Study Abroad Manual
2014-2015 Academic Year
Dear Northeastern University Study Abroad Students,

Congratulations on your decision to study abroad! This manual is an excellent resource to assist you in every stage of the application process, from initial to final preparations. It provides a comprehensive overview of important policies of the Global Experience Office and Northeastern University that you should be familiar with prior to, and while you are abroad. It is also highly recommended that you share this manual with your parents/guardians to keep them abreast of important information they should be aware of regarding your study abroad.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact us (detailed contact information provided on page 5 of this manual).

Best,

Global Experience Office Team (GEO)
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Introduction

About Us
The Global Experience Office (GEO) at Northeastern University is committed to providing you with high-quality study abroad opportunities that will allow you to develop the knowledge, skills and networks needed to become productive and successful participants in the global community. Our programs share the following fundamental benefits of studying at Northeastern University with the added benefit of an international setting:

- Experience a life-enhancing opportunity
- Earn Northeastern University grades and credits
- Apply financial aid toward the cost of the program
- Make new friends
- Develop international networks

About the Manual
This manual provides an explanation of the policies of the Global Experience Office. It is to be read in its entirety, and referred to later as necessary. Before calling GEO with a question, or making a decision to apply for (or withdraw from) a program, you should look up the relevant information on the website, in order to make an informed decision and to best determine what additional information is required from GEO staff.

GEO Contact Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Global Experience Office</td>
<td>617-373-5276</td>
<td><a href="mailto:studyabroad@neu.edu">studyabroad@neu.edu</a></td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>617-373-6465</td>
<td><a href="mailto:d.biddle@neu.edu">d.biddle@neu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Steps to Making Your Decision

A detailed checklist can be found on GEO’s website (www.neu.edu/studyabroad) under the “applying” section.

- Go to an info session (a schedule can be found on our website)
- Research your options on our website
- Speak to your academic advisor to see which classes/requirements, if any, you need to complete while abroad
- Speak to your financial aid advisor to make sure there are no surprises!
- Talk to your parents about your plans!
- Speak to a Study Abroad Coordinator
- Start gathering all of your required application documents
- Apply for or renew your passport
- Complete the GEO online application and the program’s application by the deadline (remember, for programs with a maximum number of applicants, sooner is better!)
- Attend pre-departure orientation

Deciding Where to Go

Info Sessions
The first step in studying abroad is to attend an info session. Check our website often to see the list of dates. At an info session you will learn specific details about our locations, programs of study, as well as how to apply.

Walk-In Hours
GEO currently offers both walk-in hours and appointments. To help better accommodate coop students, we offer appointments on **Wednesdays from 5pm - 7pm during the academic year**. Study Abroad Coordinators are available by appointment and would be happy to provide advising over the phone if you are unable to meet in person. To schedule an appointment, please use the online appointment calendar located on the Self Service tab of myNEU. If none of these options suit your needs, please contact us and we’ll do our best to accommodate you.
Our Website
Our website contains details for all of our programs, both Traditional and Dialogues, as well as other useful information, including contact information, steps for applying, financial planning, and course equivalents. Please refer back to the website throughout the process whenever you have questions. You can also find us on Facebook and Twitter.

http://www.northeastern.edu/studyabroad
http://www.facebook.com/neustudyabroad
https://twitter.com/StudyAbroadOISP

Eligibility
GEO offers over 200 programs abroad. Eligibility requirements can vary for study abroad candidates based on the desired program. In order to study abroad, you must meet the requirements outlined by GEO as well as the host institution abroad. To study abroad on Traditional and Dialogue of Civilizations programs, you must have a minimum GPA of 2.5 and have completed at least two terms at NU, one of which may be a summer term. Transfer students and spring admits should contact GEO directly to review eligibility. In addition, you must be in good academic standing with the university, the semester in which you are to study abroad (i.e., no probation).

Depending on the program, the GPA requirements range. Some programs include a language requirement, but this is not required for all programs in non-English speaking countries. For more program-specific eligibility information, please consult the GEO website or schedule an appointment to meet with a Study Abroad Coordinator.

Expectations
Your life abroad will most likely be quite different from your current one, and it is important to be aware and expect this before your departure. Research the country and city you will be studying in, as well as the program itself. The more information you know beforehand about the culture, life, and politics abroad, the more prepared you will be for the adjustment phase. When you anticipate the differences, you are much better equipped to handle the adjustments and almost inevitable culture shock.

The main characteristic you should always keep in mind is flexibility, which will help you to adapt to your new environment. Living in another country will expose you to new cultures, foods, and ways of life, so adaptability and flexibility are extremely important. If you are an American student, you should also expect to be asked lots of questions from your peers abroad because, in a sense, you represent not only NU and the American higher education system, but also the U.S. in general. Be prepared to speak about your own culture as you learn about your host culture. Not only will the country, language, and customs vary, but also the educational system. Therefore, you should research as much about your host country as possible prior to your departure.
Your lifestyle abroad will most likely be quite different from your life at home. It is extremely important to be aware of this fact and keep in mind your levels of expectation before your departure.

**Types of Study Abroad Programs**

*Traditional Semester or Summer*
In a traditional study abroad program, students study for a full semester in the fall, spring, or summer, or a half-semester in the summer (summer I or II). Students take courses along with the students of the host institution or with other international students. Normally, the traditional programs involve a semester-long stay and typically will result in students receiving the following upon the successful completion of their program:

- Traditional fall/ spring*: 4 classes (16 credits)
- Traditional summer*: 2 classes (8 credits)

*The number of courses and credits may vary by program. Please refer to the program-specific information at [www.neu.edu/studyabroad](http://www.neu.edu/studyabroad) or speak with a GEO advisor for details.*

*Traditional Semester or Summer Internship*
In addition to regular course work, some of our traditional study abroad programs, such as those in Canberra, Dublin, Florence, Louvain, and London include opportunities for students to intern for a few hours a week. Students who participate in an internship program during the fall and/or spring enroll in 3 academic courses in addition to a credit-bearing internship. Students who participate in an internship program during the summer enroll in 1 academic course in addition to a credit-bearing internship.

- Traditional fall/ spring*: 3 academic classes + 1 internship = 4 classes (16 credits)
- Traditional summer*: 1 academic class + 1 internship = 2 classes (8 credits)

*The number of courses and credits may vary by program. Please refer to the program-specific information at [www.neu.edu/studyabroad](http://www.neu.edu/studyabroad) or speak with a GEO advisor for details.*

Students participating on the Australia National University, Belgium Louvain Institute, IPA, Ireland, and London Hansard Scholars Programme are not required to complete an internship approval form; however, if a student is interested another internship, they must complete the internship form, found under “Policies and Forms” at [http://www.northeastern.edu/studyabroad/about/policies-and-forms/](http://www.northeastern.edu/studyabroad/about/policies-and-forms/). Business and engineering internship credit will NOT be awarded.

