General Study Abroad Questions:

1. **What is study abroad?**

Study abroad is an opportunity for UTC students to have a global experience in another part of the world! This is a chance for individuals to become more globally engaged citizens and to gain a unique understanding of the world and one’s place in it.

Study abroad is a chance for you to take part in a global experience in a variety of ways – through an academic program, by interning abroad, or by participating in a service-learning opportunity.

You can learn more about study abroad at UTC on our website: [www.utc.edu/studyabroad](http://www.utc.edu/studyabroad).

2. **Are there different program types? What’s the difference?**

Here at UTC we have a few different study abroad program options:

- **Faculty Led**: these are programs that are led by a UTC faculty member and linked with a very specific UTC course. Students who participate in a UTC faculty-led study abroad program must enroll in that faculty member’s UTC class and must participate in the study abroad program in order to complete the requirements of the class. Faculty led programs are great for students who might be nervous about travelling abroad for the first time or for those who prefer to travel abroad with a group of UTC peers as well as a UTC faculty member.

- **Exchange**: these are programs in which UTC has signed partnership agreements with certain overseas universities. Students participating in UTC exchange programs will pay UTC tuition and will have the host university tuition fees waived. Participating students would be responsible for room & board charges at the overseas institution (as well as other associated expenses). Currently, UTC has exchange agreements with partner universities in Japan and South Korea. There are also two exchange agreements available with German universities, mainly geared towards students majoring in Business, Education, or Engineering.

- **Provider/Affiliate**: these are programs in which UTC has partnered with US based organizations/companies who offer study abroad programs to our students. The Center for Global Education has thoroughly vetted these affiliates. These providers offer a wide variety of programs and are usually the option that most students select when looking at study abroad programs for a semester or summer.

- **Direct Enroll**: students who cannot find an option that works for them from one of the above may want to consider a direct enroll program. This is an option in which a student may elect to enroll directly with an overseas university. It’s important to note that this is NOT going through a provider that UTC is not affiliated with (as mentioned above); this is electing to enroll directly with an overseas university (and working with that foreign institution to enroll as a non-degree seeking, temporary, student at their institution). While it’s rare to have UTC students do a direct enroll option at an overseas university, it is possible! In the past, UTC has seen students do direct enroll at institutions in Australia, Finland, and the Netherlands to name a few.
3. **How long are programs?**

Programs can be as short as 1-2 weeks and up to a full year. Faculty led programs are traditionally 1-2 weeks but are sometimes up to 4 weeks (over summer). Exchange programs can be anywhere from 4-weeks in the summer, to a semester or academic year. Provider and direct enroll programs can be a few weeks in the summer, a full summer, or a semester or a year abroad.

4. **What is housing like on study abroad programs? Where will I live?**

Most study abroad programs give students at least two options for housing while abroad. Some may have more options available, while others may only have one option.

Typically, housing options include:

- **Residence Halls:** this option usually has students staying on-campus at the host university. It can be a great option for students who want to be closer to campus or those who prefer to be surrounded by more students (local as well as international) as well as those who want the convenience of having campus amenities close by.
- **Apartments:** this option usually pairs students up with roommates who are also studying abroad on a similar program or who may be local students studying at the host university. Apartments may be within walking distance to the university or may require students to use local transportation.
- **Homestays:** this option allows students to live with a host family while they are abroad. Usually students are provided with 2-3 meals, 5-7 days a week. It's a great option for students who want to immerse themselves in the local culture and language. Host families may be within walking distance of the university or may require students to use local transportation.
- **Hotels:** this option is really only relevant for students participating on short duration faculty led trips (1-2 weeks) or those who might have excursions built into their summer/semester abroad programs.
- **Independent accommodation:** this option applies to students who wish to make the housing arrangement on their own. Our office does not typically recommend students choose this option. In fact, it’s rarely selected; in the past, students have only selected this option when they have friends or family in the host city they’ll be studying abroad in and they are invited to live with them (please note, this request needs to be submitted to the provider running the program a student selects; they will review and approve the housing selection).

5. **Is there a best time for when I should study abroad?**

We usually require students to have completed 24 credit hours prior to going abroad (so, for Freshman, that usually means you can study abroad as early as the summer after your freshman year. For Transfer students, you can usually go abroad after having completed 12 credit hours at UTC; so, the 2nd semester at UTC would be the first opportunity for you to go abroad as a transfer student).

