“Travel is more than the seeing of sights; it is a change that goes on, deep and permanent, in the ideas of living.”

-Miriam Beard
# RETURNED STUDENT GUIDEBOOK

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome Home from UConn Education Abroad

Welcome back from one of the most challenging and enriching experiences of your lifetime, both academically and culturally. We know that your study abroad experience does not end simply because you have left the place where you were studying. And we know that the learning you have realized while abroad will not be ending simply because the program in which you were enrolled has reached its end date. We believe that if the growth and learning you've experienced is given proper space, you will continue learning from your study abroad experience for a good, long time.

To this end, we have prepared this Guidebook. It contains information on some of the nuts-and-bolts of student life here at UConn (academics; housing; etc.), that we think is fairly straightforward. It also contains material that speaks to other issues relating to your return, e.g. how you deal with readjusting (intellectually, psychologically, emotionally, etc.) to being back on campus. This readjustment, often referred to as “reverse culture shock” is an important element of the whole study abroad experience, and should be understood as the means through which you more fully integrate your time abroad into the remainder of your time as an undergraduate at UConn.

In addition to the focus on readjustment, this Guidebook also contains information with which you can begin a search for meaningful ways in which to utilize and possibly expand upon your new knowledge and experience. The Guidebook offers ideas on how to maintain skills learned while studying abroad, information on opportunities for cultural immersion on campus and in the broader community, and materials that point you to chances to study and work overseas. In short, we hope that you continue this international and intercultural journey you've started, that you seek out international opportunities on campus, and that you connect with other returned students.

As returning study abroad students, we truly value the global experiences and perspectives that you bring back to campus. Please let us know if you have any questions. And feel free to stop by our offices in the Rowe Building, Room 117.

Sincerely,

Dr. Yuhang Rong
Interim Director, Assistant Vice Provost
Global Affairs - Education Abroad
University of Connecticut
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ACADEMICS

Getting Academic Credit
Ideally, your study abroad experience will integrate easily into your UConn academic plan. Now that you’ve returned from your abroad experience, there are a number of steps that you need to take to ensure you receive the appropriate academic credit.

General Information
Courses taken on an approved study abroad program receive UConn course numbers, UConn credits, and UConn grades, which appear on your transcript. All grades are factored into your GPA.

Courses taken on all UConn Education Abroad programs need receive UConn course numbers through a process called “Course Accreditation.” Faculty evaluators in each department/school review course syllabi and other course material in order to approve and assign appropriate UConn numbers. The process ideally should have been completed within two weeks of starting your courses but can begin upon your return to UConn if necessary.

If you placed a course on Pass/Fail at the beginning of your abroad experience, these courses will not satisfy General Education requirements, major and minor requirements, or any school or college course requirements. Pass/Fail credits may not be acceptable when a student changes majors or schools within the University. Pass/Fail credits may not be transferable to another institution. Please review the Study Abroad Courses on Pass/Fail page for more information and specifications.

To receive credit for an internship, the internship experience has to be part of a graded course listed on the transcript from the foreign institution; before you left UConn, you must have received approval for that internship credit from an academic department faculty evaluator.

UConn Education Abroad maintains individual program lists of courses that have been previously accredited. Go to the specific program brochure on our website to find a link to the Course Equivalents under the Academics section of the brochure.

The Course Accreditation Process
Course accreditation is a joint effort by UConn Education Abroad, faculty from the departments awarding credit, and the individual student.
Step 1:

If your courses do not appear on the list of courses that have already been accredited, obtain a syllabus and course description for each course. The syllabus must contain a list of topics covered in the course, required readings (including page numbers or chapter headings), assignments (including papers), and exams (including information about the exam format). A course description alone will not suffice and if the instructor’s syllabus does not include the above information, please ask him/her to help you append the specifics. If the syllabus and the course description are in a foreign language and you want to get the course accredited by a department other than the foreign language department (e.g., history, political science), you must translate them into English, or have someone else translate them.

Please be very sure to retain all notes, exams, papers, handouts, and any other course materials until the course has been finally approved by the UConn Faculty Evaluator and accredited by the Office of Global Affairs – Education Abroad. The evaluator may wish to examine these items to assess the work you’ve done and the credit you received.

Step 2:

Log in to the online course accreditation system with your NetID and NetID password (link available on abroad.uconn.edu > Academics > Course Accreditation. Submit the syllabus using the online system to the appropriate department for each course you plan to take (i.e. if you take a sociology course abroad, you must submit the course documentation to the sociology department). Please view the Course Accreditation System Instructions and follow them as you fill out your requests.