*Experiential Year Abroad*
This is a recent venture in which students study abroad on a traditional semester or Dialogue of Civilizations program, followed immediately by an international co-op in the same location.

**Dialogue of Civilizations Programs**
The Dialogue of Civilizations programs offer the opportunity for global interactions between students at Northeastern and students around the world. The goal of each program is to connect NU students with their peers in different national, cultural, political, and social environments, and to provide NU students with a global experience that builds upon and enhances their academic studies and training at Northeastern.

Dialogue of Civilizations programs generally are offered only in Summer I or Summer II, and are open to all students who meet the eligibility requirements. For each DOC program, a Northeastern faculty member leads a group of approximately 10-30 NU students to one or more countries, and will teach one or both of the courses involved.

The “dialogue” in each country involves a series of meetings and discussions between students and local government and community leaders on a range of topics, including politics, popular culture, human rights, and women and gender dynamics across cultures.

The “dialogue” occurs within the context of two courses (eight semester credits), which have specific themes (language immersion, politics, economics, environmental studies, conflict negotiation, globalization, communication, service learning, community activism, development studies, etc.). Dialogue of Civilizations programs also involve lectures, site visits, and cultural events. The locations of the faculty-led programs may change from year to year, but the options are constantly developing and increasing.

**Applying**

**For Everyone: Logistics**

**Credit and Requirements**
You should speak to your academic advisor as early as possible in the process of choosing a study abroad program. Your advisor can help you determine what, if any, requirements you must fulfill while abroad. This will alter the institutions and countries to which you are eligible to travel, as not every institution offers the same classes.

**It is important that you meet with your academic advisor prior to your meeting with a Study Abroad Coordinator in order to take full advantage of your meeting time.**

**Cost and Financial Aid**

**NU Billing**
Program costs are listed by program at www.neu.edu/studyabroad. Study abroad costs will include the following:

- **Traditional Semester, Summer, & Internship Programs:**
  - NU tuition + fee for 24/7 worldwide emergency assistance
- **Customized Traditional Summer & Semester Programs:**
  - NU tuition + Study Abroad fee
- **Dialogue of Civilization Programs:**
  - NU tuition + Dialogue of Civilizations fee

Students participating in Traditional Semester or Summer study abroad programs will be charged Northeastern University tuition for a semester’s worth of credits and a fee covering 24/7 worldwide emergency assistance. Housing and all other non-academic costs are the responsibility of the student. These costs will be paid directly to the relevant vendor, host institution, or program provider. Students participating in the Dialogue of Civilizations programs will be charged Northeastern University undergraduate tuition for 8 credits and a DOC fee (varies depending on DOC program). Northeastern tuition and the DOC fee cover: 8 credits of course instruction, round trip airfare from Boston, lodging for program duration, 24/7 worldwide emergency assistance, as well as some local transport, excursions, and a few group meals.

A complete breakdown of estimated costs can be found on the individual program pages on the GEO website. For questions regarding housing and other non-academic costs, please contact the appropriate host institution, provider or vendor directly.

Your NU student account will be charged several weeks before your departure, according to the same billing schedule as an on campus semester. Unless instructed otherwise by GEO, you should not make payments to your host institution or program provider for any tuition or academic-related expenses. Furthermore, you must have a zero balance on your NU student account at the time of departure. If you have an outstanding balance from a previous semester, your study abroad registration will be purged and you will not be allowed to go abroad.

You can find specific billing information on the Student Financial Services website: http://www.northeastern.edu/financialaid/.

**NU Financial Aid**

You will retain your full-time student status while abroad, which ensures that you remain eligible for your financial aid. However, the specific details of a study abroad program may alter your aid disbursement.

For example, in order to receive full financial aid for the year, you must attend one full-time academic semester (16 SH) and one co-op semester. When you are not participating in the co-
op program, you must attend 2 full-time academic semesters (32 SH). If studying abroad changes your number of classes and/or co-op semesters in an academic year, then your financial aid may be reduced or withheld. Keep in mind that one study abroad term is equal to one NU semester.

Therefore, you must consult with your financial aid advisor before departing Boston. Student Financial Services is located in 354 Richards Hall, 617-373-3190, 617-373-8735 (fax). You can find your financial aid advisor's email on their web site at: http://www.northeastern.edu/financialaid/contact/counselors.html

You will not be eligible for work-study while abroad. Make sure you notify your financial aid advisor of your plans.

Also, do not forget to check the deadline for submitting financial aid applications for the following academic year. It might occur while you are abroad, and you will need to make alternative arrangements.

**Dependents of Faculty/Staff**
If your parent/guardian is an employee at Northeastern, the NU tuition waiver policy provides a partial tuition waiver for a semester abroad. Your parent/guardian should consult with Human Resources for the exact tuition waiver amount.

**Registration**
GEO will register you for your placeholder class at Northeastern while you are studying abroad. This appears as the code ABRD on your transcript with a designation of pass/fail, P/F. Once GEO receives your transcript from abroad, we will send your letter grades to the registrar's office and this will be reflected on your NU transcript.

**Registrar Hold**
If you have a hold on your account, it must be cleared prior to your departure. You can see if you have any holds on the "View Holds" link on the Self-Service tab of your myNEU account. Failure to remove these holds prior to departure will result in removal from your study abroad program at your own expense.

**Course Policies**

**Grades**
Your NU transcript will show where you studied abroad and the NU equivalent courses to what you took abroad. The grades will be factored directly into your GPA. NU does not permit students to take an incomplete while abroad. All coursework must be completed before your departure unless specifically required by the program or professor abroad.

**Completing Requirements**
Study abroad fulfills the NU Core Comparative Study of Cultures requirement and may fulfill the experiential education requirement. You should consult your college or your major
department for advice on approved activities. Classes taken abroad may fulfill major, minor, or other core requirements with the approval of an academic advisor.

**Pass/Fail Requests**

As a reminder, all of the courses you take abroad will transfer back with a letter grade and will be factored into your GPA. You may designate one course (that is equivalent to one 4 credit NU course) pass/fail per semester if your host institution allows for the course to be taken for pass/fail credit. Any course, which counts towards your major, minor, or core requirements, **cannot** be taken pass/fail. **If you choose to take an elective course pass/fail, you must email studyabroadcourses@neu.edu with the course name and number within two weeks of your program start date.** You will not be allowed to change a course to pass/fail once this date has passed. Additionally, NU students are not allowed to take business, or engineering courses for pass/fail credit. All business and engineering courses taken abroad must be taken for a letter grade regardless of your major at Northeastern University.

**Business Courses Abroad Policies:**

**Business Majors:**

Students must obtain approval regarding course selection from their Academic Advisor in the D’Amore-McKim School of Business (DMSB) prior to departure for study abroad. Generally, only 25% of a concentration (1 course) may be taken abroad. You must also have taken the appropriate NU pre-requisite(s) in addition to any pre-requisite(s) required by the host institution. Additional Business courses may be taken abroad with Advisor's approval. Business courses may not be taken for pass/fail credit.

