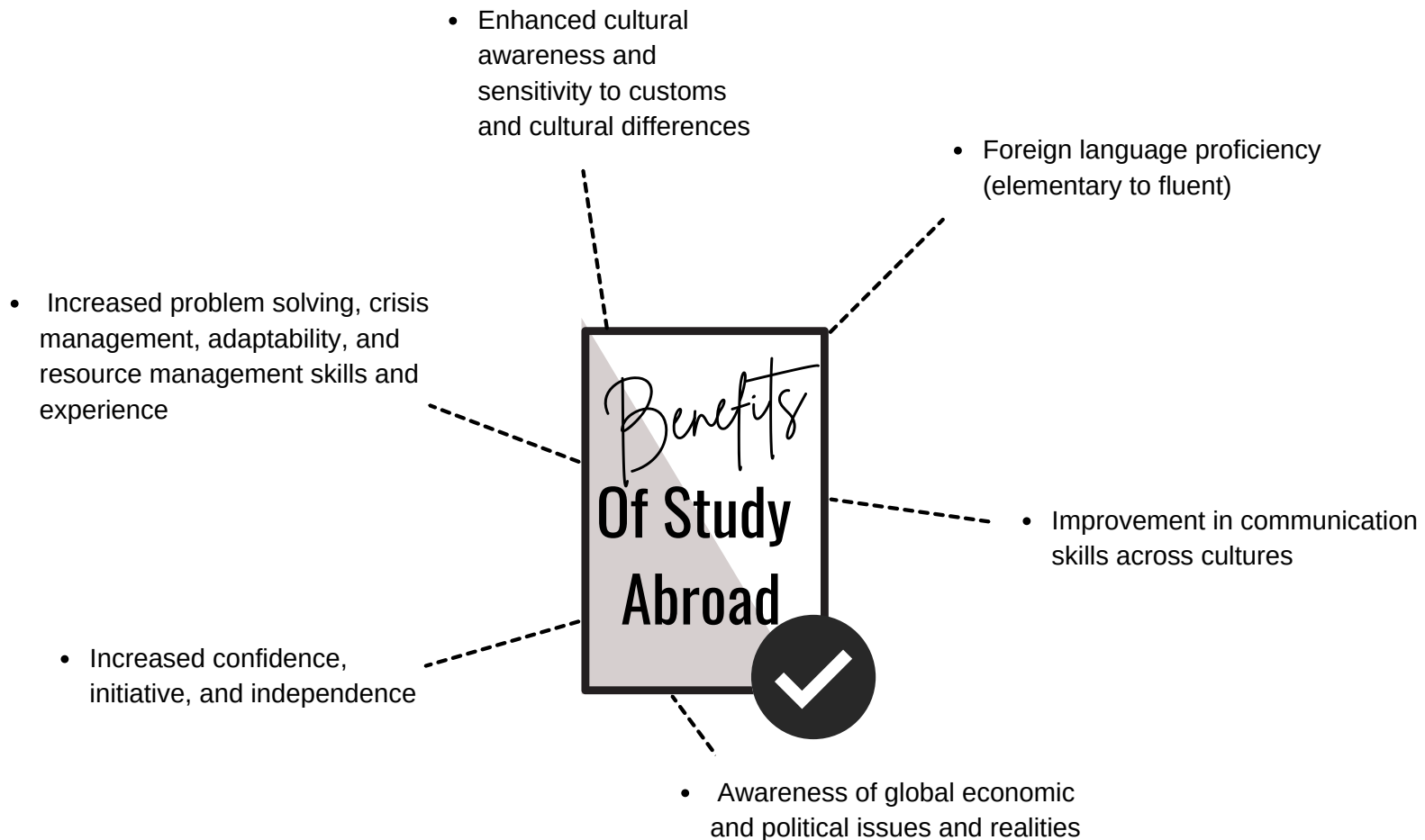


Studying abroad sets you apart when applying to jobs, internships, and graduate schools. Many potential employers and graduate school admissions counselors seek candidates with international experience because of the skills and knowledge students gain through study abroad. It is up to you to effectively communicate the skills and proficiencies that will benefit their organization and convince them of the value of your experience.

Benefits of Studying Abroad

There are many benefits to studying abroad! The following are some benefits that will help your career readiness that can be obtained through study abroad experiences:



Top Skills Employers are Looking for:

Your study abroad experience gives you many opportunities that can set you apart from your peers. These following skills are the core competencies that employers look for and by utilizing your study abroad experience to show these can emphasize many aspects of these including flexibility, adaptability, work ethic, and initiative.