Include as much information about the course as possible. For each course accredited, you will need a separate form. You may view a summary page in the online system to see the status of all your course accreditation requests. You will receive automated emails from the system when you have submitted courses, as well as when any action is taken on the form (approved etc.). They will come from a ‘noreply’ email address at UConn – make sure they do not go to your spam or junk email! Please see the instructions for using the system, as it explains the various fields you should fill out as well as what to do if a form is returned or denied.

You can begin this process as soon as you have a syllabus, either before you leave or after you’re on site and registered for classes. It may be necessary for some students to get their courses accredited after the completion of their program. Please note: the Registrar’s Office requests that you accredit all the courses that appear on your foreign transcript before we (Global Affairs – Education Abroad) can send them your grade report—from which they’ll post your credits and grades on your UConn transcript.

Grades

After the completion of your study abroad program, please follow the steps below to ensure that your study abroad grades are recorded on your UConn transcript.

For participants on all UConn-led Programs

UConn in London, UConn in Florence, UConn in Granada, UConn in Cape Town, UConn in Paris, and all summer or winter session UConn Faculty-led programs
Your study abroad transcript will automatically be sent to UConn Education Abroad. Once the transcript has been received, UConn Education Abroad will review it to make sure all courses have been accredited. If all your courses are accredited (and have received a UConn course number), the grade report will be forwarded to the Registrar where the grades will be entered on your UConn transcript. You can then check the grades on Student Admin.

In most cases, courses offered on UConn-led Programs have been pre-approved for accreditation. If for any reason, a course has not been accredited, UConn Education Abroad will notify you regarding the status of this course. It is your responsibility to follow the guidelines for the course accreditation process. Please review the guidelines found under Academic Credit. After all your courses are accredited, UConn Education Abroad will forward your grade report to the Registrar where the grades will be entered on your UConn transcript.

For Participants on Exchange, Direct Enrollment and Third Party Programs
CIEE, IFSA-BUTLER, Global Links, IES, CET, Boston University and Other Organizations

Although in many cases your transcript will automatically be sent to UConn Education Abroad, it is your responsibility to ask your study abroad provider or host institution to forward official transcripts to the UConn Office of Global Affairs - Education Abroad (Unit-4207, 368 Fairfield Way, Storrs, CT 06269-2207) after completion of the program.

Once your transcript is received, UConn Education Abroad will review it to make sure all your courses have been accredited. If all your courses are accredited (received a UConn course number), the grades will be forwarded to the Registrar where they will be recorded on your UConn transcript. You can check the grades on Student Admin.

If one or more of your study abroad courses have not been accredited, UConn Education Abroad will notify you regarding the specific courses that need course accreditation, and it is your responsibility to follow the guidelines for the course accreditation process found under Academic Credit.

Once UConn Education Abroad has received all your course accreditation approvals and foreign transcripts, we will forward your grades on to the Registrar. In most cases, they will then appear on your transcript within a week.
PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

It can take from several weeks to several months after the end of your program for your grades to arrive at UConn Education Abroad and be posted to your UConn transcript because universities in other countries do not necessarily operate on the same schedule as UConn. Once the grades reach our office, we will forward them to the Registrar quickly, but unfortunately we cannot predict when our overseas partners will send them.

UConn Education Abroad can only post your study abroad grades to the Registrar. If you need to review your audit, you must request an updated audit on Student Admin and you must then work out your course audit with your departmental or academic adviser. All students should keep copies of course accreditations for this reason.
REGISTERING FOR HOUSING

Fall Semester study abroad students
If you study abroad in the fall semester, your spring assignment will be made for you based on the information you provide in your completed housing application. You will be able to access your assignment on-line in early January. Specific information will be sent to your UConn email account to keep you up to date on the process.

Spring Semester study abroad students
If you study abroad in the spring semester, you will select your own room through the on-line housing selection process. In February you will receive information through your UConn email account outlining the specific process. If you are unable to select a room during your scheduled selection time, Housing Services staff will serve as your proxy and access the system at that time to pick your room and notify you of the assignment through email.
ADJUSTING TO LIFE AT HOME

Reverse Culture Shock

Congratulations on completing an unforgettable adventure! Welcome back! Some of you have already shared with us your stories, photographs and travel adventures. We know that you have had exciting, wonderful, sad, funny, unforgettable, and enriching experiences. We also know that there can be challenges to readjusting to life at home. Please read to learn more about what challenges you might expect and how to work through those challenges.