In light of recent global events, we are seeing some Senior students having their study abroad plans disrupted due to program cancellations. While you can certainly study abroad as a Senior, we would highly encourage students to think ahead and imagine what it might be like if you had planned a study abroad during your senior year and something happened that caused those plans to change, how would you feel?

Usually, we see most UTC students studying abroad during their Sophomore or Junior years. This also gives students the chance to study abroad again, if they wish to do so!

6. **Where can I find out what programs are available at UTC?**
The best place to learn more about programs is through our website, www.utc.edu/studyabroad. On this website you can search through the numerous programs that are available at UTC. Need help narrowing down the options? Feel free to schedule an appointment with a study abroad advisor, we are more than happy to help!

Academics:

1. **Will I receive credit for the classes I take while abroad?**

   Yes, any UTC student who wishes to study abroad through a UTC sponsored program must have their study abroad courses pre-approved for credit prior to going abroad. Students can review more information on the [Course Credit and Grades](#) section of our website.

2. **Will study abroad put me behind in terms of my degree requirements?**

   Any student thinking about studying abroad should work closely with their academic advisor to ensure that courses taken abroad count for UTC degree requirements. It’s very important that students going abroad begin the conversation with their academic advisor well in advance of their departure. This will help to ensure that students select the courses they need for any degree requirements they would like to complete while abroad.

3. **What majors can study abroad?**

   This is an easy one to answer – any major can study abroad! We have programs for any major, all you have to do is [attend one of our information sessions](#) and schedule an appointment to meet with a study abroad advisor!

   We also recommend that you check out the [Student Experiences](#) section of our website to see where past students have studied (you can read blogs by major!).

4. **Can I do an internship, for credit, abroad?**

   Yes! We have internship options that can be done during summer or for a semester. Summer internships usually earn 3-6 credits. Semester internships usually earn 9-12 credits depending on the program. To learn more, schedule an appointment with a study abroad advisor!

5. **Are there any volunteer or service-learning options?**

   We have a number of service-learning opportunities that are linked with course credit! We are more than happy to talk with interested students about those opportunities.

   Volunteer opportunities usually do not come with course credit so the Office of Study Abroad doesn’t work with any volunteer abroad organizations.

Health and Safety:

1. **Is study abroad safe?**
Our University is fully committed to offering a safe and secure learning environment. We have spent a great deal of time reviewing all of our abroad programs. We do not allow any student to travel to a country with an active Department of State travel advisory of level 3 or 4. We are also partnered with numerous affiliate providers who have robust and comprehensive health, safety, and security policies.

With that being said, students must do their own research and determine how safe they feel going to a location in which UTC has an abroad program. If you do not feel safe going to a specific location (for whatever reason!) then we would never advise that you travel there.

It is important for students to understand, and be aware of, the fact that a situation in a city, country, or region can change rapidly. We cannot predict when natural disasters may strike, for instance. These sudden changes can greatly impact the on-going health and safety within an area. In events such as these, students should know that the University has plans in place to assist students, whether that means getting them services in their host country or arranging their return to the US.

Our office is more than willing to talk with you about any concerns you may have as these can often vary between students. Feel free to schedule an advising appointment and we can chat about anything you’d like to chat about!

2. **How does UTC determine safety factors in study abroad programs?**

The Office of Study Abroad looks at a number of different areas when determining what programs we’ll offer to our students. We rely on Department of State travel advisories as well as CDC alerts. We are also partnered with International SOS and thoroughly review their travel alerts in relation to specific countries or regions.

We also work closely with our Office of Safety and Risk Management when it comes to any international travel for our students.

For those students who elect to study through one of our affiliate providers, we have full faith in the vetting process that these partners have done. All of them have teams dedicated solely to the health, safety, and security of students going abroad and have dedicated and reliable teams on-ground, in-country to assistance students.

3. **What resources will I have while abroad to support me?**

While abroad you’ll have many of the same resources you might find here at UTC (likely, you’ll actually have more!). You’ll have host university/center resources, affiliate provider resources (if you go through a provider), as well as continued support from UTC.

If you live with a host family, you’ll have their support; if you live on-campus or in an apartment, you’ll have the support of roommates. And, you’ll have support through the new networks you build once you get abroad (friends, co-workers if you’re doing an internship or service-learning).

