

STUDY ABROAD FAMILY GUIDE



[WEBSTER.EDU/STUDYABROAD](https://www.webster.edu/studyabroad)

ACCRA, GHANA | ATHENS, GREECE | BANGKOK, THAILAND
CHA-AM/HUA HIN, THAILAND | GENEVA, SWITZERLAND
LEIDEN, NETHERLANDS | SHANGHAI, CHINA
VIENNA, AUSTRIA

Dear Parents and Family Members,

Thank you for supporting your student's interest in study abroad at Webster University. We believe study abroad can be a formative experience during a student's college years. There are many benefits that results from spending time in a new culture, for example, soft skills development like intercultural communication and programs solving, or academic and career outcomes like improved GPAs and higher starting salaries post-graduation. At Webster, global learning is essential to the university's mission and its commitment to the development of citizens who are prepared to handle of the challenges of the 21st century on a global scale. You see the mission in action through academic experiences such as study abroad and the global citizenship program.

As a parent or family member of a Webster student, you play an important role in their college success. As in other areas, your help and encouragement regarding study abroad opportunities is imperative. In return, you will see your student develop the confidence and independence to encounter new cultures, learn from them, and come back to the US more well-rounded and culturally competent. Our office would like to extend a sincere thank you for all you have done and continue to do. We hope this guide will be a good introduction to Webster study abroad. Please know that our office is not only here to work with your student, but with you as well. Our door is always open. Together, we can ensure that your child has a positive, productive and life-changing experience overseas.



Sincerely,
Kelly Heath
Director
Office of Study Abroad
Webster University

STUDY ABROAD OPPORTUNITIES

At Webster University, students can spend a term, summer, semester or even a year at one of our campuses in Austria, China, Greece, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Thailand and Ghana. Each international campus offers a range of U.S. and internationally accredited degree programs. We also have study abroad partnerships in, Belgium, England, Germany, Italy, Japan, Mexico and Spain, and offer many short-term opportunities around the globe.

ACADEMIC CREDITS

The process of earning academic credit on a Webster study abroad program is seamless. With a broad range of courses available, students can find options that overlap with their major, minor or Global Citizenship Program requirements. Students should meet with a study abroad advisor to go over their program and course options and an academic advisor to review their degree plan. Together, they can form a plan with the overall goal of a rewarding academic experience abroad and timely degree completion.

BENEFITS

The impact of studying abroad will provide benefits for a lifetime.

Experience Culturally Diverse Environment

There are students of more than 100 nationalities studying at Webster campuses around the globe. Our campuses provide students the opportunity to live and study in culturally diverse environments.

Career Benefits

Globalization is changing the way the world works and studying abroad helps students gain valuable experience engaging with the world around you. Study abroad opens students' eyes to new ways of thinking, instilling a more informed approach to problem-solving in cross-cultural contexts.

Personal Growth and Development

Students who study abroad tend to grow into global citizens as they reflect upon their own culture and gain valuable knowledge about cultures and traditions around the world.

HEALTH & SAFETY ABROAD

Webster places great value on the health and safety of students. All students who go abroad will receive a range of resources to help prepare for the experience, including a half-day pre-departure orientation that covers international health and safety topics in detail. Additionally, Webster provides all study abroad students with international health and accident insurance through GeoBlue. The full policy is available on the Study Abroad web site.

TUITION, SCHOLARSHIPS AND FINANCIAL AID

Financial Information

Study abroad is an investment in your student's future, and like any type of investment, it requires careful planning, consideration, and commitment.

Webster strives to make study abroad as affordable as possible. All students going abroad have baseline costs including tuition, housing and a study abroad fee. These charges will be billed to their student account. The tuition corresponds with the tuition rates of Webster St. Louis Housing rates vary per program site and are in line with the cost of living in a given location. The fee varies based on the length of the program and covers international health insurance and the International Student ID (ISIC) Card. For more information on exact program costs, please visit the Study Abroad web site.

Here is a list of funding opportunities available for study abroad:

- **Webster World Traveler Program Fly Free**
With the Webster World Traveler Program, full-time undergraduate or graduate Webster students may qualify for a free round-trip ticket to one of Webster's international campuses or partner institutions.
- **Webster University Study Abroad Financial Aid**
Webster students retain their federal, state, and Webster University funding (with the exception of work-study funds) while studying abroad through a Webster program. Institutional and state aid is available for the fall and spring semesters only; summer students may be eligible for federal aid.
- **Scholarships**
Webster University is committed to helping students make their experience abroad even more affordable by offering several scholarships specifically for students who plan to study abroad. Scholarships are currently available for full-time undergraduate or graduate students at Webster University.

SPECIAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PARENTS & FAMILIES

If you are considering visiting your student, having for a passport is crucial. Obtaining a passport can take quite a bit of time so we recommend you to start applying for a passport as soon as possible. For more detailed instructions and information on how to obtain a passport, please go to the U.S. Department of State's website. Additionally, we recommend that you plan your trip towards the end of your student's program so they will have time to acclimate, learn the language and get comfortable navigating their host city. This will make for a better experience for all parties.



PARENT TESTIMONIAL

“While both of my sons had fantastic experiences throughout their time at Webster, we would all say the highlight was study abroad. My oldest studied in Leiden in Fall 2012, and my youngest studied in Athens in Spring 2017 and in Vienna in Summer 2018. The experiences changed them both. Each returned more confident and more open to trying new things. They connected not only with other Webster study abroad students but also students at the international campuses and from the partner institutions like SUNY Geneseo. In some ways their worlds became smaller and in others, their worlds became so much larger!

Whether they were celebrating non-US holidays, helping refugees in service learning activities, or taking weekend trips with fellow students, they created rich memories.

Because of Webster’s international network, there was an added layer of security for me. Webster was taking care of sons whether they were at Webster in St. Louis or Webster in Europe. It also gave them the security of having a more familiar classroom experience while they adjusted to all the newness navigating new cultures. I wish every student could have this opportunity!”

— Holly Hubenschmidt
Webster University Parent

Feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns you may have at any point in your student's application or study abroad experience

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With its home campus in St. Louis, Missouri, USA, Webster University (www.webster.edu) comprises an action-oriented global network of faculty, staff, students and alumni who forge powerful bonds with each other and with their communities around the globe. Founded in 1915, Webster is a private non-profit university with students studying at campus locations in North America, Europe, Asia and Africa and in a robust learning environment online. The university is committed to ensuring high-quality learning experiences that transform students for global citizenship and individual excellence.