Communication

- Clearly and effectively exchanges information, facts, ideas, and perspectives with persons inside and outside of an organization
- Asks appropriate questions
- Understands the importance of verbal, written, non-verbal/body language, and abilities

Leadership

- Recognizes and capitalizes on personal and team strengths to achieve organizational goals
- Inspires, persuades and motivates self and others
- Seeks out and leverages diverse resources
- Uses innovative thinking to go beyond traditional methods

Teamwork

- Builds and maintains collaborative relationships to work effectively toward common goals
- Appreciates diverse viewpoints
- Negotiates and manages conflict

Critical Thinking

- Utilizes sound, inclusive reasoning, and judgment
- Interprets data with awareness of biases that may impact outcomes
- Effectively communicates actions and rationale recognizes diverse perspectives and lived experiences of stakeholders



Technology

- Understands and leverages current technologies ethically to enhance efficiencies, complete tasks, and accomplish goals
- Adapts to new and emerging technologies

Equity & Inclusion

- Demonstrates the awareness, attitude, knowledge, and skills required to equitably engage and include people from different local and global cultures
- Actively contributes to inclusive and equitable practices that influence individual and systematic change
- Keeps an open mind to diverse ideas and new ways of thinking

Professionalism

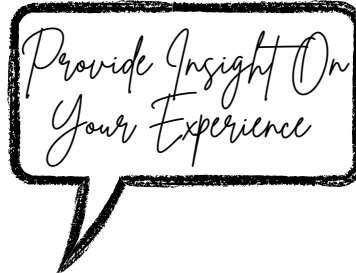
- Acts equitably with integrity and accountability
- Understands and demonstrates effective work habits
- Able to learn from mistakes
- Demonstrates dependability

Career & Self-Development

- Shows awareness of own strengths and areas for development
- Seeks and embraces development opportunities
- Professionally advocates for oneself and others

Self Reflection

- What skills or proficiencies have you acquired or enhanced while you were abroad?
- Which stories highlight new skills and knowledge from your study abroad experience?
- What was the most significant thing you learned about yourself through your study abroad experience? Why?
- How did studying abroad enhance your knowledge, skills, and understanding of your intended career field?
- What assets might international study yield as opposed to someone who studied domestically?



*Ask Yourself
These Questions*

Before You Go and When You Return

Items to Consider Before:

- How will the study abroad experience add valuable new skills to your presentation of interests and career goals on your resume?
- Is improving language skills one of your goals?
- Would you have an opportunity for a part-time internship (or full-time in the summer if you study abroad in spring semester) or other means of experiential learning such as a volunteer or service-learning project?
- Talk to professional connections or alumni you know who studied abroad. Ask how it has contributed to their professional journey.

While Abroad & When You Return

- Bring a list of the questions and answers from the column to the left.
- Remind yourself to regularly reflect on these things during your time abroad:
- How would I explain to an employer how this course or experience is preparing me to be a better employee?
- Consider keeping a journal to track these insights for later when applying to internships or jobs.
- When you return: visit Career Services for help effectively articulating your experience in a resume, cover letter, and interview!

Networking and Interviews

Here are a few insights on how to utilize your study abroad experience to prepare for job interviews and improve networking skills.



If your interviewer remarks or asks about your international experience, take it as an opportunity to expand. Don't let the opportunity pass by with a simple "Yes, it was great!"



Develop stories and responses in advance. Be ready to show it was a learning experience and provide examples.



Identify skills in the job/internship description and create examples from your international experience that exemplify those skills. Be sure to also use domestic examples and ensure your example stones are balanced. It is better to illustrate critical thinking skills than to show-off one culture at the expense of another.

Resume and Cover Letter

Here are a few insights on how to highlight your study abroad experience on both your cover letter and resume.



Be sure to add your international experience to your resume and cover letter where it is appropriate for your intended job or internship.



Consider listing the study abroad program under the education section of your resume rather than activities or other experiences. Add details (such as completing courses in the foreign language) that show your skills.



If the international experience included an internship, list the experience as a professional experience on your resume rather than as an activity.



Even if your career goals do not include a specific international dimension at this time, use your cover letter to promote general, transferable skills, such as independence, confidence, problem solving, and flexibility.

Study Abroad & International Education Examples on Resumes

INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

Study Abroad, University of Madrid, Madrid, Spain, Spring 20XX

- Became fluent in Spanish while immersed in the language
- Developed an increased appreciation for cultural diversity

INTERNATIONAL SPANISH EXPERIENCE

UWEC Study Abroad Program Participant, University of Valladolid, Spain, January–July 20XX

International High School Exchange Student, Peru, June–July 20XX

INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL EXPERIENCE

Participant, International Leadership Seminar for State Officers, Madrid, Spain, 20XX

- Selected to participate in an international agricultural two week trip to Spain
- Gained knowledge of international agricultural business by meeting with business leaders and local farmers
- Communicated with numerous government officials, farmers and citizens of Spain to share knowledge of United States agriculture

INTERNATIONAL STUDY & TRAVEL

Semester Abroad, University of Giessen, Germany, Fall 20XX

- Developed and enhanced German vocabulary by taking German Immersion courses
- Researched and presented findings to both German and American professors on the history of German architecture as an international study research project

Tour of Italy, Napoli, Rome, Capri, Venice, June 20XX

- Toured four cities in Italy as a part of an eight day tour group, focusing on Italian culture and cuisine