



STUDY ABROAD 201

From your friend,
Chris Carlton

Introduction

Why I Wrote This Guide

Do you want more from college — more independence, more experience, more adventure?

I decided to check out study abroad after getting bombarded with those enticing flyers on the way to class every morning. Who could resist, right?

What happened next? I met with my advisor, and bam! They hit me with a mountain of information and options. I walked out of the office knowing one thing:

Studying abroad is truly a once in a lifetime opportunity

It's the truth. Now it's decision time. Do you want to go or do you want to spend the rest of your life wondering what could have been?

You can teleport out of your school for a summer, semester, or year into the abyss of the world.

I look at travel blogs, study abroad programs, and books and I see a slow, dilapidated process that needs to be polished, rebuilt, and rebranded.

After studying abroad in Buenos Aires for six months I was able to take a step back, look at the system, and tweak it for today's student. Here's how ↓

Who am I? About Chris Carlton

Chris Carlton was one of the first students to study abroad using an innovative education called education 360. After spending six months in Buenos Aires, Chris returned leaps and bound ahead his peers and was able to parlay his experience into multiple job interviews and offers.

Chris currently does marketing for EatStreet, rapidly growing online food ordering platform.



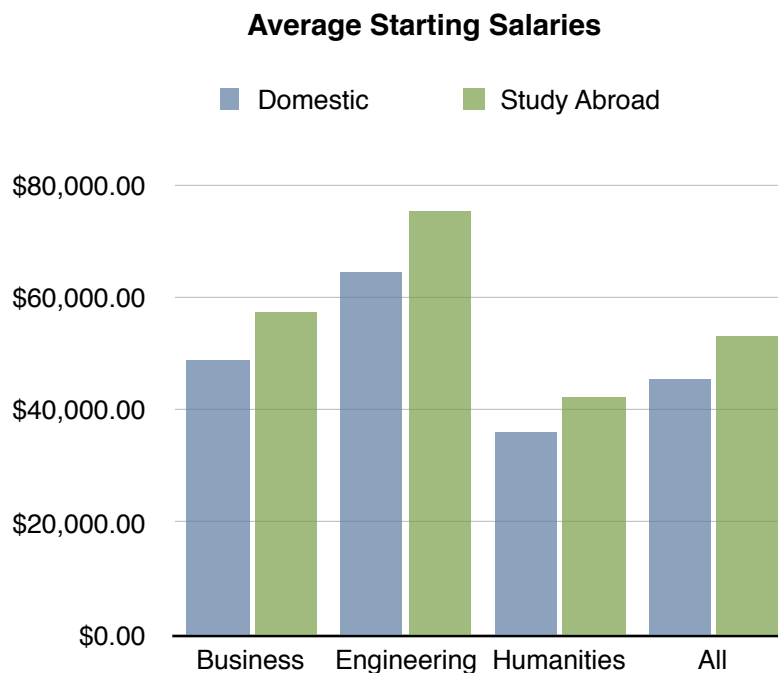
How to Get the Experience You Deserve

Some of us know we deserve to study abroad, but we don't know where to start, and we're terrified of it increasing our already massive student debt. If that's you, I'll show you exactly how to deal with fear and intimidation, and lay out exactly why studying abroad is one of the safest investments you can make.

Want to diversify your resume from everyone that does not study abroad? How about everyone that does? I'll teach you, even if you don't know where to start. Whether you are in-state or out-of-state, private or public — even at a technical school, we can help.

Do you dream of taking a trip that will give you unimaginable experience and independence, that helps you find your passion while polishing your resume in a way no one else can? I've conducted multiple international technology projects and would have given anything to have access to the strategies and secrets your going to learn now.

I'm happy to share some of the systems I spent over two years developing so you can bulletproof your resume — and take the guesswork out of your job search, save months or years of frustration, and skyrocket your success — much faster than you'd imagine. For FREE. Why? You'll join others who have turned studying abroad into a slingshot for their careers as opposed to a life experience. You'll reap the benefits for years to come, if not the rest of your life.



Who is this Guide for?

- **If you want studying abroad to give you an ROI that you can be comfortable with — an experience, not just a trip.**
- **If you are under the assumption that you can't afford to study abroad and don't know where to start; this guide can help.**
- **If you'd like to craft a resume around your passion with an international twist — that is our specialty.**

I have spent years refining a system that allows students to get results efficiently. It won't happen overnight and it will take some work (never trust someone who promises you results without work)...but you'll have the exact roadmap so you can become a sought after job prospect upon graduation.

It all starts with changing your psychology so it's easier for you to succeed.

How to Develop a Global Mindset

In a globally competitive job market it is important to test the waters early in your career. You're school, your advisors, and your professors all want you to study abroad for this reason. Once you start living abroad you will discover skills that you never knew you had.