Re-entry Challenges

The top ten immediate reentry challenges as outlined by Dr. Bruce La Brack, University of the Pacific:

1. BOREDOM
After all the newness and stimulation of your time abroad, a return to family, friends, and old routines (however nice and comforting) can seem very dull. It is natural to miss the excitement and challenges which characterize study in a foreign country, but you can find ways to make life at home exciting as well.

2. “NO ONE WANTS TO HEAR”
One thing you can count on upon your return: most people will not be as interested in hearing about your adventures and triumphs as you will be in sharing those experiences. The key is to find those individuals that really want to hear your stories. Find friends that studied abroad themselves and connect as fellow travelers, join clubs or groups that emphasize travel and internationalization, or find the family member that truly cares to hear what you say.

3. YOU CAN’T EXPLAIN
Even when given a chance to explain all the sights you saw and feelings you had while studying abroad, it is likely to be at least a bit frustrating to relay them coherently. It is very difficult to convey this kind of experience to people who do not have similar frames of reference or travel backgrounds, no matter how sympathetic they are as listeners. You can tell people about your trip, but you may fail to make them understand exactly how or why you felt a particular way.

4. REVERSE “HOMESICKNESS”
Just as you probably missed home for a time after going abroad, it is just as natural to experience some “reverse” homesickness for the people, places, and things that you grew accustomed to as a student overseas. To an extent it can be reduced by writing letters and keeping in contact, but feelings of loss are an integral part of international sojourns and must be anticipated and accepted as a natural result of study abroad.

5. RELATIONSHIPS HAVE CHANGED
It is possible that when you return you will notice that some relationships with friends and family will have changed. Just as you have altered some of your ideas and attitudes while abroad, the people at home are
likely to have experienced some changes. These changes may be positive or negative, but expecting that no change will have occurred is unrealistic. The best preparation is flexibility, openness, minimal preconceptions, and tempered optimism.

6. PEOPLE SEE THE “WRONG” CHANGES
Sometimes people may concentrate on small alterations in your behavior or ideas and seem threatened or upset by them. Others may ascribe any “bad” traits to the influence of your time abroad. These incidents may be motivated by jealousy, fear, or feelings of superiority or inferiority. Make sure to spend time reflecting on who you are and who you’ve become due to your time abroad. Embrace who you are and others will, too!

7. PEOPLE MISUNDERSTAND
A few people will misinterpret your words or actions in such a way that communication is difficult. For example, what you may have come to think of as humor (particularly sarcasm, banter, etc.) and ways to show affection or establish conversation may not be seen as wit, but aggression or “showing off.” Offers of help in the kitchen can be seen as criticism of food preparation, new clothing styles as provocative or inappropriate, references to your host country or use of a foreign language as boasting.

8. FEELINGS OF ALIENATION/Critical Eyes
Sometimes the reality of being back “home” is not as natural or enjoyable as the place you had constructed as your mental image. When real daily life is less enjoyable or more demanding than you had remembered, it is natural to feel some alienation, see faults in the society you never noticed before or even become quite critical of everyone and everything for a time. It can be hard to adjust to this new perspective, but remember that the ability to see your own culture in a new light is one of the greatest learning opportunities of studying abroad. Use your new outlook to make positive changes at home.

9. INABILITY TO APPLY NEW KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS
Many returnees are frustrated by the lack of opportunity to apply newly gained social, linguistic, and practical coping skills that appear to be unnecessary or irrelevant. To avoid ongoing annoyance: adjust to reality as necessary, change what is possible, be creative, be patient, and above all use all the cross-cultural adjustment skills you acquired abroad to assist your own reentry.

10. LOSS/COMPARTMENTALIZATION OF EXPERIENCE (SHOEBOXING)
Being home, coupled with the pressures of school, family, and friends, often combine to make returnees worried that somehow they will “lose” the experience; somehow becoming compartmentalized like souvenirs or photo albums kept in a box and only occasionally taken out and looked at. You do not have to let that happen. Maintain your contacts. Talk to people who have experiences similar to yours. Practice your skills. Remember and honor both your hard work and the fun you had while abroad.

The best ways to counter some of the difficult reentry challenges you will face are to remember that you’re not alone and to stay involved! Connect with others that have studied abroad, find ways to go abroad again, and get involved in communities that value your experience. There are a lot of ways to do this — see the following sections in this guidebook to find great opportunities!
Counseling and Mental Health

Returning home after time abroad, especially if you’ve been away for a semester or year, can be mentally challenging. You may experience varying degrees of reverse culture shock, in which your excitement to return home can be dampened either because home is not what you remember it to be or because you miss the host country culture you were immersed in while abroad. This can be a challenging time, and it may be hard for friends and family to understand your struggle. If you need help or resources, contact Counseling and Mental Health Services at UConn, where you can speak with a counselor, join group sessions, or find other resources to stay mentally healthy.

