In this issue:

- Upcoming application deadlines
- Scholarships for study abroad
- What if I don’t get what I want?

WHY NOT STUDY ABROAD?

Through study abroad, students have a unique opportunity to develop highly-valued intercultural competence. They can enhance or acquire foreign language skills. They have all kinds of travel adventures and build a lifetime of memories. Most return home with new insight on their studies and their career aspirations. Study abroad can also increase one’s desirability as a job candidate. Why would you not study abroad?

APPLICATION DEADLINES

Students who wish to study abroad for fall 2018 or the academic year need to apply by February 1, 2018 for most programs. But there are exceptions:

Apply by January 16, 2018 for these options:
- Oxford (academic year only)

Apply by January 24, 2018 for these options:
- Non-UR study abroad program petitions

Apply by February 1, 2018 for all other fall or academic year study abroad programs.

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 ONLY APPLY FOR ONE PROGRAM**

You write 95% of your application about your first-choice program. As part of your application, you need to list the name of your second-choice program and tell us which classes you’d like to take there, but you don’t do a second application.

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.

At least one of your preferred 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.

**WHAT IF I DON’T GET MY FIRST CHOICE?**

Five or six times as many UR students apply to go abroad in the fall than 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, and for scholarship funding, too.

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 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 probably be able 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.

WHY THINK SPRING?

There are so many reasons!

• If you are interested in studying in Europe, going there for the spring semester means that the weather gets progressively better. If you go for the fall, it gets progressively worse.

• A lot of people don’t realize that Western Europe is considerably further north than Virginia, so the hours of daylight increase more in spring/summer and decrease more in fall/winter than is the case here. For example, in London, the sun sets at 4 PM in December. But it does not set until 10 PM in June. It’s more fun, and safer, to travel to new places when the sun is up.

• In Europe, there are more breaks during a spring semester than a fall semester.

• You have a lot more time to travel on your own (if you want to) at the end of a spring semester in Europe than after the end of a fall semester.
• Spring-abroad students are more likely to get their preference for housing when returning to UR. Those returning from fall abroad programs come back to much more crowded campus housing.

• Spring-abroad students are more likely to get their first-choice programs. It is more common for fall-abroad students to be channeled into their second choices because they are in a much larger pool of applicants.

• If you want to go abroad with a group of friends, you are much more likely to be successful doing so in the spring.

• Some spring programs start in February, after Ring Dance and Greek recruiting, so you don’t have to miss the life-changing experience of study abroad to take part in these longstanding UR traditions. Such programs include some or all of those in Argentina, Australia, Austria, China, Germany, Israel, New Zealand, South Africa, South Korea, Switzerland and Taiwan.

STUDY ABROAD IS FOR EVERYONE

The Office of International Education (OIE) is committed to serving University of Richmond students of any identity or background. Please see our pages on diversity for information on how a student of color, a student with an LGBTQ orientation, or a first-generation college student can benefit the most from a semester abroad.

OUR BLOGGERS

The OIE always has “foreign correspondents” in interesting locations, providing a student perspective on the study abroad experience. In spring 2018, 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 funding for students from under-represented groups applying to study in non-traditional destinations. Application deadline for fall 2018 and 2018-2019 academic year participants is March 6, 2018 (11:59 pm Central Time).

Office of International Education (OIE) Scholarship – For students applying to UR exchange/direct-enrollment semester abroad programs only. Application deadline for fall 2018 participants is March 30, 2018.

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 fall 2018 and 2018-2019 academic year participants will be announced soon; likely to be in April, 2018.

Bridging Scholarships – For study abroad in Japan. Application deadline for fall 2018 and 2018-2019 academic year participants is April 11, 2018.

Click here to read about all your options for study abroad scholarships.

FINANCIAL AID

If you are going on a UR semester/year abroad program...

- The same types of assistance for which you may be considered during enrollment at Richmond are available to you for a UR approved study abroad program during the fall and/or spring terms.
- The OIE provides a travel allowance to defray the cost of your plane ticket
- We can reimburse you for the cost of a passport, student visa and/or residence permit abroad

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