But first you need to free yourself from the shackles of mediocrity.

The High Price of Not Going

As you do research on our website, other blogs, and ask around you will find that it is worth it. The the hesitation and doubt will immediately dissolve once you land in your host country. Do you know anyone who has studied abroad, and not absolutely raved about their experience? Think about it.

When you go, you'll meet other international students from not only your country, but other parts of the world as well. You will begin to form a friendship with your classmates that will last for years to come. Why do you think there are so many study abroad group pages on Facebook?

How Domestic Only Students Think

- ▶ **It's not worth the money**

This is the most common reason students give for not studying abroad. But where do you draw the line? I could just as easily argue that college in itself is not worth the money.

- ▶ **My credits won't transfer**

Are there schools that offer credit that your school won't accept? Absolutely. Can you check all this before you decide where to go? You bet.

- ▶ **I'll be missing out**

Tailgating, bars, and house parties or sightseeing, kayaking, and hostels? Who is really missing out here?

- ▶ **I don't have time to do all the planning**

Have you ever shopped for a new car? It's fun, right? You're online, looking at pictures and comparing pricing. Planning to study abroad is a lot like this. It takes time but you'll enjoy doing it.

- ▶ **It's not safe**

This depends on where you want to go, but this is a mostly a fallacy. The odds are that where you want to go is safer than where you are now.

Think about it like this; you won't get another opportunity to live abroad in an environment that introduces you to new people and experiences the way you will as a college student.

Never again in your life will you be this adventurous — this foolish.

The Psychology of Traveling Long Distance

College students move...a lot. Dorms to apartments, apartments to greek housing, greek housing back to apartments, some transfer, and some study abroad. And all the while most move back home every summer. Then you graduate, and you have to move all over again. But why? One could just as easily live in a dorm their freshman year, be an RA their second, etc.

The reason students move so often is because they are seeking out new experiences; new roommates, neighbors, and friends.

If you're 20 years old you probably don't have a spouse or kids, you might not have a job, and if you do, it is not geo-specific (you can be a server anywhere). There is nothing tying you down or to stop you from picking up and leaving the very next day.

College students don't have any real responsibilities other than maintaining a decent GPA or getting an internship in their field.

The point is that you're already doing this; you're already moving. What difference does it make if you're getting in a car or plane for six hours? Worried about making new friends and meeting new people? You already did it freshman year at the dorms. It's always easier the second time.

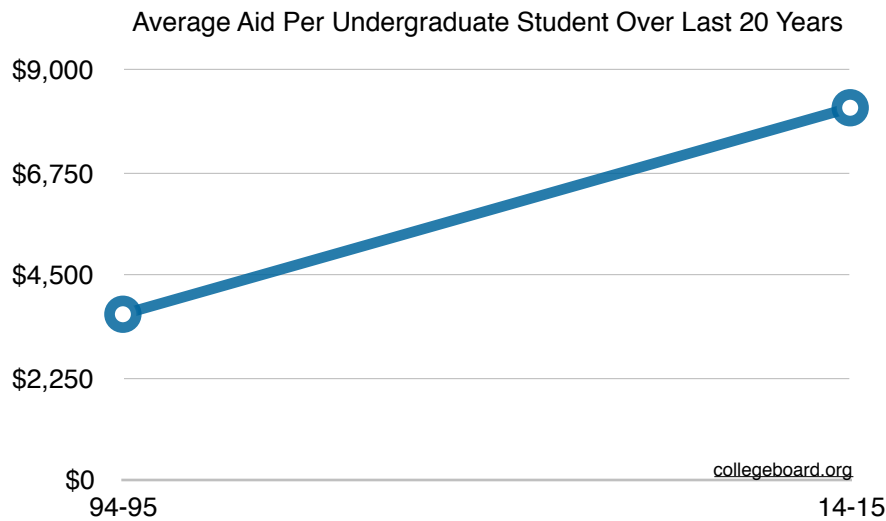
A lot of people take road trips in college. They visit their friends at nearby campuses. You get to go to nearby countries.

Studying abroad used to be limited to letters home and one or two phone calls a week. Now you can video chat with anyone you'd like everyday. The risks are gone; the term 'homesick' is being used less.

Are you Carmen Sandiego or Indiana Jones? Have fun, get lost, and enjoy it.

Scholarship Strategy

Did you know *only* 23 percent of college students are aware that there are scholarships and grants available specifically for study abroad students?



The single biggest reason more students don't study abroad is money.

So for some, the awarding of scholarships and even the amount they are awarded is the single determining factor on whether or not they can go.