**Business Minors:**

Business minors may take 1 course toward the minor abroad. Any additional courses must be granted permission from the Business Minor Advisor. You must also have taken the appropriate NU pre-requisite(s) in addition to any pre-requisite(s) required by the host institution. Business courses may not be taken for pass/fail credit.

**Non-Business Majors**

Non-business majors may take business classes abroad with pre-approval from the D’Amore-McKim School of Business and should check with their Academic Advisor to ensure they have open electives in their curriculum. Pre-approval will only be granted by completing the GEO non-business major/minor form (part of the course approval form). This form requires the appropriate signature from DMSB. Pre-approval will only be granted if you meet the appropriate NU pre-requisite(s) as well as any pre-requisite(s) required by the host institution. Business courses may not be taken for pass/fail credit.

**Economic Courses Abroad Policies:**

Economics majors cannot take the following six courses abroad:
A Special Note to GRADUATING SENIORS
For students planning to graduate immediately after a study abroad program, GEO cannot guarantee your grades will be posted in time to stay on the commencement list. It can often take several months to get the final transcripts from abroad. To help expedite the process, tell your professors and program contact abroad that you will need your transcript mailed to GEO by NU's grade deadline. Also discuss this with your NU academic advisor.

REMINDER ***Business and Engineering pass/fail policy***
Business and engineering courses cannot be taken abroad for pass/fail credit. All business and engineering courses taken abroad must be taken for a letter grade regardless of your major at Northeastern University.

Housing Options While Studying Abroad
Housing varies depending on the program and you have different options to choose from based on your individual preference. You may choose to live in university residences on or off campus, in self-catered apartments, or in a home-stay with a local family based on the available options. Every program has a different policy with regards to housing. Please see the GEO website’s program page, talk to your faculty leader or a Study Abroad Coordinator, or refer to your program-specific information from the pre-departure orientation for more details. For traditional summer and semester study abroad programs, students will be working directly with the host institution abroad or program provider to confirm housing. It is imperative that students check and read their e-mail frequently to ensure they do not miss any important deadlines related to housing. It is the student’s responsibility to apply, pay for, and confirm housing abroad on the traditional summer and semester study abroad programs.

NU Housing Information
If you wish to live on campus when you return to Boston, please contact Housing and Residential Life in 4 Speare Hall by phone at 617-373-2814 or by e-mail at housing@neu.edu. You may also contact Housing and Residential Life while overseas if you want to confirm your housing assignment for your return to NU.

Off Campus Student Services can be helpful in finding a sublet. The office is located in 226 Curry Student Center, 617-373-8480, offcampus@neu.edu.

For the BS Degree: ECON 1115, ECON 1116, ECON 2315, ECON 2316, ECON 2350, ECON 3560

For the BA Degree: ECON 1115, ECON 1116, ECON 2315, ECON 2316, ECON 2350, ECON 3520
If you have paid a deposit for a semester in which you are now going abroad, you are eligible for a refund. Please email one of the Study Abroad Coordinators with your request (include your NU ID number), and GEO will confirm your plans with the housing office.

**Withdrawal Policies**

When you decide to enroll in a study abroad program, you commit yourself not only to the thorough preparation necessary for you to experience the program's full benefits, but also to a significant investment of money. Before applying to any program, you are urged to plan carefully and be completely familiar with the withdrawal policies and charges, which supersede Northeastern University's policies for withdrawal from on-campus courses. If you decide to withdraw from either a traditional or customized summer or semester study abroad program or a Dialogue of Civilizations program, you may incur significant fees for your withdrawal after your acceptance into the program.

Withdrawal fees are charged for study abroad programs because these types of programs require a significant amount of advanced planning and expense on the part of the University and/or host institution. For example, well before a program's start date, the University and/or host institution must commit substantial sums of money to pay for the instruction, housing, board, excursions and other costs of all its accepted students. Therefore, if a student accepted to any study abroad program later decides not to participate in the program, a significant portion of the program expenses, depending on the date, are non-recoverable by the University and/or the host institution and the student will be charged for them in accordance with this policy.

**Definition of non-recoverable expenses**

An expense becomes non-recoverable when it has already been paid out to a vendor or GEO is obligated to pay a vendor. Non-recoverable expenses vary by program and may include, but are not limited to: application fees, tuition fees, orientation fees, housing fees, and administrative fees. You will be responsible for all expenses that cannot be recovered.

**Traditional and Customized Summer/Semester Programs (8-16 credits)**

If you withdraw from your program, you will be responsible for all non-recoverable expenses.

**Short Term, Faculty-Led and Dialogue of Civilizations Programs (8 credits)**

If you are accepted to a Northeastern Dialogue of Civilizations (DOC) program and subsequently withdraw, you will be charged according to the schedule in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Signed Withdrawal Form is Provided to GEO</th>
<th>Amount Charged</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Before 2/1/2015</td>
<td>No additional charge (Note: your non-refundable deposit of $500 will not be refunded)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On or after 2/1/2015, and before</td>
<td>25% of tuition and 25% of DOC fee for</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2/15/2015  student’s specific DOC program (Note: your non-refundable deposit will not be returned)
On or after 2/15/2015, and before 3/1/2015 50% of tuition and 50% of DOC fee for student’s specific DOC program (Note: your non-refundable deposit will not be returned)
On or after 3/1/2015, and before 3/15/2015 75% of tuition and 75% of DOC fee for student’s specific DOC program (Note: your non-refundable deposit will not be returned)
On or after 3/15/2015 100% of tuition and 100% of DOC fee for student’s specific DOC program (Note: your non-refundable deposit will not be returned)

If you begin a Dialogue of Civilizations program and subsequently choose to withdraw, you are subject to the same charges as those for withdrawal on or after 3/15/2015. No waivers will be given for such reasons for withdrawal as adjustment issues, homesickness, or language difficulty. Requests for withdrawal made on the grounds of health must be supported by a qualified medical opinion, confirming that your participation would be strongly inadvisable for a substantial duration of the program.

If you are accepted into a Dialogue of Civilizations program that is cancelled by Northeastern University because of low enrollment or an international emergency, you will, of course, not be charged any withdrawal charge and your $500 deposit will be refunded.

If you are not accepted into your Dialogue program, the $500 deposit will be refunded.

**Withdrawal Costs:** For traditional and customized study abroad programs, you are responsible for all non-recoverable costs if you withdraw at any time prior to or after the official start date of your program. For Dialogue of Civilizations (DOC) programs, you are responsible for the amount stated in the schedule above. Withdrawal costs for traditional, customized, and DOC programs will be applied to your student account if you withdraw for any reason, including, but not limited to, the following situations:

- Inability to obtain a visa
- Homesickness
- Language difficulties
- Adjustment issues due to climate, geography, etc.

