

# Frequently Asked Questions

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## **What are the requirements to study abroad?**

The two requirements to study abroad are you must have at least a 2.5 GPA and have a clean disciplinary record at Plymouth State. Some programs have higher GPA requirements, but generally do not exceed a 3.0 minimum.

## **When should I start planning my study abroad experience?**

If studying abroad is one of your goals, you should start planning during your first year at Plymouth State. You should start saving money and outlining your course schedule for each semester at PSU so you have more curricular flexibility while abroad. It is always easier to take general education courses and electives when you study abroad.

## **How do I know if I can study abroad with my major?**

All majors can study abroad! However, it is easier for some majors to go abroad than others. The best thing you can do is start planning early, so you can have a better understanding of which courses you can take abroad and which courses you absolutely have to take at Plymouth State.

## **How will I be able to afford to go abroad?**

If you study abroad for a semester, all of your institutional and federal aid goes with you. There are also internal and external study abroad specific scholarships. Don't forget to ask the study abroad advisor about affordable programs that will be comparable to the cost of attending Plymouth State for a semester.

## **Do I have to speak another language in order to go abroad?**

Nope! You are able to take your courses in English even if you study in a country where their official language isn't English. We also offer plenty of programs in English speaking countries. Additionally, don't be afraid if you do not speak the official language. You will be surprised how easy it is to get around, even if you only speak English.

## **When should I begin the application process?**

You can begin the application process as early as one-year before you go abroad, but most students complete the application the semester before they go abroad. So, if you are going abroad in the Summer or Fall you would complete the application in the Spring.

## **When do students typically study abroad?**

The term you go abroad may be highly dependent on your major. But at Plymouth State, it is fairly evenly split between sophomores and juniors that study abroad. The earliest you can study abroad is the summer after your first year, and the latest you can go abroad is the summer after your senior year.

## **What will my housing be like when I am abroad?**

There is a lot of variability in the types of housing offered. Some of the housing will be apartment style where you have your own room, but share common spaces. Some housing will be more like your typical dorm room. Some programs will offer a homestay option, which is where you live with a local family - this is a great option for students that want to immerse themselves into the local culture.

## **Will I need a visa?**

Most countries require U.S. citizens to apply for a visa before departing for their program abroad. This is especially true for semester long programs. Be aware that you will need a valid passport to apply for your visa. If you need help finding the information to apply for your passport or visa, please reach out to the Global Engagement Office.

## **Will I graduate on time if I go abroad?**

Yes! In some cases, you may even be able to graduate early by going abroad. In order to make sure you graduate on time, it is vital that you coordinate with your academic advisor before going abroad and pass all of the courses you take abroad. You need an equivalent of a C or better to pass your courses.