Others will go regardless of whether or not they get scholarships. **Why not apply and cut the cost of your trip in half — and double down on your experiences and memories?**

I'll reveal what your advisor will never tell you about getting scholarships and grants, along with some of my best strategies to help you get the money you deserve.

How Would Getting A Scholarship Change Your Experience

- I'd would have more money to go on excursions
- I'd feel a sense of accomplishment
- It feels good knowing that people value my unique story and hard work
- It would mean less debt
- I could pay off some of my student loans
- It would look good on my resume
- I'm going to study abroad anyway—I might as well get paid for it

We all want to get what we deserve, but most of us don't take action because we don't know what to do, and we're afraid of getting rejected.

Misconceptions About Applying for Scholarships

Have you ever heard this: "I don't have the time to fill out all the applications."

Now that you know there are hundreds of awards available *specifically* for study abroad students, where do you start? You've already got a full course load plus a part time job. Where are you going to get time to fill out all these applications?

What I learned from my application process was that they're similar. What I mean by this is that they ask a lot of the same questions, just worded differently.

I filled out the most stringent application first. Once it was complete I simply used my responses from my first application on others. I tweaked and worded answers differently, but for the most part this is a good strategy.

The catch? Take time to craft perfect essays. Ask friends and family for input, get it edited. What are your advisors thoughts? Keep the momentum moving forward.

Don't worry about finding out which ones you can apply to. Your advisor will help.

Once you decide to assert yourself and buy into the process it will be a challenge — "just how much can I get?". You'll be excited. You're writing about yourself after all, how hard can it be?

My advice: outline → essay → revisions → more revisions → editing.

Remember: **You are already in the ballpark as far as being selected goes. Most students either don't know, don't care, or think it's too time consuming to apply.**

Most of us hate the idea of getting rejected academically. You get a letter, they thank you for applying, and they regret to inform you that they can't accept you at that time.

Why most students don't get scholarships	Why savvy students get scholarships, even with below average grades
"I haven't applied"	Scholarship recipients apply to everything they are eligible for. A lot of the time showing up is half the battle
"I don't have good enough grades" "I am not scholarship material" "I applied for a scholarship before and got rejected"	They recognize that well crafted application essays and letters of recommendation can make even the poorest of candidates stand out
"I'm not a good writer"	Scholarship recipients know that they have already written personal essays to get into the school they're at now. Plus they recognize that they get to write about a topic they know very much about... themselves
"It's like any other paper. I'll just write it the night before my application is due"	This is where the savvy student takes the time and does it right. They know that this paper is worth a lot more than an A
"I found a few blogs that tell me what to write about. I'll just use that format"	Selection committees go through thousands of applications every semester. They pick the students who submit authentic content and can spot the copied material miles away

My Story: “An Average Student Who Got \$5,000 in Scholarships and Grants”

I couldn't believe it. They were sending me checks! I always had the mindset that I was not scholarship material but then I applied and got accepted. This is a story from a blog post I wrote about the path I took while applying:

“The first thing I did was meet with my advisor. We talked about the application process and which scholarships I should focus on.

I had no idea how many scholarships were set aside specifically for study abroad students.

We narrowed down the list and I got cracking. The first thing I did was research the institutions that I was applying to. Some were run by the government and others were private. My advisor encouraged me to do this in order to “get a feel” for the people that would be reviewing my application.

My advisor told me “Don't make the mistake of thinking your experiences and background aren't interesting or exciting as someone else's, they are.”

I tackled the applications the same way I approach my homework: hardest first. I reviewed the application and made an outline for each question.

A few days later I presented my first draft to my advisor. We reviewed it together, and highlighted changes that needed be made: “take that out, but add this, etc.”

After three or four revisions I started editing. My advisor actually helped with this as well.

So it was on to the next application. As soon as I opened it I was amazed, the questions were almost identical. Was it this easy?

Pretty much downhill from there!”

Let's break down my results:

I met with my advisor first.

Your study abroad advisor is there to help you throughout the entire process. This includes scholarship applications. When you first see a list of all the scholarships available it can be overwhelming. Your advisor will be able to point out which scholarships you should focus on. The more you put in with your advisor, the more you will get in return. Ask them about successful essays other students have written in the past and have them help you with revisions you want to make along the way. The more you care about your application process, the more your advisor will be willing to help. This shows.

I started with the hardest application.

Writing your application essays can be stressful because there is so much on the line. For some, the amount of scholarships and grants they receive will determine whether or not they can actually go on the trip. When you frontload the work you will be able to get through other applications more efficiently. You will find yourself referencing your original application to make light changes and tweaks that will work in subsequent applications. Each one you do will be better than the last. In order to get there you need to hammer out your first application which will serve as a base for others. The applications you submit are not being reviewed by the same people.