**How to Withdraw from a program:** Students must submit a Withdrawal/Deferral Request Form to the Office of International Study Programs in 403 Richards Hall. The form can be found under “Policies and Forms” on the GEO website.
If you decide to withdraw from either a traditional summer or semester study abroad program or a Dialogues of Civilizations (DOC) program, you must complete the withdrawal/deferral form and return to GEO in 403 Richards Hall. Please note that your withdrawal takes effect on the first business day after your signed withdrawal form is provided to GEO.

Unless a Travel Warning or Travel Alert has been issued (see Program Cancellation/Suspension section below), all students are responsible for and will be charged the full amount of the applicable program. A student’s account will be charged in accordance with this policy if a student later withdraws from a program after acceptance to that program. No waivers will be given for such reasons for withdrawal as adjustment issues, homesickness, or language difficulty. Requests for withdrawal made on the grounds of health must be supported by a qualified medical opinion, confirming that your participation would be strongly inadvisable for a substantial duration of the program.

**Leave of Absence**

Due to the non-recoverable costs associated with studying abroad, the University’s medical and non-medical leaves of absence policies do not apply to students participating in International Study Programs. In addition, you must complete a successful term at NU following your leave in order to be eligible to study abroad.

**Program Cancellation/Suspension Policies:**

If the U.S. State Department issues a Travel Alert or Travel Warning or if the CDC issues a Travel Health Warning in a country in which NU offers a program, NU may suspend or cancel the program in that country at the recommendation of the Risk Assessment Committee and by order of the Provost. If a Travel Alert or Travel Warning, including a Travel Health Warning, is issued prior to the start of the program, students who do not participate in a substitute program will be entitled to a full refund of any amounts paid to the University by the student for such program. In the event such a warning is issued thereafter:

- You are required to return immediately to the U.S.
- You will be evacuated by the organization contracted by NU for 24/7 emergency assistance.
- All transportation and housing costs not covered by the emergency assistance organization will be covered by GEO.
- GEO will make every effort to assist you in finding an alternative program for the semester.
- If it is not possible to find an alternative program, you are entitled to a refund or credit on a pro-rata basis.

**Traditional, Customized, Summer and Semester Program Application Process**
**General Policies**
You may only apply to one study abroad program per semester, unless, you are told otherwise by GEO staff.

Every application must include:

- the GEO online application
- the host institution’s application
- your official transcript, which can be requested here: http://www.northeastern.edu/registrar/trans_request.html
- a photocopy of your passport photo and signature page (the passport must be valid for at least six months after your return date)

Additionally, each application may require other supporting documents. Please refer to the individual program page on the website, or ask a member of the GEO staff for further clarification. It is the student’s responsibility to complete ALL of the application requirements and submit all necessary material by the GEO deadline.

**Course Equivalents**
It is imperative that you first reference the course catalogues of the institutions abroad to determine which courses are offered the semester in which you choose to study abroad. Once you confirm which courses you would like and/or intend to take abroad, to determine how the courses you take abroad transfer back to NU, you must check the drop-down menu in the Course Equivalents section of the GEO website. If the courses you plan to take are not listed in the database, NU faculty must evaluate them. In order to have a course evaluated, send the following translated into English, if necessary, to studyabroadcourses@neu.edu:

1. school name
2. course name
3. course number
4. number of credits
5. course description
6. course syllabus

It will take about six-eight weeks for this information to be processed. Once it has been processed, the courses will appear in the drop down menu on our website. If a course transfer is listed as “NO TRANSFER” then you will not receive any Northeastern credits for taking it.

If you do not go through this process before you study abroad, it will take you longer to receive your grades at the end of the semester and GEO will not be able to guarantee the transfer of credits.

**Credits**
Every full-credit course that has been assigned a Northeastern equivalent is worth 4 NU semester credits*. Depending on the program, you can earn between 8-16 NU credits. In order to maintain full-time status at NU, you must take a minimum of 12 NU credits during the
semester and a minimum of 8 credits during the summer. You must enroll full time at your host institution in addition to maintaining full-time NU status. Furthermore, depending on the program, you may be required to enroll in and complete 5 courses and you will be charged Northeastern undergraduate tuition for 16 credits. Should you decide to transfer back a fifth course, you will then be charged an overload fee as defined on the Northeastern University Registrar’s website. In addition, if you voluntarily take an additional 5th course, you will be financially responsible and your student account will be charged the overload fee. If you elect to take an additional 5th non-required course and do not transfer back the credits, you will be financially responsible for the additional fees charged by the host institution or program provider. Please note that you may not see these charges on your student account until after you return and your credits have transferred back. You are not encouraged to enroll in online courses at NU while abroad; however, if you choose to take an online course while abroad, you will be responsible for the cost of the additional course and there will be no reduction in the study abroad tuition and fees.

*Please check with GEO regarding language immersion programs as the course credit varies and GEO will need to work with students individually to determine NU course equivalents.

**Due dates**
Please be sure to submit your application on time and complete. It can be dropped off in person, mailed, faxed, or emailed before the due date. Official transcripts must be submitted in original form and cannot be sent via email or fax. Please refer to the contact page for further details on where to send your application.

The application due dates for each semester are listed on the website, and subject to change from one semester to the next.

**Program-Specific Information**
Information specific to your study abroad program will be communicated either by GEO or the host program directly. Important details such as program dates, courses, health insurance and medical coverage, visa information, and contact information for when students are abroad will be covered during the GEO Pre-Departure Orientation or in follow up emails.

**Short-Term Faculty-Led and Dialogue of Civilizations (DOC) Application Process**

**Application**
In order to apply to a DOC program, you must complete the online DOC program application, found through myNEU or the GEO website, which includes responses to the essay questions. Effective Summer 2014, as part of the online application, you are required to submit a $500 non-refundable deposit that will be applied to the full cost of your program. Please note that until the deposit is received, your application is incomplete.
Interviews
Each faculty member will conduct individual interviews for candidates to their dialogue. They are generally 15 minutes in length and occur at the discretion of the faculty.

Acceptance
Those who are accepted will immediately be placed into the program. You will be notified via email by the faculty leader as well as by GEO. There is no opportunity for you to refuse acceptance—if you wish to do so, you must formally withdraw and be responsible for the financial penalties. Please see the withdrawal policy for more details.

Grades
The faculty leader will grade you and will post any and all grades with the Registrar. Please direct any concerns over grading to your faculty leader.

Before You Leave

Pre-Departure Orientation Sessions

Traditional Semester and Summer Programs
GEO hosts a mandatory pre-departure orientation for all students going on traditional and customized study abroad programs. During this orientation important information will be addressed. A general list of topics include: health and safety concerns while abroad, emergency contact information, important on-site information as it pertains to your specific destination, withdrawal policy, financial costs, what to expect once abroad /culture shock and about re-entering the U.S. at the end of your program.

