, Norway, and Spain) arrange jobs in specific fields before you arrive in-country.

“Applying for an internship with the Department of State was a six month process, but well worth the time and effort. I have been assigned to the Public Diplomacy section (also called Public Affairs) of the U.S. Consulate in St. Petersburg, Russia. Arriving in early February, I’ve battled through a Russian winter with temperatures as low as -20 degrees Fahrenheit for weeks on end. I was lucky in that, with my language skills and prior travel experience, I was selected to join the 10% of State Department interns who are sent to overseas posts. I have done several internships in the past, but this one definitely outshines them all!”

Shirah Foy, *International Entrepreneurship*
STUDY BUSINESS ABROAD

Volunteer Abroad

A host of organizations arrange opportunities for you to volunteer abroad. A few examples among many are Earthwatch (which offers short term research expeditions all over the world), Cross-Cultural Solutions (offering 1-12 week programs in Brazil, China, Costa Rica, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Peru, Russia, Tanzania, and Thailand), and World Endeavors in Costa Rica, Ecuador, India, Philippines, and Thailand. Volunteers can work on a range of projects relating to education, environment, conservation, community development and much more.

Guatemala 2010

“I chose the Guatemala trip because I had never been to a Latin American country or a third world country, and I expected to learn a great deal from experiencing a different way of life firsthand. My most memorable experience was interacting with children in the village of Chajul. Even though we couldn’t speak their language, we seemed to connect with them on the most basic human level.

The study abroad trip was absolutely the best thing I have ever done at Belmont University. It gave me an entirely new perspective not only on Guatemala, where I visited, but also on the privilege of wealth I have here. It also opened my eyes to areas of the world that are in need of and have far more potential for growth than the traditional areas of business that are considered by U.S. business-people.

A study abroad trip shouldn't be a 'consideration,' - it should be a must.”

Corey Griggs, Entrepreneurship

Vietnam 2011

“The opportunities that Saigon presents to those who are willing to take a chance are breathtaking. The frenetic pass gives the casual viewer the appearance that there are no rules, the endless beehive traffic a constant reminder, but behind the scenes many non-citizens and locals have found a way to navigate the chaos to create order. We haven't spoken to one company that hasn't emphasized the prerequisite for failure. The ones that continue and succeed are the ones that have built an organization of learning, constantly questioning what went wrong and what can be done in the future to capitalize. This emphasis creates enormous barriers for new entrants into the market. If demand is seemingly limitless, (as in the case of the English learning school) then the sky truly is the limit.”

Brian Clements, Business MBA
“International travel is an invaluable experience for one’s personal, academic, and professional life. My study abroad trip to the P.R.C. allowed me to bring real world experience to the Belmont classroom. I am continually thinking and learning with a heightened sense of international implication and reason.

The most valuable piece of information that I have learned, from extensive travel, is to always be willing to try new things and understand the foreign culture. When you limit yourself out of sheer fear or hesitation, you are limiting your experience in the country and with the people. Meeting new people is always the most exciting and enriching part. You learn so much just by holding conversations with locals.

There is no reason to not experience a study abroad trip during their college years. However, although it is fun to just go anywhere, one must be prepared and well informed about the countries in question. Learn as much as you can before applying to country specific programs.

Studying abroad contributed greatly to my four-year university education. I urge everyone to take at least one trip abroad.”

Tiara Rurey-Bowman, Entrepreneurship and Mandarin Chinese
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