



STUDY ABROAD BULLETIN



SPRING SEMESTER 2020

APPLICATION DEADLINES

- ★ February 3, 2020 for most fall or academic year programs
- ★ January 15, 2020 for Oxford
- ★ January 15, 2020 for petitions to do non-UR semester or year abroad programs

Click [here](#) for details.

HOW TO APPLY

Our [online application system](#) allows you to begin an application, save it, and return to finish it later.

Remember that study abroad is a competitive process; there are different academic requirements and a different number of spots available for each program. Acceptance decisions are made primarily on the academic fit between the student and the program.

You should select your first-choice and second-choice programs with equal care as many students are approved for the program they have indicated as being their second preference. You indicate both preferences in the same application.

One or both of your first or second-choice programs must be an [exchange/direct enroll program](#). If only one of your choices is an exchange/direct enroll program, your other choice can be an [affiliate program](#). The reason for this requirement stems from UR's study abroad philosophy of immersion not only in a foreign culture, but also in a foreign academic system.

Robins School Students: In choosing a program, please see International Business staff in the Robins School about which program provides the best fit with your major, courses available and credit transfer; please see Study Abroad staff in the Carole Weinstein International Center about cultural differences, your foreign language skills, how you will be assessed while abroad, visas, housing, costs, and other issues.

WILL I GET MY FIRST CHOICE?

Five or six times as many UR students apply to go abroad in the fall as in the spring. It's just the opposite at most US colleges and universities. This means that there are many more people applying for spots in popular programs for the fall.



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If your GPA *barely* qualifies you for the program you want, and/or if that is a very competitive program (the advisor in charge can tell you), then you may not get your first choice. If that happens, you need to ask yourself if you want to compromise on **where** you study abroad, or **when**.

Think about it this way:

Student A applies to the program of their dreams in a challenging and picturesque country whose language they are learning. But they're not accepted for fall, so they take a place in a less interesting location so they can still go abroad when their friends do. They give up the once-in-lifetime chance to spend 4 or 5 months in a country that will give them a uniquely rewarding experience in order to stay with the Richmond crowd.

Student B applies to the same program and is also not accepted for fall, so they meet with their study abroad advisor, and learn that they will be more likely to have the experience they want if they aim for spring.

All in all, **students who compromise on which semester they study abroad are happier** than those who go on a program that does not excite them.

If you have concerns about your chances of acceptance to any given program, please see an advisor in the Office of International Education for our frank assessment and our honest advice.

OUR BLOGGERS

The OIE always has "foreign correspondents" in interesting locations, providing a student perspective on the study abroad experience. In spring 2020, we'll have people writing from several different countries. Check it out [here](#).

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDY ABROAD

[Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program](#) – Emphasis on need-based funding for US students from under-represented groups to study and intern in a diverse array of countries. **Application deadline for summer 2020, fall 2020, academic year 2020-2021, winter 2021, and spring 2021 participants is March 3, 2020 (11:59 pm Pacific Time).**

[Freeman-ASIA Scholarship](#) – Awards designated for US undergraduate students with demonstrated financial need to study in East or Southeast Asia for academic credit. **Application deadline for summer 2020, fall 2020, academic year 2020-2021, and spring 2021 will be announced in early 2020; deadlines likely to be in March 2020 for summer applications and in April 2020 for semester/year applications.**

[Bridging Scholarships](#) – For study abroad in Japan. **Application deadline for fall 2020 and 2020-2021 academic year participants will be announced in early 2020; deadline likely to be in April 2020.**



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Click [here](#) to read about all your options for study abroad scholarships.

FINANCIAL AID

If you are going on a UR-approved semester or year abroad program...

- The same types of assistance that are available to you for a semester at Richmond are still available to you
- All participants get special support from UR; see details at <https://international.richmond.edu/study-abroad/finances/support.html>

Note for all scholarships & grants: Total awards from all sources of aid may not exceed the Cost of Attendance established by UR's Office of Financial Aid. We encourage you to contact our colleagues in that office with any questions at finaid@richmond.edu or 804-289-8438.