

Brainstorm Your Goals and Priorities

Begin your study abroad research by giving some thought to why you want to study abroad. Consider both your academic goals and your learning style.

Goals

Brainstorm ideas related to the following categories:

Academic Goals and Learning Style

- Do you want to earn credit toward your major? Your minor?
- Do you want to complete a particular general education requirement while abroad?
- Do you have a specific idea for a project or paper you'd like to research?
- Are you planning to major or minor in a language and are looking for intensive language courses?
- Do you want to experience a big university setting?
- In what setting do you learn best? Classroom? Field? Lecture hall? Independently?

Geography

- Is there a particular location which intrigues you?
- Are you intrigued by a particular political system?
- Have you already dreamed of being immersed in a certain culture? Do you have the necessary language skills?
- Are there world events you'd like to explore on-site?
- Do you prefer rural or city life?

Career

- Are you considering several career interests and want to explore them through an internship?
- What experiences will make your resume or graduate school application shine?

Challenges

Identify those factors which may prevent you from studying abroad. Consider family, money, job obligations, and academic and athletic commitments.

- How might these concerns inhibit your goal of study abroad?
- How could you mitigate these concerns?

Use this exercise to identify the real challenges alongside your ultimate goal of study abroad.

Priorities

Use what you've learned through these two exercises to begin ranking your priorities. If language study is a top goal, place "1" next to that.

If a season of soccer is important, set that as "2"

These rankings are not cast in stone. You can play around with your goals, obstacles and commitments to find the best fit for your individual circumstances.

Some students find it helpful to set out their top goals and challenges in a Goal Statement such as:

My ideal study abroad combines a term in London living in a homestay with an internship in Parliament to further my goal of a career in government service.

Seek Advising.

After brainstorming through this Goals Worksheet, complete the Advising Précis through the online process. We will contact you when your advising appointment is scheduled according to the preferences you state on your Advising Précis.