Faculty-led Orientations for Dialogue of Civilizations Programs
Your faculty should lead at least one orientation session prior to departure. Bring a notebook and lots of questions—and be on time! This is your opportunity to meet your fellow program participants, learn more about the program and get answers to all those annoying questions your parents keep asking. Some orientations even have alumni of the program present, which is the best resource of all. Learn what to pack, how to dress and where to go so you don’t waste any time or money. Your faculty will notify you of the time and location of the orientation session(s). In addition, GEO hosts a mandatory pre-departure orientation for all students going on dialogue of civilizations programs. During this orientation, important information will be addressed that includes, health and safety, emergency contact information, NU logistics, and financial policies. Attendance to the GEO orientation is not a substitution for attending the required orientations hosted by the faculty leader.

Visas
Depending on the duration of the program and the country you are studying in, some host countries will require you to obtain a student visa, which is permission to enter and study in a country. It is your responsibility to consult with the host country’s consulate website to determine whether or not you will be required to apply for a student visa for your time
abroad. If a visa is required, it is imperative that you begin this process early to ensure that you can obtain your visa prior to the start date of the program. And don’t forget to bring your passport with you; you cannot board the plane without it! Also, please note that your passport must be valid for at least 6 months after your return date.

Although this is ultimately your responsibility, GEO will provide basic guidance for students. It is imperative that international students inquire with the consulate office of their host country ASAP to determine if additional visa requirements/documents will be required to secure the student visa. Furthermore, international students should consult with ISSI on campus at NU to clear their semester abroad.

Packing
Helpful Packing Hints: Stay up-to-date with the TSA's Permitted & Prohibited items list! www.tsa.gov

Refer to the Universal Packing List application online: based on your region, length of stay, method of transportation and projected activities, it will help you formulate a lightweight, realistic packing scenario. Additionally, it is important that you pack necessary and important items in your carry-on in the event that your luggage is lost. Please see the lists below (carry-on) for recommended items to pack in your carry-on luggage.

Pack Lightly: WHATEVER YOU PACK YOU WILL HAVE TO CARRY.

- Transporting your bags around the world on planes, trains, and buses will be difficult if you over pack.
- Do not fill your bag with sweaters and jackets.
- Remember that layering is essential.
- Bring mostly clothes that are machine washable. Dry cleaning may be expensive.
- In most countries, you will be able to purchase your toiletries while abroad.
- Pack dark clothes - This will lessen the amount of times you do laundry (sounds dirty, but you will learn).
- Pack at least one nice outfit
  - Females--comfortable dress
  - Males--shirt and tie
  - Internship program participants should bring at least 3 "office" outfits.
- Pack plenty of socks, underwear, and T-shirts
- Pack a change of clothes, especially a change of underwear, in your carry-on
- Check the weather – you should consult with a travel agent or guidebook to check the temperature and weather conditions for your destination.
- Do not forget that you may be abroad for more than one season; therefore, you may need clothes that will keep you comfortable in a variety of conditions.
- Be mindful that if you are traveling to Australia, New Zealand, Argentina, Chile, or South Africa, the seasons are opposite those of the U.S. -- December is the start of summer and June is the start of winter.
We recommend you pack the following items...

**Documents, etc. (carry-on all)**
- Passport, valid for at least six months after departure (and visa if required)
- Airline tickets
- Cash, credit cards, ATM card
- Health insurance information
- Offer letter from host institution
- Photocopies of important documents (passport, visa, insurance card, etc.)
- World Aware Information
- Extra passport-sized photos
- Hostel membership card
- Phone card
- Study abroad journal
- The GEO study abroad orientation manual
- Host country emergency contact sheet
- Travel pass (such as Eurorail or Boomerang, and remember you can only buy these in the US)
- Resume (for internship programs)

**Medicine & Toiletries**
- Eye glasses, sunglasses, contact lenses and cleaning solution - bring prescriptions and doctor's letter **(carry-on)**
- Contraceptives/condoms
- First aid kit (including: motion sickness medications, laxatives, anti-diarrhea medicine, antacids, pain relievers, decongestants, antiseptics, and bandages) **(carry-on)**
- Prescription medicines and written prescriptions **(carry-on)**
- Sunscreen and moisturizers
- Tissue packets (not every bathroom has toilet paper) **(carry-on)**

**Miscellaneous**
- Address book
- Adapter and voltage converter **(carry-on)**
- Alarm clock (battery operated)
- Bath towel and shower shoes
- Chargers **(carry-on)**
- Batteries
- Phone **(carry-on)**
- Camera **(carry-on)**
- Laptop **(carry-on)**
- Ipod/MP3 player **(carry-on)**
- Book, magazine **(carry-on)**
- Day pack
- Flashlight
• Guide books (Let’s Go, Lonely Planet, Fodor’s) and maps
• Luggage
• Lock and tags
• Moist towelettes, anti-bacterial hand lotion (carry-on)
• Money belt or neck wallet (invaluable for carrying money and important documents) (carry-on)
• Swiss army knife (do not pack in carry-on, as it will be confiscated by TSA)
• Pocket calculator (to translate local prices into dollars)
• Sewing kit
• Sleeping bag/cover sheet (for weekend excursions)
• Walking shoes (good, sturdy, worn-in)
• Rain jacket and/or umbrella, Ziploc bags (great for keeping things dry, like money belt, when showering at a hostel)

GEO highlights the aforementioned as suggested items that you may benefit from by having packed prior to your departure. It is imperative that you pack your own luggage prior to arrival in the host country as well as at the end of the program. DO NOT ALLOW ANYONE to pack your bags; you are RESPONSIBLE for the contents of your luggage while travelling.

**Money**

1. **Exchange Money into Local Currency** - If you arrive on the weekend or during a holiday, banks may be closed. Therefore, it is a good idea to have some cash on you upon arrival. Whether you do this before you leave the U.S. or at the airport upon arrival at your destination is up to you.

2. **ATM Transactions** - Withdrawing money overseas using your existing ATM card can be very convenient. However, most U.S. banks charge an international transaction fee. Please consult with your bank for the most accurate ATM fees and to make sure your PIN will work abroad.

3. **Credit Cards** - Purchasing items or services with a credit card guarantees that you will receive the best exchange rate. Please note that Visa and MasterCard are more widely accepted than American Express overseas. Let your credit card company know your travel dates and ask for a phone number to access if your cards are lost or stolen. Confirm with your credit card company if international transaction fees apply, as many companies do charge a certain percentage.

4. **How Much Money to Bring** - We suggest that you have approximately $5,000-$6,000 available to you while abroad on a traditional semester program. For summer session programs, we suggest between $1,000-$2,000. Remember that some countries have a higher cost of living than others, so not everyone will need this much money. Keep in mind that you want to budget enough money to take advantage of this once in a lifetime opportunity.
5. **Have Emergency Funds, Especially When Travelling** - It should be an amount small enough that if it is lost or stolen it won't ruin your trip. You never know when you'll be in a bind!