4. **Will I have insurance when I’m abroad?**

Yes, we require all students to be covered by a comprehensive study abroad health insurance while abroad.

If you are going through an affiliate provider program, the cost of this insurance is accounted for in the program fee.
If you are going through a UTC exchange program, the Office of Study Abroad will enroll you in an insurance plan.

It’s important to note that your US based health insurance will likely not be as comprehensive while you’re abroad. This is why you are covered through a study abroad insurance plan for your program.

5. Can I receive ADA accommodations while abroad (similar to what I have here at UTC/in the US)?

The ADA is applicable in the US only and doesn’t apply internationally. However, many programs will work with students to find comparable accommodations for them while abroad.

It is important to be very open and upfront with the host university and/or affiliate provider regarding your program plans as well as any accommodations you may need while abroad. As much as some programs would like to accommodate students, they may be limited in their resources and what they are able to provide. This is something you would want to know before making a firm commitment to a program.

If you plan on participating in a faculty-led program, you can work with the Disability Resource Center at UTC to determine what type of accommodation they may be able to arrange for you while abroad.

Financial Aid and Scholarships:

1. Can UTC financial aid be used for study abroad?

Yes, you can utilize most types of financial aid for study abroad! Students can utilize State and Federal financial aid such as HOPE scholarship, Pell Grant, Loans, and University scholarships for study abroad.

Students who receive any type of academic service/work-study aid need to work closely with financial aid to determine if this aid can be utilized for study abroad.

In most instances, in order to use financial aid and scholarships, students must maintain the equivalent of full-time UTC enrollment while abroad.

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<th>Full-time UTC Equivalent Credits</th>
<th>Undergraduate</th>
<th>Graduate</th>
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<tr>
<td>Semester</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>9</td>
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<td>Summer</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>~4.5</td>
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Full-time UTC equivalent credit requirements do not apply to the Center for Global Education study abroad scholarships. This means that if you are taking only 3 credits for a summer study abroad, you are still eligible to apply for a CGE study abroad scholarship!

Speaking of CGE study abroad scholarships – the CGE awards over $250,000 in study abroad scholarships each year!

A note on military/VA/GI benefits – students receiving these benefits are unable to use them on study abroad programs.

2. I receive a tuition discount at UTC due to my parent’s employment status; does that apply to study abroad?
Unfortunately, these types of discounts do not apply to study abroad programs. These programs give students discounts on their UTC tuition for when they are taking classes at UTC. It’s possible that you may be able to utilize some of the discount if you enroll in some UTC classes while you’re also taking classes abroad (for instance, if you did a summer program abroad but enrolled in some UTC online courses as well).

We recommend that you schedule an advising appointment with a study abroad advisor to discuss options if you receive some type of UTC tuition discount due to a family members employment status.

3. *I’m a UT Promise student, how does that apply to study abroad?*

It’s possible that you may be able to use UT Promise for certain study abroad programs (such as exchange). We recommend that you schedule an appointment with a study abroad advisor to discuss your options for study abroad.

Please also keep in mind that there are a wide variety of scholarships that you can apply for as part of study abroad. Additionally, there are even programs (outside of exchange) that can be very comparable in cost to UTC tuition.

4. *Do I pay UTC tuition for study abroad?*

You will only pay UTC tuition if you elect to go abroad through an exchange study abroad program. For exchange programs you pay UTC tuition and would not pay the host university tuition. You would pay room & board, and any other miscellaneous expenses overseas though.

If you elect to participate in an affiliate provider program, you will not pay UTC tuition but instead pay the provider program fee (which may be higher than UTC tuition). You would also pay for housing through the provider and be responsible for any additional fees.

If you select a direct enroll program, then you would follow the guidance of the host university but would not pay UTC tuition on top of the host university rates.

For faculty-led trips, you pay UTC tuition for the UTC courses you are taking as well as the study abroad program fee associated with the study abroad trip.