I took my time and made multiple revisions.

Ask people you trust for insight and opinions. If your school offers writing labs take advantage. A big part of your tuition is for resources such as these, do yourself a favor and use them. Earlier we talked about the psychology — the essays you are writing here are worth a lot more than an A, keep that in mind. Everyone has a different story to tell and you're no exception. The way in which you tell it can make all the difference. You have been here before. Odds are that you have written crisp, robust essays in the past, the kind that you know you will get an A before you hand it in. You have also tried to bang one out one or two nights before it was due. You *know* the difference.

When you frontload the work and make calculated changes to your essays they'll stick out. The selection committee will notice, and you will get checks to travel the world.

How to Get the Scholarship You Deserve

You've already learned some of the secrets of applying for and receiving scholarships. Now, I'd like you to hear first hand from people who deal with scholarships on a daily basis.

Just give me your name and email address, and I'll share pertinent, up-to-date interviews right to your inbox. You'll hear:

- ▶ **What to include in your essays and what to leave out. How less experience or a lower GPA can actually be a good thing**
- ▶ **How to establish a time frame, so you can make sure to get all of your applications submitted on time**
- ▶ **What other scholarship recipients talked about in their essays, and how you can do the same with your story**
- ▶ **Exactly what questions to ask your advisor when crafting your essay so you can be the strongest possible candidate**

**Yes, I want to get the scholarships I deserve.
Show me how I can get one, stress-free.**

How to Study Abroad with an Edge

When I helped other students plan their trips abroad in the past we would focus on getting the absolute most out of their time. We would start with the end in mind.

Imagine if you could turn your study abroad experience into a slingshot for your career.

Would you feel excited to have a little direction upon returning? A little something in your corner that would distinguish you from your peers after graduation?

What would you do if you had multiple job offers? Where would you want to live? What kind of work would you want to do? How would you feel if you had options instead of being forced to accept whatever was offered?

Studying abroad will separate you from the pack, no doubt. But while you're there, why not go even farther?

You are at a pivotal point in your life right now. Maybe you have found what you're passionate about, maybe you don't know yet. You can use your time abroad as a tool to find what you actually care about. The earlier you do this, the more rewarding it will be for your career in the long run.

Don't just study abroad for a semester, study abroad for your life.

Think of this as an investment. I know that's the last thing you want to hear. You want to go to parties, meet to people, and explore, I get it. I did all that too. But if you go, you will be surprised at how often you revert will reference your trip upon your return — both personally and professionally. It is something that you can look back on for the rest of your life.

What You Really Need to Know About Studying Abroad Purposefully

Studying abroad with a purpose allows you to work on projects that you are interested in, that could potentially turn into a career.

Do you know anyone who has graduated and is still bouncing around in the service industry? Some of us struggle for years trying to find what we are good at and what we enjoy doing.

View your time abroad as a tool that can help you find areas of life that you excel at. It's hard to explain in words, but being in a different country will really bring it out of you.

Pros and Cons of Studying Abroad Purposefully

What's great about studying abroad with a purpose?	What are the potential downsides?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ You can find something you are interested in — find your passion, not just your major ▶ Whatever you do will be considered international experience on your resume ▶ It's on your schedule, you can do as much or as little as you'd like ▶ You will meet people outside of the classroom, in the real world ▶ If done right you can springboard your experiences into a career of your choice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ You will have to be more efficient with your time ▶ It could cost you money depending on your on your area of interest and what you want to accomplish ▶ Your destination plays an even bigger factor (it's not just a trip anymore) ▶ Language barriers could play a bigger role

I've helped many students find areas they are interested in. It is fun to see people light up when you get it out of them.

What Can You Do?

What do you do for fun? What is an activity that you could do for hours on end that most people find difficult or boring, but that you love to do and are good at? Is it an activity that you enjoy? Are you good at it?

You don't have to be world class right off the bat.

Ask yourself these questions:

- **What skills do you already have?**
- **What do your friends call you for advice on?**
- **What kind of sites—computers, fashion, sports, business—do you read?**

Most people don't consider this when they are abroad because they think like average students do:

- **“Studying abroad isn't supposed to be about extra work”**
- **“I'm still in school, I'll figure it out once I graduate”**

When you apply for your first job out of college, how many other applications do you think your employer is getting? This is what employers and graduate schools are used to seeing on entry level applications:

- **An internship for a significant amount of time for a recognizable business**
- **Fluent in a foreign language**
- **Extra curricular activities like clubs, student orgs, and greek life**
- **Community service hours (lots of them)**

These are all strong accolades on a resume, but we want to be stronger.

Try and be unique and solve a problem in your field.