**Travel Arrangements**

**For Traditional Study Abroad:**
Students are responsible for making their own travel arrangements. Once accepted to your study abroad program, you should contact the host institution or study abroad provider directly in order to confirm exact arrival and departure dates as well as housing move in and move out dates. For information on luggage and weight limits, as well as flight changes, please contact the airline directly.

**For Dialogue of Civilizations:**
The DOC Faculty Leader will organize flight and travel logistics. You must fly with the group and depart from Boston. At the end of the program, if you need to return to a different location or return on a different date, you should coordinate with the travel agent for the DOC program directly. You will be responsible financially for any additional costs. Please note you will still be charged the total tuition plus DOC fee for the program. For information on luggage and weight limits, please contact the airline directly.

**Mail**
Make sure you appoint a responsible person to open all of your mail, pay your bills, and complete & return NU forms/paperwork in a timely manner.

In your absence, if you need someone to sign your name on an official document (i.e., NU forms, bank check, etc.) you should contact that office or institution in advance to find out the appropriate procedure. Go to your local post office to forward mail to your responsible person if needed.

**Preparing**

1. **Language skills**
   You can brush up or hone your language skills before going abroad in a variety of ways. The most obvious, of course, is to take a class at NU the semester before you go abroad. If that's not an option, you can try taking a class at the Boston Language Institute (with those famous, yellow “Learn to Speak Swahili” posters on the T!) You also can take a NUCALLS (Northeastern University Cultural and Learning Language Society) course or crash-course, the latter being intensive classes designed to rapidly help you improve language skills over the course of just a few weeks, instead of an entire semester.

2. **Research your destination**
   Get excited and informed for your time abroad! Read the country profiles from BBC or the U.S. State Department, get a guidebook from the library, and rent some movies made in or about your destination. Pick up some novels or memoirs about your
country on famous people in its history for a more entertaining way of learning the basic history. You can also get great information online, from blogs and forums such as Thorn Tree (the Lonely Planet forum), Glimpse.org (National Geographic’s community travel website geared towards young people), and TBEX (Travel Blog Exchange).

3. **Talking to alumni**

Get in touch with as many alumni as possible. Visit the “Chat with Alumni” page on our website to contact alumni from several different programs. If you don’t know any from your program, contact your Study Abroad Coordinator.

**While Abroad**

**Culture Shock**

*Culture Shock:* Adapted from an article by Arthur Gordon

Culture Shock is the loss of emotional equilibrium that people suffer when moved from an environment where they have learned to function easily and successfully to an unfamiliar one that is less easily negotiated. The effects of culture shock may range from mild uneasiness or temporary homesickness to acute unhappiness or even, in extreme cases, psychological panic. Irritability, hypersensitivity, and loss of perspective are common symptoms.

Most experts in intercultural communication agree that the basic cause of culture shock is the abrupt loss of the familiar, which in turn causes a sense of isolation and diminished self-importance. It is brought on by the loss of understood signs of social intercourse. These signs include numerous ways in which we orient ourselves to the situation of daily life: when to shake hands, what to say when we meet people, when to take statements seriously, how to know someone is joking, and how to interpret facial expressions and body language.

Often when a person takes up residence in a foreign country there is a period of excitement and exhilaration when everything seems new and challenging and fascinating. There may appear to be more similarities than differences. When this emotional high tapers off, a downward trend may be experienced. The newcomer may be greatly affected by subtle differences in language, housing, money, transportation, food, and recreation, just to name a few. The result may be problems, including physical ailments, not usually experienced back home. Underlying these difficulties is the uncomfortable feeling of not really belonging, of being an outsider.

If the newcomer is sensitive to these feelings, several reactions may occur:

- Feeling hostility toward the new environment.
- Perceiving the native people as being insensitive.
- Withdrawing from his/her surroundings or becoming unduly suspicious of others.
- Overreacting to minor frustrations, delays, or inconveniences with irritation or anger out of proportion to the cause.
- Behaving antagonistically resulting in others avoiding the newcomer.
A natural defense mechanism common to study abroad students is spending time exclusively with Americans. An anxiety prone newcomer may cling to the need for predictability. This phenomena leads to the observation of natives in terms of stereotypes and results in an unfair appraisal of the new culture. It also prevents real immersion and learning of the new culture.

It is possible to shorten the duration of culture shock and/or minimize its impact. The following suggestions may help:

- Be aware that such a thing as culture shock exists, which will probably affect you one way or another, but it doesn't last forever.
- Accept the idea that while it may be somewhat painful, culture shock can be a very valuable experience, a mind-stretching process that will leave you with broader perspectives, deeper insight into yourself, and wider tolerance for other people.
- Try to remember, if and when you become thoroughly disenchanted with your surroundings, that the problem isn't so much in them as it is in you.

**Safety**

What to do in an Emergency: An emergency situation is any circumstance that poses a genuine risk to, or that has already disturbed the safety and well-being of program participants. They can include but are not limited to: disappearance or kidnapping of a participant; Criminal assaults against program participants; Sexual assault or rape; Serious illness, physical or emotional injury or death; Hospitalization for any reason Arrest, incarceration, or deportation; Terrorist threat

In emergency situations, after immediate medical and security needs are met abroad, please follow the below protocol:

- **First**, contact your host study abroad program coordinator. Upon arrival in your host country, you will have an orientation, where the emergency protocol will be reviewed and emergency contact information will be provided to you in the event of an emergency. Always contact your in-country contact first, as they are the ones who will be able to provide immediate assistance.
- Second, contact World Aware to alert them about the situation and to access services that World Aware has available. World Aware will notify the Northeastern University Police Department and GEO of the issue.
  - All students are covered by a 24-hour, worldwide emergency medical and security evacuation service. If you are in a dangerous location, this service can evacuate you.
- **US Embassies & Consulates**
  - They are your advocates while you are abroad and provide useful assistance in emergencies. GEO advises you to register at the Consular section of the nearest US embassy or consulate. This will make it easier if someone at home needs to locate you urgently or in the unlikely event that you need to be evacuated in an emergency. This is especially true if
you are traveling independently, not on a school-sponsored trip. Be advised, that in some western cities that host thousands of US students (like London, for example) the consulate won’t perform this service. Also if your passport is lost or stolen, you will need to report this to the nearest embassy. If you are already registered with them, it will make the process smoother. Should you become ill or injured, the embassy/consulate will supply you with a list of local physicians and medical facilities. If the illness should become serious, they will contact your school, family, or friends.

- Should you find yourself in legal difficulty, contact a World Aware immediately. They cannot serve as your legal counsel but they can provide you resources to move forward.
- If you get arrested, consular officials will visit you, advise you of your rights under local laws, ensure that you are held under humane conditions, and verify that you are treated fairly under local law. Remember, if you are detained, under international agreements and practice, you have the right to talk to the U.S. consul.