Counseling and Mental Health Services
Arjona Building
337 Mansfield Road, U-1255
Storrs, CT 06269-1255
PHONE: 860-486-4705
http://cmhs.uconn.edu/

Resources for Women

Studying abroad is usually a positive life-changing experience for students. However, students identifying as women returning from abroad can experience particular aspects of culture shock related to differences in gender roles and sexuality between their host and home cultures. Many students can benefit from help in processing these differences with a professional, especially if there have been first hand experiences with sexism or sexual harassment. The UConn Women’s Center has a wealth of resources and a supportive environment that can facilitate constructive reflections on time spent abroad.

Women’s Center
4th Floor Student Union
2110 Hillside Road, Unit 3118
Storrs, CT 06269-3118
Tel: (860) 486-4738
womenscenter@uconn.edu

Resources for LGBTQ Students

Many students who identify as LGBTQ may find it difficult to process their experiences abroad upon return to UConn. This can be because their host culture was either more or less accepting of their sexuality than their home culture. Some students are out and feel supported at home, but didn’t feel able to express themselves as openly while abroad. Conversely, some students are not out at home but do come out while abroad. Students that are struggling to frame their experiences abroad in regard to their sexual identity should contact the UConn Rainbow Center for support.

Rainbow Center
4th Floor Student Union
2110 Hillside Road; Unit 3096
Storrs, CT 06269-3096
Tel: (860) 486-5821
rainbowcenter@uconn.edu
Highlighting Your Abroad Experience

“Why do you go away? So that you can come back. So that you can see the place you came from with new eyes and extra colors. And the people there see you differently, too. Coming back to where you started is not the same as never leaving.”
— Terry Pratchett

You know by now that studying abroad is a life changing experience. It affects the way you view the world and the way others view you. Utilizing that experience will help you upon your return home as you move forward in your career journey.

As much as you know that your time abroad has given you skills that will make you a valuable addition to any team, it is your responsibility to convince others of that fact. How you communicate your abilities and skills in relation to your international experience will be a significant factor in how far study abroad will take you.

Skills

First, reflect on what skills you have gained from your experience. Below is a list of some of the many skills students returning from abroad have said they gained. There are many other additional skills you may have developed - what else can you add?

- Enhanced cultural awareness and sensitivity to cultural differences
- Foreign language proficiency
- Adaptability and confidence
- Increased comfort with ambiguity
- Ability to set and achieve goals
- Improvement in communications skills
- Increased confidence, initiative, and independence
- Greater flexibility and sense of humor
- Awareness of global economic and political issues
- Ability to maintain an open mind and be tolerant of others
- Clarification of career interests and improved self-awareness
- Ability to be a self-starter and set personal goals
- Resource management
- Organization
- Problem solving and crisis management
- Patience and empathy
- Skills related to specific professions or occupations

These are some of the many things you want to highlight when you look for internships and careers. Reflect on your entire experience abroad, including your pre-departure preparation, your academic program, any work or internship experience, and personal travel you may have taken. All of these aspects provide many of the “soft skills” that employers are looking for from university students.
Resume

Once you have narrowed down what skills you want to highlight in your job search, you should learn how to communicate those skills on your résumé. For each skill you highlight, you should follow a three step process for including it on your resume: What Did You Do? How Did You Do It? Why Did You Do It?

For example, you want to demonstrate that you can work with individuals regardless of cultural differences:

**What Did You Do?**

Brainstorm all the things you did while abroad that related to this skill. This may include:

- Living with a host family
- Studying and taking classes with local students
- Completed an internship experience abroad

Keep these examples in mind for the next step.

**How Did You Do It?**

Look at the examples above and think of the actions you took or the qualities you possess that allowed you to do them successfully. Think of strong action verbs that demonstrate your abilities:

- Intentionally developed Spanish language skills to interact with host family
- Observed cultural norms to study effectively with local students
- Utilized communication skills to work collaboratively during an internship experience abroad

It will be especially important to tailor these statements to a job listing if you are applying for a specific position.