What Kind of Project Should I Do?

Think back to projects that you excelled at and enjoyed in the past. What did you get A's on? What have you done for fun, outside of school?

What are you reading or watching that you find interesting?

Ideally you'd want to spend around 8 hours a week on this. Remember, everyone will come back having completed classes, but you want to come back with something more; you want to compete with the over achievers and ivy leaguers.

You should also be aware of where you are in the world and try to tie your project in with the country in some way.

Try This Simple Test to Find Out Whether Your Project Has Traction

Who has been to Reddit? Anyone can post and it takes about a minute to sign up.

If you don't already have an account, sign up, and write a post on a project you are interested in. Be specific. For example a specific post read something like:

Fashion Trends For 20 Somethings In Milan

A poor post would be:

Popular Fashion Trends In Europe

The more specific you are the better. This is important because you will find people just like you who have the same interests. It will also make your project more unique and less likely to be copied.

How many people are doing something related to fashion in Europe? How many people are doing something that deals with 20 somethings' interests in Milan?

What kind of comments (if any) are you getting on your Reddit post? Are you getting a lot of up votes? If there are crickets it might be a good idea to go back to the drawing board and try something new. If you get a decent amount of responses and up votes you're probably on to something.

Reddit is a small sample size so even one or two interested people is a good start.

Why Some Don't Make It Count

When you are at home it is tough to say no to a group of friends going out. Imagine that times ten.

People go out a lot more when they are studying abroad. Here are some common responses I got when I told my friends I wasn't going out for the night:

“When are you going to be in this country again?”

“We're all trying out this new spot, are you in?”

"Just do it later!"

“You mean that's not even for a class?”

This is important. I'm not saying don't go out and stay in like a hermit. I went out almost every night of the week when I was abroad.

But there was a difference.

Half the time I would go out with classmates and half the time I would go to events that dealt with my project. You will be amazed at how many people you will meet.

Here is a little secret: Even though you'll hear not to go to American activities while you're abroad, they act as a funnel for other expatriates — some of whom could be in your industry. (A Superbowl party for instance)

We talked about building life long friends while you're abroad, but what about lifelong contacts?

Frontload Some of The Work

Do research on what is going on around your area before you leave. Are there meetups or speeches? What about events coming to town? Are you within a train or bus ride of anything of interesting?

One helpful website that I found was baexpats.com while living in Buenos Aires.

It will be easier to do this research now, before you leave. Once you get to your destination, the only thing you will want to do is go, go, go. *Trust me.*

USE THE INTERNET

Global mindset, international experience, blah, blah, blah. We hear these terms thrown around like frisbees. Advisors and teachers beat the notion into our head. My question: why wait until you are abroad to start contacting the people you want to work with? They're out there, they have email addresses. Send em a message and tell them you'll be living nearby in a few months and you're working on a _____project.

Let me give you an example of two students who both want to go the extra mile while abroad. They're both doing research on the city they are going to study in, but which student do you think got off to a faster start?

Student #1 has researched meetup groups and message boards. She knows where and when the groups are meeting, and has exchanged a few emails with the group organizers. One has even agreed to have coffee with her.

Student #2 has registered a domain name for a study abroad blog he wants to start, and has also researched a few meetup groups.

I know, I know, student #1 is off to the better start. I made that obvious, because I needed to illustrate how you can hit the ground running by sending a few, simple emails.

Where else can you look? What about Instagram, Twitter, Youtube, and Snapchat? Message or comment on relevant posts if you're comfortable.

Most of the people you'll want to connect with will be as intrigued by you as you are by them.

Next find out what they are currently working on or if they are doing anything with the country you currently reside in. What can you bring to the table? What can they teach you? How can you build or work on something together that will be mutually beneficial?

- **You meet an engineer who worked on the [Eurail](#).**
- **There is a video game convention in a town not too far away.**
- **A company you admire has offices in the city you are living in**
- **You find an [abundance](#) of startups taking advantage of the exchange rate in South America.**

Don't you see how exciting this is getting? I could sit here and think of dozens of examples of opportunities that are waiting.

Think about this: before the internet you used to have to actually call these people on the phone. There aren't as many barriers now.

Case Study: How I Built Relationships With The World's Best

It was my last semester of college. And I would be graduating upon my return. I had a pretty good internship, but I knew that that wouldn't be enough to secure the job I desired. I needed more ammo — I needed to study abroad with a purpose and come back with something that would differentiate me.

With no job prospects lined up before I left I flew down to Buenos Aires armed with a laptop and cell phone and that was it. It took me a while to find my footing, but after I got settled **I made great contacts who would eventually offer me jobs, get me jobs, and connect me with others all around the world.**

It didn't stop there. I still keep in touch with the contacts I made abroad. We bounce ideas off each other and help one and other out with different projects from time to time.