5. *What are other scholarships I might be eligible for if I study abroad?*

In addition to being able to potentially use your UTC financial aid for study abroad, students should also know that there are a wide variety of scholarship opportunities available for study abroad. Options include:

- [Gilman Scholarship](#) (note: you must be a Pell Grant recipient in order to apply for this scholarship)
- [Boren Scholarship](#)
- [Fund for Education Abroad](#)
- [Freeman-Asia Scholarship](#)
- [Critical Language Scholarship](#)
- [Center for Global Education Scholarship](#)
- [Additional Outside Scholarship Resources](#) (including links to provider specific websites)

**Reasons you may think you can’t go abroad but may not actually be true!**

1. *It’s too expensive/I could never afford it!*
Here at UTC we have a variety of study abroad programs and, if you give us the chance, we may be able to find the perfect abroad program for you! We have programs that are comparable in price to study at UTC. Additionally, students can use some types of financial aid and can also apply for additional scholarships related to study abroad (Center for Global Education scholarships as well as outside scholarships through US government agencies and through specific host providers).

2. *I don’t see how a study abroad experience would benefit me personally or professionally.*

Studying abroad really instills a greater sense of independence in our students! It often helps shape, and sharpen, their goals (personally and professionally)! We could go on and on about how amazing study abroad is for your own personal growth and development, but instead of doing that we invite you to read about the experiences from your fellow Mocs who have been abroad. You can check out their stories in the Student Experiences section of our website.

3. *There is no way I could study abroad with my major.*

There are study abroad opportunities available for every major! We recognize that some majors may have additional areas that need to be considered when planning a time abroad, but we are more than happy to work with any student, in any major, to find a program that fits what they are needing.

We also recommend students check out our study abroad student blogs to see where students in various majors have studied abroad in the past (and, if your major isn’t on there, don’t worry – you could be the first one to write a blog for us on your study abroad experience and that could be the exact motivation another student needs to go abroad!).

4. *I’ve never been outside the state/region/country before, let alone on a plane! I can’t see myself getting on a plane and traveling overseas.*

Believe it or not, many of UTC study abroad alum had never been outside the US prior to going on their study abroad program. We certainly understand the uncertainty that can surround going abroad for the first time and being so far away from home. What’s great is that we have a wide variety of study abroad opportunities, so if you aren’t ready for a full semester abroad (or even summer) you can look into shorter program options (maybe a 2 week faculty led trip that allows you to go abroad with a group of your UTC peers and a UTC faculty member?).

5. *I don’t speak another language and/or I don’t want to study a language while abroad.*

That’s okay! We have such a wide variety of programs that if you don’t want to study another language while abroad, or if you don’t know another language, you can still find a program! Studying a foreign language is not a requirement to go abroad, nor is it a requirement for you to take a foreign language course while abroad (although, there are some programs that do require the study of the local language, so just make sure you’re looking at those requirements when reviewing programs).

How do I learn more?

1. *How can I make an appointment with a study abroad advisor?*
You can schedule an appointment through SSC Campus/Navigate. Information on how to schedule an appointment can be found under the “Announcements” section on the study abroad main page, www.utc.edu/studyabroad.

After you have scheduled an appointment, be on the lookout for an email from a study abroad advisor. The study abroad advisor will schedule a Zoom meeting for your appointment and will send you the invite. Beginning in August, 2020 you’ll also have the opportunity to meet face-to-face with an advisor (but you’ll always have the option to request the meeting be conducted via Zoom).

2. Where is the Center for Global Education (Office of Study Abroad) located and can I stop by?

Through July 2020, the Center for Global Education will be closed to visitors unless a pre-arranged visit has been scheduled. The best way to get in touch with the Office of Study abroad is via email or by scheduling an appointment (see above).

We hope to be able to resume in-person meetings with students once the Fall 2020 semester has started. More information on Fall 2020 appointments will be updated on our website later in the summer. The Center for Global Education is currently located in Hooper Hall, 202. Beginning in August 2020, we will relocate to the 1st Floor of the newly renovated Lupton Building.

3. What type of information sessions do you have?

Every semester the Center for Global Education, Office of Study Abroad, hosts various information sessions. Students interested in studying abroad should plan on attending the Study Abroad 101 and 102 sessions to learn more about the study abroad process at UTC. You can learn more about sessions, and sign up for one, on our website, www.utc.edu/studyabroad (see the “Study Abroad 101/102 Sign Up” section).

The Office of Study Abroad will also be hosting various other informational sessions throughout the semester so keep an eye on your email for these announcements (and make sure to follow us on social media, @UTCGlobal).