

Global Experience Webcast FAQ

At Northeastern, we believe global experiences help our students develop the knowledge, awareness, perspective, and confidence to feel comfortable anywhere in the world. Working and living in another country presents some challenges, but as they overcome these challenges, students gain intercultural competency, international exposure, and a deeper understanding of what it means to be a global citizen.

Here are some questions and answers from our [Global Experience Webcast](#):

Where are most of the co-op opportunities located?

Northeastern offers global learning experiences that connect students with the world in 160 cities in 69 countries (2009-2010). Our [international cooperative education program](#) offers co-op positions in 49 countries, with employers ranging from multinational corporations to international agencies and NGOs. Our intensive, faculty-led [Dialogue of Civilizations](#) trips put students on the ground, bringing to life classroom studies in the history, culture, business, politics, and economics of other nations. For a more traditional [study-abroad experience](#), our international study office offers 55 programs in 32 countries.

If outside of Boston area, is housing and transportation the responsibility of the student or the school?

The housing situation abroad varies according to location. For example, some companies offer their employees housing while others do not. In many cases we put students in touch with past students for helpful tips regarding housing resources.

Are the students paid or do they just get credit as if they were attending class?

The co-op program provides students with opportunities to alternate six-month periods of academic study and periods of full-time employment related to their academic majors and interests. The amount of pay varies according to the employer, position and level of experience.

What happens if a student does not get offered the co-op job?

If you do not get offered a position abroad the international co-op team will work hard to try and locate another international opportunity for you. Otherwise, you should touch base with your co-op coordinator to find a domestic position.

Do students have an advisor/counselor that provides information/council about the logistics of doing a co-op?

Students are encouraged to make an appointment with the appropriate international co-op counselor. He/she can assist with the following: application submissions, making travel plans and arrangements, explaining eligibility for [The Presidential Global Scholarship](#).

All students go through a pre-departure orientation session conducted by the international co-op office. Orientation sessions will go over essential information including logistics, safety, insurance, and travel. Northeastern University provides all students with SOS International

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Assurance. In addition to the services offered through SOS, students are always welcome to get in touch with your international co-op counselor.

How do students prepare for an international co-op, Dialogue of Civilizations or Study Abroad program?

International co-op requires a certain level of maturity, self-reliance, confidence and commitment. For those students who have a strong interest in pursuing an international opportunity, the following tips are helpful to keep in mind when applying:

- Contact one of the international co-op advisors in the [International Co-op Office](#) who will work with you one-on-one to create a customized plan.
- Inquire about the [Presidential Global Scholars Program](#) and learn more about eligibility.
- Look into joining an international student group on campus that pertains to your area of interest (check out [Student Activities](#)).
- Take classes and enhance your language skills.
- Sign up for international co-op workshops. Speak to your international co-op advisor about what is offered.
- Explore additional international opportunities such as [study abroad](#) or an [internship abroad](#).
- Obtain a valid passport before making any travel arrangements

How do students adjust to switching from campus semesters to their co-op sites or time abroad?

The [experiential learning](#) model of education at Northeastern nurtures an accepting culture where students are always coming and going from all sorts of opportunities that are away from campus. There are a lot of support systems in place and ways to reach out and get involved in the community when on campus.

With co-op students across the country and around the world, they can also stay connected to the University community through [Co-op Connections](#). Co-op Connections serves as a link to Northeastern while students are away by keeping them informed about Northeastern news and events in Boston and Beyond Boston co-op locations.

Is there a way to see what types of international programs are available for specific majors?

A list of **ALL** international co-op opportunities is available [here](#), and is searchable by major.

Dialogues of Civilizations are offered in a variety of countries and corresponding themes. For example, students can travel to South Africa to study Social Entrepreneurship, Northern Ireland for Conflict and Conflict Transformation, or Italy for Italian language and culture. A full list of locations and themes is available [here](#).

Are approved co-op choices offered to students to think about, or do students find their own program, then seek approval? If so, what is approval process and how long does it take?

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There is a database of existing co-op positions with one of Northeastern's more than 2,000 co-op employers in the U.S. and around the world. Or, students are welcome to seek out employment and create their own opportunities. For example, Biochemistry student Corey Allard (a Global Webcast Participant) was the first student ever to pursue a research co-op in Antarctica. You can read about his experience [here](#). Also this year, Computer Science and Mathematics student, Ken McGrady was the first Northeastern student to co-op at Pixar after he sought out the position himself. The co-op support staff are extremely helpful during the process.

Regarding financial aid, how much and which type of financial assistance, if any, goes with the student to make the experience possible?

No tuition is charged while a student is on co-op (although the student will pay room and board if he or she stays University housing while on co-op). Grants and loans from federal and state sources are distributed evenly throughout each academic year. Students are also encouraged to inquire about the [Presidential Global Scholars Program](#) and learn more about eligibility. The Presidential Global Scholars Program supports outstanding students seeking international co-op. Through competitively awarded grant, this program encourages and enables students to take advantage of all that Northeastern has to offer.

How does Northeastern help you find your academic interests if you're undecided?

Academic Advisors and the [University Career Services](#) provides resources, guidance and opportunities which help students choose a major and explore career options which fit their unique attributes.

What is the difference between a co-op, study abroad and a Dialogue?

[Co-op](#) (short for "cooperative education") gives students the opportunity to gain up to 18 months of professional experience related to their major or career interest with any of more than 2,000 employers across the United States and in 160 cities and 69 countries around the world. Student's alternate semesters of academic study with semesters of full-time employment in positions related to their academic or career interests.

The Dialogues of Civilizations are intensive, faculty-led trips, which typically take place during the Summer I or Summer II semester. Dialogue programs take place in locations all around the world that put students on the ground, bringing to life classroom studies in the history, culture, business, politics, and economics of other nations.

For a more traditional study-abroad experience, our [international study office](#) offers 55 programs in 32 countries.

Can you go abroad for a full year or even do two separate semesters abroad?

Yes! In fact, many students will participate in multiple semesters abroad. Take [MJ Paradiso](#), for example. The recent International Affairs graduate completed international co-ops, Dialogues and studied abroad in Germany, China and Brazil. He studied abroad for two years at Reutlingen University, in Germany, through Northeastern's Bachelor of Science in International Business

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(BSIB) program; completed consumer-marketing co-ops for General Electric, in Cleveland, and Procter & Gamble in Frankfurt; and participated in the Dialogue of Civilizations program in China and Brazil.

If you would normally (without co-op) spend 4 years taking college courses, how do you make up the time "lost" during one, or even two, co-op's? Do simply have to "work harder" to catch up with missed classes?

Students have the flexibility to choose a four-year, two co-op option, or the "traditional" five-year option that typically includes three co-op periods.

For additional information about the four-year option, read:

[Northeastern to expand co-op through four-year option](#)

[Frequently Asked Question on the four-year option](#)

If you are interested in learning more about how study abroad, international co-op, and Dialogue of Civilizations fit into your specific degree program and fulfill requirements, please contact the [college administrators](#).