This is a video of me thanking everyone that helped with my project

Keep one thing in mind: You're projects will morph while you are abroad. What



you think will happen won't, and you won't be able to predict the rest. This is a good thing.

How To Standout Right Away

Let's take a step back. You're about a month in, you've met a ton of new friends at school and your classes are in full swing. If you have been following my advice you have decided to take advantage of your time abroad and build something phenomenal.

You've reached out to a few people you are interested in working with but they are really busy. You can't quite get the access that were hoping for.

Keep in mind that the level of difficulty of getting ahold of people will depend entirely on the area you want to focus on. You may not be working with people at all.



But if you are, you will find that important people are busy and they get tons of email. Why would they want to give some college kid the time of day, let alone work with them. But here is where you can stand out:

Try and do an audit of their business, work, or passion. Can you solve a problem or pain point they are dealing with? Is there something you learned in one of your classes that could really help them out? Even if they don't take your advice you will stick out in their mind.

Go to the actual events they are attending, that turns into a cup of coffee and from there, sky is the limit.

Email Etiquette - Don't Make My Mistake

I met someone whom I really admired and wanted to work with when I was in Buenos Aires. We had met in person a few times before he gave me his email address.

One night he hit me with it - "drop me an email."

This was it — my big shot. I spent an entire night crafting the perfect email. Who I was, where I was from, what I was working on, and ideas I had. It was probably about three paragraphs by the time it was finished; I wanted to be thorough.

I hit send, and spent the next several hours watching my email like a hawk.

He emailed me back the next day and he was a bit disgruntled. "So Chris, were you writing me a novel?" He sent me a link to a website that advocated short, simple emails called three.sentenc.es.

What I learned

I learned that busy people (the people you want to work with) get hundreds of emails a day and they don't like reading lengthy ones. What they do like is emails that quickly get to the point.

Talk about what you want to do and the reason why. Talk about what you want to accomplish. Talk about what you have done up to this point and what you plan to do in the future.

As soon as I learned how these people communicated with each other I gained confidence and became more comfortable.

If the person you are trying to get a hold of doesn't email you back right away assume the best. Wait a few days and send a follow up email. If you're consistently not getting responses you may need to rework your initial email or try another form of communication.

Are You Ready to Study Abroad with an Edge?

I've spent countless hours and thousands of dollars (that I received in scholarships) cracking the code of studying abroad smarter, and I want to learn even more with *you*.

Do you want to hear more stories and get fresh ideas on how to study abroad smarter? What if you heard first hand how to:

- ▶ **Find a project that showcased your talents**
- ▶ **Find the things you need to do — and which dead-ends to avoid**
- ▶ **Discover how to create a project so unique that prospective employers can't resist offering you employment upon graduation**
- ▶ **Work with people you want to emulate on a global scale**
- ▶ **Use technology to your advantage even if you don't have a technological background or interest**

Yes, I want to stand out from other students so I can get my dream job immediately after I graduate.

Adventures, Responsibility, and Becoming Resourceful

From My Small College Apartment to Surfing in Brazil

What does living an adventurous life mean to you?

When I decided to study abroad I had an idea of what I was getting into. I had heard stories from friends and family, and found exploring your country and its surroundings are a big part of studying abroad...probably the best part.

Since then I have done quite a bit of traveling myself. Both for work as well as when I studied abroad. What I learned is that there are travel hacks that you can use to travel for a lot less than you'd think. There are books, websites, Youtube channels, and courses dedicated specifically to this topic.

Looking back, my favorite part of traveling was not knowing where I would end up. You meet people from all walks of life and every corner of the globe. You share stories, tell jokes, and sing songs.

You'll meet other students who are 'on holiday' or taking their final trip before they join the workforce. Sometimes you'll travel to new places with them and sometimes you'll wake up only to find they've already left.

This type of travel is what it's all about—the stories, the experiences...the unpredictability. It is something that will be harder to do as you become older and start taking family vacations to resorts and theme parks instead of jungles and mountains.

In case you were curious I actually went surfing for the first time with an actual surf instructor for free...he was a classmate. I also went whitewater rafting, zip lining, and snowboarding. I saw one of the seven wonders of the world and....well I could go on forever.

This is where the finances become tricky. Throughout this entire essay I have been saying that *you* can afford to study abroad.

The reason that the cost of studying abroad has such a high price tag is because students tend to travel and pay for activities like horseback riding more than they would if they were at school back home.