**Why Did You Do It?**

This element adds context and specifics to your résumé, allowing employers to better understand your experience. Combine all the previous aspects and focus on the importance of your experience and your results to get a complete statement:

- Intentionally developed Spanish language skills through interactions with host family to better integrate myself in Costa Rican culture
Observed cultural norms to study effectively with local students to achieve high academic marks during study in host university

Utilized communication skills to work collaboratively during an internship experience abroad, successfully implementing a new marketing strategy for a multinational European corporation

This is just the start of your résumé building. Utilize the Center for Career Development for in-person and online advice. Check out the CCD Résumé & Cover Letter Guide online here: http://career.uconn.edu/docs/pdf/Students/Resume_Guidebook.pdf

Interviews

Creating a stellar résumé is only the first step in the job search process. When you interview for the job that you want, you’ll get another opportunity to highlight your abroad experiences. Effectively conveying what you learned from study abroad can help set you apart from other candidates and make you more memorable to the interviewers. Often times, talking about study abroad experiences can be a great ice breaker and conversation starter. In order to make these conversations effective and beneficial to you, make sure you reflect on your experience and prepare in advance.

Highlighting Your Skills

Look at the list of skills in the section above. You should have already highlighted some of them on your résumé. Now take a look at those skills and think of stories you can tell that will demonstrate how you acquired those skills abroad. Stories are a great way to sell your experiences and make them relatable. When you think of what stories you want to tell, try practicing the STAR approach:

S – Situation: Describe what you are facing

T – Task: Describe what you wanted to achieve

A – Action: Describe what you did

R – Results: Describe what happened, how things turned out, what you learned, and what you might do differently if presented with the same circumstances.

For example, if the interviewer asks, “Tell me about a time when you confronted a challenging situation”, you can respond with the following story:

“When I studied abroad for a semester in Granada, I stayed with a host family. I was excited to get the chance to immerse myself in the local culture in a way I wouldn’t be able to if I living on my own, but when I arrived in Granada I still struggled with my Spanish. I showed up at my señora’s apartment and she launched into an introduction and explanation of my room and the kitchen and how excited she was for me to live with her. I felt like I understood one of every ten words she said. It was very difficult to communicate at the beginning, but I dedicated myself to improving my language skills and by the end of the semester, my señora and I could have lengthy conversations with ease. I’m very happy that I lived with her now, because it gave me motivation to practice Spanish and I did get the cultural exposure that I wanted.”

The key is to highlight your skills and abilities through the story in a way that is understandable for someone without previous knowledge of your experience. Also, you can take the opportunity to demonstrate more than just the skills the interviewer is asking about. The example above addresses the issue of dealing with a challenging situation, while also highlight cross cultural skills and Spanish language abilities.
There are a lot of other questions that frequently come up in interviews that provide a good opportunity for discussing your study abroad experience. Prepare for some of the following questions so that you’re ready to sell your skills effectively:

- Tell me about a time you dealt with uncertainty or ambiguity.
- Our organization highly values diversity. Can you tell me about your experiences working with diverse populations?
- Tell me about a time when you had to handle conflict.
- Tell me about a time when you had to learn something new.

There is a lot more that you can do to prepare for an interview after studying abroad. Visit the Center for Career Development for résumé and cover letter advice, career counseling, interview preparation, and other resources:

Center for Career Development  
Wilbur Cross Building, Rm 201  
233 Glenbrook Road U-4051  
Storrs, CT 06269  
(860)486-3013
EXTENDING YOUR ABROAD EXPERIENCE

Now that you’ve returned home, you may have an immediate desire to go abroad again. There are a lot of
different ways you can do this, from participating in another study abroad program to moving abroad for a
full time job. UConn Education Abroad suggests you research some of the options listed below, though you
should note that the list is not comprehensive and everyone has the responsibility to make the best choice for
their own circumstances.

Studying Abroad Again

Many students who return from a study abroad program have the desire to go abroad again. Depending on your
academic plan, it may be possible for you to enroll in a short or long term program. Winter or summer programs can be a great
option if your academic plan won’t allow for another semester or year abroad.

Speak with your academic advisor, a study abroad advisor, and browse through the available programs at
http://studyabroad.uconn.edu/programs/ to see what will work for you!

