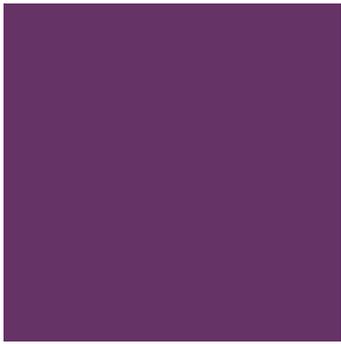


+ Why You Should Say Yes to Studying Abroad



Dear CSD Student,

I know all of the excuses. It's too much money. I don't want to sacrifice my break. I don't know anybody else going. It's not going to be long enough. I'll wait for the next one. The list goes on and on! Please, be advised that these are all lies you've let yourself believe! Studying abroad, no matter the location or duration, is an experience you will never regret or forget. As CSD students, we are often limited for time and left without the option to study abroad for an entire semester. That being said, the short-term study abroad opportunities are a perfect alternative for satisfying your itch to travel.



1. It's only the beginning

You may not think that a single trip to one or two countries during a college break of yours would initiate a lifelong passion for travel, but there's only one way to find out. If you're anything like me, once you return from your initial study abroad trip, you'll be booking plane tickets left and right with the intention of see at least half of the world before the age of 25. Let the dream of travel have its chance to plant its seed inside of you. You may find yourself going on each and every CSD study abroad experience or traveling solo on your own accord.

2. People, people, people

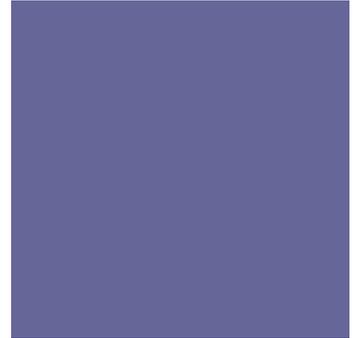
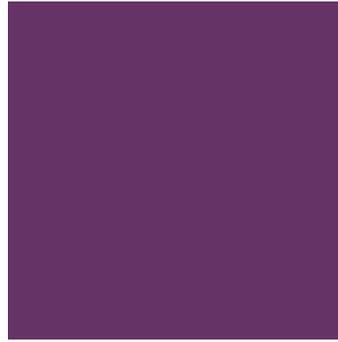
Whether it be the professor you have only associated yourself with during office hours, the other CSD student you occasionally see wandering the building, or a foreigner with a story worthy of being heard, you will have the opportunity to experience people in a way you never have before. All of these people suddenly become raw once you've landed in another country with the world at your fingertips. Even if you sign up for the trip solo, I promise you will return with new and amazing connections you didn't have when you left.

3. Be a tourist or a local

The great thing about the CSD study abroad experiences is the flexible way in which they are organized. Each trip is in a group tour format, meaning that the most important places and activities at each destination are included as group activities for everybody on the trip. This made traveling extremely stress-free, as I knew I would be able to snap some Instagram-worthy photos of all of the most important things and places while abroad. That being said, plenty of free time was included for the roamers and the wanderers who wanted to spend time getting lost in a foreign city or trying all the local cuisine they could get their hands on. Whether you're the wandering type or the tourist type, you won't be disappointed.

4. Invest in yourself

On the surface, the cost of going on a study abroad trip may seem like a rather large chunk of cash. I won't argue with that! However, applying for even just one more scholarship could potentially cover half (or more) of your trip! You may have to make sacrifices in order to find the funding, but there is no doubt it will be worth it. Keep in mind that you aren't just buying a trip around the world; you would be investing in yourself and your future! These experiences have the opportunity to change you if you let them. The experience of travel is far more valuable than any material thing money can buy.



5. You will return with more than memories

Studying abroad and traveling changes you as a person. Not only will you fall in love with another part of the world, but you will learn things about yourself you did not know before. More specifically, you will develop or enhance existing important life skills that will be transferable to plenty of situations, including your appeal to employers. Something you will surely experience while abroad is the need for flexibility and adaptability. Traveling plans are like dancing lessons, you must learn to breeze past the upsets and adjust to whatever the group as a whole agrees to act on. Subway stops may be missed, certain tourist attractions may close unexpectedly, and the weather may cause some disruption. If you aren't flexible and able to continue enjoying your trip past these setbacks, you simply won't be a successful world traveler. And employers are aware of this! The more you travel, the more experience you have adjusting your sails to the wind; and in a foreign country nonetheless! As you work on a team, whether it is on an IEP team or a hospital team, flexibility is a top priority. In order to move past the moments, you must be flexible while traveling because you will experience the need to problem-solve and make important decisions. Which subway stop do we have to get off on? All these signs are in a foreign language, which direction are we supposed to go in? We have no way of communicating electronically with each other, how and where are we going to meet up after this activity? I faced each of these challenges in a matter of a single hour or two, and it is guaranteed you will as well. It is a great way to learn how to think critically and make decisions based off of what is safest and most convenient for everyone as a whole. A skill like this will always transfer to the work place, as you are making decisions for the sake of a client as well as the rest of the team. What better way to practice such a practical skill than while traveling the world? A strong, unique resume is only another thing you will take away from studying abroad with the CSD program!