

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS: TIPS FOR ADVISORS

- Students should select a study abroad program during their freshman year and apply during their sophomore year for study abroad in the junior year. Under certain circumstances, one can also study abroad in the spring of sophomore year only. The Office of International Programs does not recommend studying abroad earlier or during the senior year.
- Students cannot apply to study abroad until after they have declared a major. Some programs are particularly recommended for certain majors. However, in most cases, with proper planning and flexibility, students do not have to be limited in their options for study abroad.
- The minimum cumulative **grade point average** required for **consideration** to study abroad is 2.75. However, some programs require a 3.00. Because some programs are competitive, the minimum grade point average requirement does not guarantee acceptance. Also a student's disciplinary record is also a major factor when selecting students for study abroad.
- Before applying for a program abroad, students are **required to attend at least one of the forty-five informational program sessions in order to receive access to the on-line study abroad application and to learn about specific program benefits.** We also encourage students to attend a SARA (Study Abroad Registration Advising) to review potential courses for abroad.
- Students should save as many free electives and non-departmental electives as possible to take abroad. Students should not complete all of their core requirements before they know which courses they will be able to take abroad. **However, on registration day, due to limited course availability, it may be necessary for the student to register for courses that he/she intends to reserve for study abroad.** After the registration period is over, the Academic Advising and Support Center will work with the student to make whatever adjustments are possible to accommodate the student's original scheduling plans.
- Students should take major courses as early as possible in their program of studies and check with their major advisor about what major courses they must take on campus and what major courses they can save to take abroad. **Again, some flexibility on the part of the student and advisor is necessary in scheduling courses at Loyola due to limited availability at registration.**
- Degree programs that have minors or double majors and/or minors can make it more difficult to find courses abroad. Therefore, students may have to make some decisions regarding studying abroad and their intended degree program.

For additional information please contact International Programs at X2910 or 2920.