The Reality of Traveling in Your 20's

	Today	10 Years From Now
Where will you go and what will you do?	You can go anywhere and pick up and leave whenever you'd like. You're on your own schedule.	You can go anywhere but your schedule and activities will be set in advance. Your job will dictate how long you can stay.
Who will you be traveling with?	You will meet new people who have different backgrounds but similar interests. You will learn something new everyday.	You could be going with friends. You could be going with family. You probably won't be as spontaneous.

Like anything else in life, it is easier to travel when you are younger. You can get deals by picking up and going with the drop of a hat. If you continue to listen to the Study Abroadcast, it is a topic that we frequently discuss.

Now, let's look at the pros and cons of taking trips and going on excursions.

Pros and Cons of Traveling While Abroad

What's great about going on excursions and adventures?

- ▶ You will remember these trips for the rest of your life. These are the kind of pictures and videos that you will post on social media
- ▶ You will meet new people from outside your host school, classes, and city
- ▶ You will learn more about yourself and discover activities you enjoy that you may not have had the opportunity to back home
- ▶ In some cases you can choose when and where you want to go

What are the potential downsides?

- ▶ It can be expensive
- ▶ It can interfere with your classwork or your projects
- ▶ If you are going with a program your schedule is already set.

Responsible > Resourceful

REPEAT AFTER ME: YOU CAN'T DO EVERYTHING

This is the fun, splashy part of studying abroad that you have to be careful with.

Have heard the horror stories? Every semester there is at least one student who either...

- **Gets horrible grades**
- **Spends too much money**
- **Gets into trouble with the law or at school**
- **Has to come home early**

Don't be *that* guy or girl. Does this sound familiar? It should, because it happens every semester your school right now.

You will quickly find that students who study abroad are cut from a certain cloth. They are clever, responsible people who want to learn and get cultured.

But being in a foreign environment is sometimes too much, too soon.

This white paper is a lot to take in if you are thinking about studying abroad. Keep one thing in mind; your grades count just as much abroad as they do here. Most students get higher GPA's while abroad, but some are lower.

I honestly don't like talking about this because I always hated it when advisors and teachers would talk to me about it, but it has to be addressed. Don't get a black eye on your once in a lifetime experience.

It's embarrassing, but it happens to at least one student a semester.

You are the average of the five people you spend the most time with and it really doesn't take long to see who the rabble rousers are.

Make good decisions and start with the end in mind.

Which Study Abroad Method Works Best?

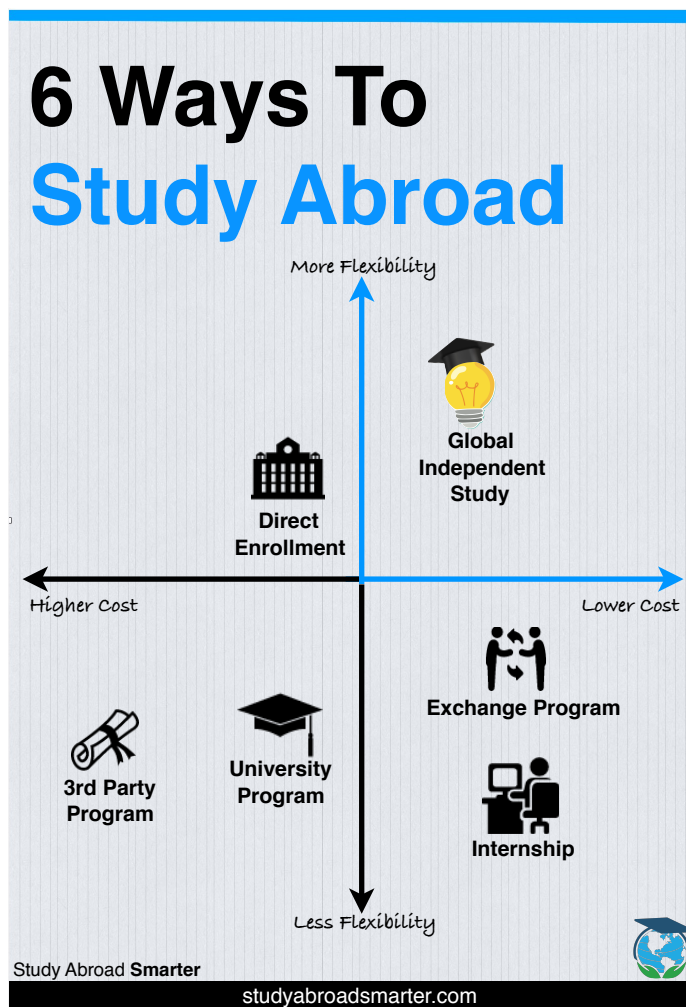
This took me a long time to figure out. I thoroughly researched every option for two reasons. 1. I wanted the most affordable option. 2. I wanted to get the best bang for my buck. I viewed studying abroad as an investment, not just a trip.