**Safety Information**

- Be Prepared
  - Discuss safety, terrorism, and war scenarios with your family; develop emergency contact procedures.
  - Research health and safety information, not only for the country in which you will be living, but also for any country you may be visiting. More information can be found at the U.S. State Department website: http://travel.state.gov/.
  - U.S. citizens are encouraged to register with the US Department of State at: https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrui/
    - Travel registration is a free service provided by the U.S. Government to U.S. citizens who are traveling to, or living in, a foreign country. Registration allows you to record information about your upcoming trip abroad that the Department of State can use to assist you in case of an emergency. Americans residing abroad can also get routine information from the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.
  - Leave behind photocopies of your passport, visa, travel arrangements, and airline tickets. Take a copy for yourself and keep them in a safe place.
  - Keep emergency numbers with you: Study Abroad Coordinators at NU and your host school, the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate, and your health insurance company.
  - When you are traveling independently from a school-sponsored trip, notify a school administrator and at least one friend on your program of where you will be going and when you expect to return. If you enter a new country, register with the US consulate or embassy.

- **Ignorance is NO Excuse**
  - Know the rules of conduct—cultural, civil and criminal—before you go.
• Don't ask for trouble by acting in a disrespectful manner. Assume that what is appropriate speech and behavior in the U.S. is also appropriate in your host country.
• Remember you are the guest, so you need to be sensitive to your hosts, not vice versa.
• A good rule of thumb is to carefully observe what the locals do and, when in doubt, ASK.

- **Never Travel Alone**
- **Drugs & Alcohol**
  - DON'T DO IT! The majority of accidents and deaths overseas involve drugs & alcohol. If you carry or use illegal drugs, you will be subject to the laws and penalties of the country in which you are visiting, and in most cases, they will be more severe than in the U.S. They will not care if you are a US citizen; they will not care if it was just a small amount; and there will be nothing that the U.S. government or your family will be able to do for you. The average jail sentence worldwide for a drug conviction is 7 years, and that does not include the length of time you will sit in jail waiting for a trial.
  - Being abroad, you will be less able to discern the safety of your environment and the trustworthiness of the people around you. This makes you even more susceptible to problems, such as theft and assault, when under the influence.

- **Crime**
  - Always be aware of your surroundings and use the street-smart senses you have developed by living in Boston.
  - Always keep your valuables (passport, money, credit card) in a safe place when at school and wear them in a money belt when touring.

- **Political Violence**
  - Going to a political “hot spot” may sound exciting in the abstract, but it is not worth your life.
  - Pay attention to U.S. travel advisories and school warnings. They are policy for a reason.
  - Avoid demonstrations. What appears peaceful can suddenly change into a dangerous situation, and you could become caught in the middle.

- **Sexual Harassment**
  - When living in a different culture, you can’t expect that relations between genders will follow American traditions and rules.
  - Be advised that men from other cultures may mistake friendliness for romantic interest. In many other cultures, it is acceptable for men to approach women, even touch them, without permission—especially if the woman is “western.” Some ways to avoid this are by dressing conservatively or adopting local dressing habits. Avoid walking alone or meeting a person you do not know well in a non-public place.
  - Do not travel alone. In some countries, an unaccompanied woman is an open invitation.

- **Transportation**
• Safety video suggestion: www.saraswish.org
• Learn the local traffic customs and signs. Traffic accidents are actually the number one cause of injury and death among international travelers.
• Do not operate a motor vehicle of any kind while abroad.
• Be cautious even when using public transportation, and never get in a vehicle you suspect will not safely make it to your destination. Avoid overnight transport, which in many countries has become targets for crime.
• Do not hitchhike.

Legal Rights & Issues
• The best advice is to know and obey the laws of your host school and country.
• Should you find yourself in legal difficulty, contact your program coordinator or a consular officer immediately. They cannot serve as your legal counsel but they can provide you with a list of local attorneys who speak English, advise you of your rights under local laws, ensure that you are held under humane conditions, and verify that you are treated fairly under local law.
• Under international law, you have the right to talk to the US consul if you are detained. If you are denied this right, be persistent and try to get someone else to contact the consulate.
• Legal protections, taken for granted in the U.S., are nonexistent in some other countries. You may be “presumed guilty until proven innocent,” denied bail, and detained until trial.

Health
It is a good idea to see your doctor before you leave the country for an extended length of time. Some programs require a physical before you arrive. It will also be an opportunity to stock up on prescriptions, discuss inoculations, and address any areas of concerns.

• If you have pre-existing medical conditions: talk with your doctor; inform GEO and the on-site program director or advisor; alert the host institution, roommates and travel companions regarding your condition and the appropriate emergency procedures.
• Bring medication, prescriptions and emergency medical supplies along with you for the duration of your program. You will need to bring prescriptions and a doctor’s note for all medications, which must be carried in their original labeled containers. Otherwise, international customs agents may confiscate them, detain you, or jail you for drug trafficking. If you have diabetes, are allergic to penicillin (or other commonly prescribed drugs), or have any physical condition that may require emergency care, carry some kind of identification at all times indicating the specific nature of the problem and spelling out clearly what must (or must not) be done should you be unable to communicate this information yourself.

Eating Healthy
Most people in other countries have different eating habits from the U.S., but try to maintain a healthy diet. In many developing countries, be careful drinking the tap water (including ice), eating meat, and consuming raw fruits and vegetables. It may take your stomach time to adjust to different foods. In developing countries, it is best to avoid eating at street-side food stalls until you adjust, and even then, check with locals for suggestions.

**Emotional & Mental Health**
It is natural to experience difficulties adjusting to a different culture and different ways of communicating and behaving. It is called culture shock. Read more about culture shock in the previous section.

Often people unrealistically think that because they are going away, they will leave all their problems behind. If anything, being in a different environment, without traditional support systems, can magnify problems.

Talk to an advisor or counselor so that very natural feelings do not endanger you or otherwise interfere with what should be the experience of a lifetime.

**First Aid**
It is very helpful to bring basic first aid supplies with you. Some helpful items include: bandages, antiseptic cream, pain reliever/fever reducer, anti-diarrhea and constipation medicine and cold medicine.

If traveling in developing countries, you may need additional supplies (for example, disposable needles, disposable syringes, and/or anti-malaria prophylactics). These recommendations may be accessed from the Center for Disease Control’s (CDC) website at http://www.cdc.gov/travel/ or by calling toll-free on a touch-tone phone for an autofax at 1-888-232-3299. You can also go to the State Department’s website: http://travel.state.gov/.

**Inoculations & Immunization**
It is always a good idea to be up-to-date with your tetanus shot. However, there may be other inoculations recommended by the CDC (http://www.cdc.gov/travel/) and the U.S. Department of State (http://travel.state.gov/), or required by your host country for entrance. You also can contact your local county health department.