Volunteering Abroad

There are many opportunities to volunteer abroad that will lead to wonderful cultural experiences. If you
have the desire to return abroad and contribute positively to the local community, research some of the
opportunities below:

http://www.peacecorps.gov/ - This renowned volunteer program arranges commitments in which college
graduates learn and work with a community overseas for 27 months, providing technical assistance in six
program areas: education, youth development; health; business & information and communications technology;
agriculture; and the environment. This program is available in more than 60 countries around the world.

http://www.transitionsabroad.com/ - Gain knowledge of different organizations that provide international
experience through working, studying, living, or volunteering abroad.

http://www.wwoof.net/ - World Wide Opportunities on Organic Farms allows people to participate in
hands-on learning by volunteering at an organic farm. Participants choose a country and then find a farm that
interests them. Volunteers are typically compensated with room and board.

http://www.habitat.org/ - Habitat for Humanity offers short term and long term volunteer opportunities
abroad to help build affordable housing for communities around the world.

http://earthwatch.org/ - Earthwatch Institute engages people worldwide in scientific field research and
education to promote the understanding and actions necessary for a sustainable environment. Trips average
9-12 days with topics of research such as climate change, ocean health, threatened animals, and
human/wildlife conflict.
http://www.gviusa.com/ - Volunteer anywhere from two weeks to more than six months. Projects are available for any interest: wildlife conservation, teaching English, construction, working with children, marine conservation or climate change.

**Working Abroad After Graduation**

There are many opportunities to work abroad over academic breaks or after graduation. Whether you want to work as an au pair for a summer or utilize your degree and start your career, there are opportunities for you. Look through the following resources and consult with the Center for Career Development to find something that will work for you:

https://uconn-csm.symplicity.com/sso/students/ - The UConn Center for Career Development provides a subscription to Going Global, an online resource with job postings, country specific career guidance, and immigration laws. Visit Going Global by signing in to Husky Career Link above and clicking on the Going Global link.

http://www.bunac.org/usa - Work abroad in Australia, Britain, Canada, Ireland or New Zealand for up to 12 months. BUNAC will help you with visas and searching for a job. Students must be enrolled at a university.

http://jobregistry.nafsa.org/jobs - NAFSA is the Association of International Educators. Use this resource to search for jobs related to the field of International Education. Universities and third party providers post job vacancies dealing with both incoming and outgoing students in the US and abroad.

http://www.statravel.com/work-abroad.htm - Use STA Travel as your gateway to another culture for up to a year. They have locations in Australia, New Zealand, Europe, Asia and Latin America. Some locations offer work as an English teacher, others leave the profession up to you.

http://jobs.goabroad.com/ - Intern, teach English or find a job that interests you. GoAbroad.com lets you choose a job by location or by profession. It also lists job postings by international companies for you to browse.

http://www.interexchange.org/working-abroad - This site offers a wide range of opportunity for working abroad. Choose from being an au pair to teaching English to just being on a Work and Holiday Visa and finding a job that works best for you.

http://www.immi.gov.au/Visas/Pages/462.aspx - The Work and Holiday visa is for young people aged 18 to 30 who want to travel and work for up to 12 months in Australia. This visa allows you to supplement the cost of your holiday through periods of temporary or casual employment

http://www.state.gov/careers/ - The US Department of State offers employment opportunities across the globe for qualified individuals.
Teaching Abroad

There are many opportunities for teaching abroad after graduation, many of which don’t require any previous teaching experiences or coursework. There are also opportunities for certified teachers to teach their subject at American schools abroad.

http://www.uni.edu/placement/overseas/osfair.html - The University of Northern Iowa Overseas Recruiting Fair brings recruiters from over 120 schools worldwide to recruit certified teachers for employment.

http://www.dodea.edu/ - Certified teachers can apply for positions teaching on US military bases abroad through this Department of Defense website.

http://www.us.emb-japan.go.jp/JET/ - The Japan Exchange and Teaching program is a very popular option to teach English in Japan.

http://www.masaisrael.org/ - For students of the Jewish faith who wish to spend a semester or year teaching English to school children in Israel.

http://www.epik.go.kr/ - Affiliated with the Korean Ministry of Education, science and technology participants work with Korean students and teachers to improve English language skills.

http://www.ciee.org/teach/ - CIEE offers numerous programs teaching English to students in Asia, Chile, Dominican Republic and Spain. These are paid positions ranging from one semester to a full year. Some programs require TEFL certification, while others include it in the program.

http://greenhearttravel.org/ - A division of Center for Cultural Interchange, Greenheart Travel offers participants a chance to teach English in South Korea, Georgia, China and Thailand.

http://www.languagecorps.com/ - LanguageCorps offers teaching programs in 17 countries. Each location includes a four-week intensive TESOL certification. Participants can then look at other services they want to include in their time abroad, such as accommodation, extra cultural learning and guaranteed job placement.


