



Taking your studies abroad will open a whole range of new experiences and opportunities to you, while seeing the world and furthering your career prospects. You will need to do an incredible amount of planning, and you must be willing to do much of the legwork yourself.

You should begin with your research 12-18 months before you travel - this will give you enough time to sort out your applications, any funding required, student visas that may be required to study in your chosen country, course fees, any study exchange programmes and more. It's vital that you think about the important, bureaucratic things that will help make your time abroad run as smoothly as possible.

Read on to look at the study abroad checklist:

Choose where you want to study - decide where you'd like to study, research all your shortlisted educational establishments to discover which ones would be right for you by visiting university websites, looking at social media and talking to teachers/lecturers, family, tutors and your career practitioner.

Choose your course - to help you find the right course to study abroad, think about what subjects you enjoy studying at school/college or sixth form. You could consider your hobbies, could this be something you would like to study at university? Think of your career goals - if you know what you want to do after you graduate, choose a degree course that will provide you with the academic knowledge and skillset to progress.

Paperwork – when you're ready to apply to a university overseas, there's several documents you'll need to get together to make your application. These include: your A-level results certificates (if you haven't received them, you should give your predicted grades). A letter of recommendation or reference, usually from one of your teachers/lecturers, your personal statement that outlines your interest in the subject, copies of personal identification including your passport.

Passport - you need to ensure that your passport will remain valid for the duration of your study abroad programme. Many countries will require you to have at least six months extra on your passport beyond the end of your studies, so make sure you allow for your study time, any additional travelling time, plus an additional six months.

Visa - depending on your chosen country of study, you will more than likely need a student visa. Some schools will assist with the student visa process, if no help is offered, get straight onto the job of securing your student visa yourself. If you are doing this on your own, you will need to contact the embassy or consulate of your country of study and get advice on the application process.

Finance - Overseas tuition fees vary widely, with some counties charging very high fees for international students. Discuss [funding options](#) with your chosen university as there may be [scholarships and bursaries](#) available to help with the costs. Don't ignore your living expenses and travel (including airfares) - these things should be factored into your finances. Some university websites provide estimates of your outgoings so use these resources to your advantage.

Cultural Awareness/Research - The first thing you will want to do is research your destination. Speak to people you know who have visited the country, read up on information about the country and seek tips and advice from the university website. It can also be helpful to learn the cultural values of the country you are going to study in. Learning some of the country's basic history, politics, national events and what the weather will be like can really help you with cultural adjustment in your new home. If you can also learn a few basic words in the countries language. For example hello, goodbye, please and thank you – they will help you in the long run.

Health & Insurance - Visit your doctor for a full medical check-up before you head off, making sure you've had any required vaccinations. You then have time to sort out ongoing prescriptions with your GP too. Many universities around the world require proof of your insurance before you arrive in the country. There are different options available - from essential cover to more extensive alternatives.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/study-in-the-european-union>

International Student Identity Card - If you're a full-time student you can apply for a student card with ISIC. ISIC offers both virtual and plastic cards, allowing students around the world to instantly prove their official student status and access over 150,000 student discounts and offers worldwide.



Useful Websites:

- <https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/international/studying-abroad/>
- <https://www.thescholarshipshub.org.uk/blog/study-abroad-scholarships-uk-students>
- <https://www.topuniversities.com/student-info/studying-abroad/how-study-abroad-frequently-asked-questions>
- <http://www.venture-uk.co.uk/>
- <https://www.studyoptions.com/>
- <https://www.britishcouncil.org/study-work-abroad>
- <http://www.fulbright.org.uk/>
- <https://www.astarfuture.co.uk/>
- <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/postgraduate-study/study-abroad>
- <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/what-and-where-study/studying-overseas>
- <https://www.goabroad.com/study-abroad>
- <https://studee.com/discover/the-ultimate-guide-to-studying-abroad-as-a-uk-student/>
- <https://www.gov.uk/global-health-insurance-card>
- https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/resources/programme-guide_en
- <https://www.worldtrips.com/blog/Posts/study-abroad-checklist>

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