There is a Travel Clinic at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center that specializes in pre-travel counseling and immunization. Appointments should be scheduled for at least one month before traveling abroad, and you should first contact your insurance company to find out if these services will be covered.

**STDs (Sexually Transmitted Diseases)** –
This is not just an American problem; do not leave your common sense in Boston. The safest sex is no sex, but if you think there might be even a remote possibility, bring latex condoms with you. This includes women as well as men.
Disability Resource Information
If you have a physical, mental, or learning disability and you would like information regarding similar services provided overseas, you should contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) and GEO. The DRC can also write an official letter explaining special needs to the host school. Please contact the individuals listed below for more information.

Janet Anderson
Associate Director Disability Resource Center
20 Dodge Hall
617.373.4426 (voice)
617.373.2730 (TTY)
j.anderson@neu.edu

Richard Allegra
Coordinator of Alternative Format Materials
20 Dodge Hall
617.373.8167 (voice)
r.allegra@neu.edu

Communication
Many countries do not have the same amenities that we do. Please do not be surprised if you do not have Wi-Fi, if the internet is slow (or non-existent), and if the telephone quality is poor. It is suggested that you make arrangements ahead of time with parents/guardians, friends, and loved ones so they know how often and in what manner you will contact them. It is also incredibly important that you arrange a method for and understanding of a time for a safe arrival call, email, etc. Please tell your parents/guardians not to call GEO wondering if you have arrived safely—it is YOUR job to let your parents/guardians know you are safe, and to remain in contact with them while you are abroad.

Cell Phones
Some of the most common approaches to cell-phone usage abroad include:

Purchasing a phone in country – In some countries, you can purchase an inexpensive phone and a pay-as-you-go plan. With this plan you can pay for as many minutes and text messages you would like on a weekly or monthly basis.

International Sim card – You will want to research, which Sim cards you could purchase that would be compatible with your phone, as well as charges associated with using an international Sim card.

International plan on your U.S. phone – This is arguably the most expensive method, but depending on your budget and comfort level, you may look into this option. Please be well aware of roaming charges and other fees associated with data plans, etc., as they tend to be more expensive internationally.
Cell phone through your study abroad provider – Some study abroad providers have cell phones and plans you can purchase while abroad (including but not limited to Piccell). Again, research the cost and other benefits that might be associated with purchasing this plan.

Wi-Fi
Connectivity to Wi-Fi may not be as universal, easy, or fast as you are used to in the U.S. There are likely to be internet cafes or other hot-spots where you can access the internet, but be patient and willing to adapt to whatever difference you find while abroad. Please note that you may not have internet in your housing.

World Aware Services
The Northeastern University Assistance Program provides all students, faculty, and administrators with worldwide and international medical, security, and travel assistance and insurance, which is managed and administered by World Aware. World Aware is ready to help you with all of your medical and security needs. World Aware is able to provide pre departure advice and assistance, as well as emergency services if needed. Please note World Aware should not be used for routine care, and is only valid during your program date.

Voting While Abroad
If you wish to vote while abroad, you should visit the U.S. Consulate website for your given country. Consulates abroad can facilitate the absentee voting process. For more information, please visit the Department of State’s website for study abroad students at http://studentsabroad.state.gov/.

GEO Is Here For You
We know that it can be scary going abroad, especially if this is your first time. We encourage you to reach out to fellow participants and classmates, as well as friends and family, who have gone abroad before. If you have an issue with your program, however, GEO is here for you.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to our office with any questions or concerns. However, in the case of a true emergency, please make sure you immediately speak with your onsite coordinator and World Aware for the quickest assistance.

Re-Entry

Reverse culture shock
Reverse culture shock has a number of stages, which you can imagine as a U shaped curve. At first, you may be excited to return home, seeing friends and family members, wearing the rest of your wardrobe, and eating at your favorite restaurants. However, this initial euphoria may
not last long and you might find yourself feeling out of place in your own culture. Here is when you may experience reverse culture shock. This is the bottom of the curve, and is often the roughest part. Although it may take time, you will begin a gradual adjustment back towards feeling comfortable with where and who you are.

**Grades and Transcripts**
Transcripts are not given out to students, but kept on file permanently in GEO. You will be notified of your grades via myNEU. Transcripts can take up to three months to be received by GEO. Please be patient; we post the grades as soon as possible. In order to expedite the process, you should submit the course descriptions for all courses you are taking abroad before you leave the U.S. It takes about six to eight weeks for these courses to be evaluated, and you do not want your grades to be delayed unnecessarily.

**Surveys and Evaluations**
GEO values your input. Please let us know how your experience was. What should we improve in terms of preparing you and how can we help to improve your experience abroad? Please fill out an online GEO evaluation available post-program completion. We will use these evaluations to assess our programs and to prepare the next group of students who look forward to hearing about your personal experience abroad.

**Re-entry Dinner**
GEO will host a re-entry dinner for all study abroad students on traditional study abroad programs upon your return to the U.S. GEO understands that readjusting back to life in the U.S. and NU campus can be challenging. At the re-entry dinner, GEO provides useful tips on how to adjust back to life in America. Stories will be shared, and there will be a photography contest as well as a variety of activities in which to partake. This is a great event where you will be able to reunite with study abroad students from your program as well as meet other NU students who have gone abroad and have shared similar experiences.

**Stay International!**
Now that you have come back home, you are probably eager to stay international and share your international experiences with NU peers, your friends, and your family. We at GEO are eager to provide you with some opportunities to stay international and continue your international growth.

**Study Abroad Ambassadors Program**
The GEO Ambassadors program is a great way to get involved with GEO initiatives around campus. Our Husky Ambassadors are paid study abroad alumni and assist GEO with the continued promotion of study abroad. They conduct classroom visits, learn more about our programs and policies, and serve as the student body face of study abroad. Up to 20 Ambassadors are selected per semester. There are opportunities to become a Senior
Ambassador as well, if you have already completed one semester in the Study Abroad Ambassador role. The senior ambassadors serve as mentors to the new ambassadors.

If you would like to get more involved, and be financially compensated for your effort, contact studyabroad@neu.edu for details.

**NUCALLS**
NUCALLS offers free, one hour a week classes in many languages. Maintain skills gained abroad by signing up for a class, or share your skills with others by becoming a teacher!

**ISSI**
The International Student and Scholar Institute hosts multi-cultural events representing students and cultures from all over the world annually! Get involved and represent your adopted country!  
[www.neu.edu/issi](http://www.neu.edu/issi)  
617-373-2310

**Study Abroad Fair and Dialogue of Civilizations Fair**
Every year we recruit new students at our Study Abroad Fair and Dialogue of Civilizations Fair. Come represent the programs you have been a part of or investigate new opportunities! Faculty leaders and providers will be on hand to answer questions. Please see the website for more details, or look for the posters on campus!