Attending Graduate School Abroad

After completing your undergraduate degree, you have the option of completing your graduate work abroad. Some countries provide graduate degrees that cost much less than American universities and can sometimes be completed in less time. Speak with your academic advisor or someone in your field and look at the resources below to begin your international graduate school search:

http://eca.state.gov/fulbright - Government grants given to students to promote intercultural relations or to try to find solutions to international concerns. Students may study or conduct research while abroad. There is an opportunity to teach English with a Fulbright Grant as well. Fulbright Grants are generally merit and leadership based. In most cases the participant needs to have a bachelor’s degree by the grants start. For more information on Fulbright and other scholarships, contact the UConn Office of National Scholarships and Fellowships - http://www.onsf.uconn.edu/
https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/prepare-for-college/choosing-schools/types/international#participating-schools – You may be able to use U.S. Federal student aid if you choose to attend graduate or medical school abroad! Visit this page for more information and lists of international schools that participate in the federal student loan program.

http://www.borenawards.org/ - These scholarships given by the government are meant to build relationships with countries of importance to national security. Participants will focus on learning a new critical language or building upon language skills they already possess.

http://www.gradschools.com/program-types/graduate-schools-by-country - Use this site to research international graduate programs.

http://www.idealist.org/info/GradEducation/Resources/Abroad/Benefits - This article from Idealist details some of the many benefits to doing graduate work abroad.

http://www.us-irelandalliance.org/ - The US-Ireland Alliance offers the George J. Mitchell Scholarship, which funds up to twelve Mitchell Scholars between the ages of 18 and 30 who are chosen annually for one year of postgraduate study in any discipline offered by institutions of higher learning in Ireland and Northern Ireland.
It is important to continue with your cultural education even after you return home. Take as many opportunities as you can to reconnect with the culture you lived in abroad and contribute to your community at UConn.

Below are many of the opportunities and resources that you can take advantage of:

**Community Outreach:** As a part of the Department of Student Activities, Community Outreach offers students opportunities to engage in service related activities that enhance the quality of life of others in the community while enriching their own learning experience at the University of Connecticut. Their [website](#) provides a list of opportunities which give you the opportunity to work across cultures and to practice language skills.

**Office of International Services & Programs:** Offers an array of services for international students and houses the International Center, which hosts programming and events. Check their [website](#) for a full listing of activities.

- **International Chat:** Tuesdays from 4:30-5:30. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet others with an international experience. All are welcome to attend. Contact Laurie Tompkins: laurie.tompkins@uconn.edu

**UConn Cultural Centers:** Check out their websites for weekly events.

- [African American](#)
- [Asian America](#)
- [Puerto Rican/Latin American](#)
- [Women's Center](#)
- [Rainbow Center](#)
University of Connecticut American English Language Institute (UCAELI): UCAELI provides English language instruction to students from all over the world and are always looking for volunteers.

Student Organizations: There are a variety of language based, international, cultural, and national student organizations on campus. Many of these provide great opportunities for reconnecting with your host culture and with other students. You can join organizations to make an impact on global issues, such as UNESCO Student Ambassadors, Amnesty International, Engineers Without Borders, or UConn Change Lives. You can interact with international students on campus and learn about different cultures through special events with the French Club, International Chinese Student Association, or Cross Cultural Connections. Whatever your interest, there are opportunities on campus to meet other students. Look through the UConntact website to find organizations and get involved!
STAYING INVOLVED WITH UCONN EDUCATION ABROAD

Student Leadership and Internship Opportunities

Student Ambassador Program: Are you enthusiastic about your study abroad experience? Are you eager to share your experiences with others? If your answers to these questions are yes, please consider applying to be an Education Abroad Student Ambassador. As a Student Ambassador, you will have the option to volunteer in outreach activities such as the study abroad fairs, pre-departure orientations, and informational sessions. We also ask that you be available to interested study abroad participants through email and/or phone communication. You will be contacted about this at the beginning of the semester that you return from abroad.

Peer Leader Internship Program: The Peer Leader Internship program is an opportunity for returning study abroad students to contribute to the mission and vision of the UConn Office of Global Affairs - Education Abroad. Interns will utilize their passion for study abroad, their personal experiences, and their own skills to provide outreach to the UConn community and complete projects in service of UConn Education Abroad. Student interns serve for one semester immediately following the term abroad and receive a monetary stipend. Applications are available on the Education Abroad website.

Student Employment Opportunities: Each year the UConn Education Abroad Office hires 2-3 student employees. Part of the job includes helping others through the study abroad process. If you are interested, contact UConn Education Abroad, 860-486-5022 at the beginning of the academic year. To be eligible, you must have studied abroad.