So what is really the best option? Should you use a program or secure an internship? Direct enroll or become an exchange student? I have extensively researched each option and have come to the conclusion that you don't have to pick just one.

Your six options for studying abroad are to enroll in a program either through your school or a 3rd party, direct enroll at a different school, get an internship for credit, or enroll as an exchange student.

What do you notice about the illustration?

1. Using a program is expensive. It is the scholastic equivalence of taking an all-inclusive vacation.
2. You don't have to incur massive debt to study abroad and you can (and should) go for longer than a summer.
3. While doing a global independent study is the clear winner, you can mix and match other methods like direct enrollment and internships.



A global independent study mixed with something like an internship or direct enrollment is a great model: for two reasons.

The first and most important reason is that it is drastically more affordable. If you plan carefully you can get away with only paying for your flight.

The second reason is the amount of flexibility that it grants you. You're in a foreign country, you want to explore and take everything in. The last place you want to be is inside a classroom.

Let me show you the difference between going independently and going through a program.

PROGRAM VS. INDEPENDENT

	
Program	Independent
 Expensive	 Affordable
 Set schedule	 At your convenience
 Normal class structure	 Create your own classes

Study Abroad **Smarter**


studyabroadsmarter.com



What Class Would You Create?

In my opinion independent study courses are colleges best kept secret, yet most students go on and graduate without taking advantage.

In your experience what do you learn better by?

Having someone instruct you what to do and how to do it

Or

Doing something yourself

9 out of 10 people prefer to learn through osmosis.

So you get hands on experience and *you* get to pick where you're putting your hands. Other students have done this before, here are a few examples:

Setting up a form of trade

Facilitating an import/export relationship with your host country

Interviews with people you want to learn from

One on one interviews with people involved in your area of interest.

Lecture Series

Speaking at universities and focusing on technology trends in the U.S.

There is no end to the possibilities of projects that you can come up with. You can also brainstorm with a professor who is overseeing (and grading) your work.

WHAT DO YOU ACTIVELY TRY TO LEARN?

You hate taking the required classes.

You can't wait to get to the ones that interest you: 300 level and beyond.

What do your friends ask you for advice on?

What is your favorite class?

What do you usually get really good grades on?

Write down some responses here. Did you come up with anything good?

DID YOU NOTICE WHAT HAPPENED AS YOU WENT THROUGH THAT LIST?

I only asked you what you enjoyed and what you excelled at in the past. But notice how already you're getting way ahead of yourself:

"I don't know what I'm good at."

"What if I don't have any time to kick back?"

"How do I know what project to do..."

"A program seems like the safer bet."

RELAX.

If you were going on a first date you wouldn't ask someone if they wanted to get married...because you'd be getting way ahead of yourself. For some reason we have this mental road block in that says we'll never get to where we want to go.

When I first started my independent study abroad projects I wasn't thinking about how I would turn them into a digital resume or reference them in job interviews.

No, I took baby steps. I can help you do the same, too.

Just know that if you find something that you care about and are good at people will be happy to work with you.

This is the kind of guide that students wish they would have read before taking their trip. Now you're here, and you literally have the world at your disposal. How exciting!

How to Study Abroad SMARTER

So how do you get the very best advice before, during, and after your trip?

There is no shortage of travel blogs, and most of them give good advice. The only problem is that they don't tailor their information to students. They cater to world travelers and vegabonders.

The Study Abroadcast teases out the little tools and tricks perfected by travel hackers while applying them to your resume and experience. For instance:

- ▶ **How to design classes that will allow you to pick up and go so you can work from multiple locations instead of spending the majority of your time in one location**
- ▶ **Getting the VERY best deals on flights**
- ▶ **How stay connected with your classmates and friends without ever being in class**
- ▶ **How to stay longer for less**

Maximize your experience by hearing from travel hackers all over the world.

How to Get Started?

Now that you have learned the three pillars of studying abroad you can join us for interviews that deal specifically with the entire process of study abroad. From start to finish, and even after you return.

Wherever you are in your process you should know that we are here and you can reach out to us any time you'd like with any questions you may have.

We love hearing the success stories (and struggles) of *Study Abroad 201*. We want to be right there with you every step of the way.

Where are you on your roadmap to studying abroad?



I want to secure scholarships and grants, so I have more money to take the trip I deserve



I want to find and execute the perfect project that showcases my talents



Show me the tips, tricks, and tools that will maximize my study abroad experience

I'm excited to share what I have learned with you in the past and looking forward to what I can learn with you in the future.

Your friend,

P.S. If you have any suggestions or comments for this white paper please let me know. I am always striving to put out the best possible content. Thanks!