Education Abroad Photo Contest

The UConn Education Abroad Office hosts a photo contest every semester. Students returning from abroad are encouraged to submit photos according to the instructions below to win great prizes!

There are four categories for submission.

1. **Portrait** (people, animals)
2. **Landscape** (architecture, natural beauty)
3. **Cross-Cultural** (defining moments, interaction with host culture)
   
   Cross-cultural photos should show UConn students "in action" in their host countries and should somehow represent the ideals of study abroad (academic learning, culture learning, international awareness, sensitivity, and fun). The best photos will be of UConn students participating in activities at their host university or in their town/city.

4. **Husky Pride**

   Image showing UConn in some way (clothing, sign, ‘UConn’ drawn into snow/sand). Background showing landscape, architecture, or environment that is obviously in a different country (examples: students on a safari, in front of Eiffel Tower, wearing your UConn shirt, etc.).

5. **Selfie**

   Did you break out your selfie stick while abroad? Send us your best selfie from your travels!
Selection criteria:

1. Technical merit (clarity, focus, lighting, etc.)
2. Representation of the study abroad experience
3. Sensitivity toward the host culture

Evaluation Method:

After the submission deadline, UConn Education Abroad staff will select the top 5 photos from each category. The photos will be displayed at the Study Abroad Fair on September 11th, and all fair attendees may cast one ballot for each of the four categories. The winner will be announced during the week following the Study Abroad Fair.

Submission Requirements:

Only one submission per category (so you may enter up to 4 times). Make sure to label the photo:

location_category_optional title (your full name)

  e.g. Ireland_cross-cultural_at the Guinness factory (JohnSmith)

Creative titles may help an entry standout – but be sure to keep it short. Unlabeled photos will automatically be disqualified!

Prizes:

The first place photo from each category will receive a $50 Amazon giftcard. Winners will be announced during the week following the Study Abroad Fair.

Submission Directions:

1. Rename your file(s) according to guidelines above (one photo per category, up to four photos total)
2. Download and complete the Photo Release Form
3. Email your photos and completed Photo Release Form to abroad@uconn.edu

Returning From Study Abroad Workshops

The UConn Education Abroad Office will be hosting a series of workshops for returning students to provide opportunities to reflect on experiences abroad and utilize those experiences going forward. The workshops will address topics such as utilizing study abroad in a career search, reverse culture shock, going abroad again, and intercultural opportunities at home.

Be sure to check Abroad.uconn.edu/students/welcome-back for the workshop schedule when you return!
IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

**UConn Education Abroad**
8:30 AM – 4:30 PM Monday – Friday  
Phone: (860)486-5022  
Website: abroad.uconn.edu

**Office of the Registrar**
Jennifer Gattilia, Administrative Services Specialist  
Phone: (860) 486-6177  
Website: www.registrar.uconn.edu

**Office of Student Financial Aid Services**
Dee Koppisch, Financial Aid Officer  
Phone: (860) 486-2819  
Website: www.sfa.uconn.edu

**Office of Community Standards**
Cathy Cocks, Director  
Phone: (860) 486-8402  
Website: www.dos.uconn.edu

**Division of Diversity and Equity**
Associate Vice President and Title IX Coordinator  
Elizabeth Conklin  
Phone: (860) 486 - 2943  
Website: www.ode.uconn.edu

**UConn Women’s Center**
4th Floor, Student Union  
Phone: (860) 486-4738  
Website: www.womenscenter.uconn.edu

**Department of Residential Life**
Kimberly Maxwell/Proulx, Administrative Services  
Phone: (860) 486-2926  
Website: www.reslife.uconn.edu

**Rainbow Center**
Fleurette King, Executive Director  
Student Union, 4th floor  
Phone: (860) 486-5821  
Website: www.rainbowcenter.uconn.edu

**Student Health Services**
Kathleen Sanner, Nurse Coordinator  
Phone: (860) 486-9494  
Website: www.shs.uconn.edu

**Center for Career Development**
Wilbur Cross Building, Rm 201  
233 Glenbrook Road U-4051  
Storrs, CT 06269  
(860)486-3013  
Website: www.career.uconn.edu/

**Counseling and Mental Health Services (CMHS)**
Elizabeth Cracco, Assistant Director  
Phone: (860) 486-4705  
Website: www.cmhs.uconn.edu

**UConn Office of Campus Safety General Number**
Phone: (860)486-4800