

**NORTHEASTERN
UNIVERSITY**

**STUDY ABROAD
PRE-DEPARTURE
MANUAL**

1. Introduction	
a. About Us	4
b. About the Manual	4
2. Steps to Making Your Decision	4
3. Deciding Where to Go	5
a. Info Sessions	5
b. Walk-In Hours	5
c. Our website	5
d. Eligibility and Expectations	6
4. Types of Study Abroad Programs	7
a. Traditional Semester and Summer	7
b. Dialogue of Civilizations	7
5. Applying	8
a. For Everyone: Logistics	8
i. Credits and Requirements	8
ii. Cost and Financial Aid	8
iii. Registration	9
iv. Course Policies	9
v. Business Course Policies	10
vi. Housing	11
vii. Withdrawal policies	11
b. Traditional and Summer Semester Program Application Process	13
i. Policies	13
ii. Application contents	13
iii. Due dates	14
iv. Program-Specific Information	15
c. Faculty-Led and Dialogue of Civilization (DOC) Application Process	15
i. Application	15
ii. Interviews	15
iii. Acceptance	15
iv. Grades	15
6. Before You Leave	15
a. Pre-departure Orientation Sessions	15
i. Traditional Semester and Summer	15
ii. Faculty-Led and Dialogue of Civilizations	16
b. Visas	16
c. Packing	17
d. Money	19
e. Travel Arrangements	19

f. Suggestions and Reminders	21
g. Preparing	21
i. Language skills	21
ii. Research your destination	21
iii. Talking to alumni	22
7. While Abroad	22
a. Culture Shock	22
b. Safety	23
c. Health	27
d. Communication	29
e. International SOS Assistance	29
f. ISIC	29
g. OISP is here for you	31
8. Re-entry	31
a. Reverse culture shock	31
b. Grades and Transcripts	31
c. Surveys and Evaluations	31
d. Re-entry dinner	31
e. Stay International!	32
i. Ambassadors program	32
ii. Tutoring	33
iii. NUCALLS	33
iv. ISSI	33
v. Study Abroad Fair and Dialogue of Civilizations Fair	33

1. Introduction

About Us

The Office of International Study Programs 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 fundamental benefits of studying abroad through Northeastern University:

- A life-enhancing opportunity
- Earn Northeastern University grades and credits
- Financial aid counts toward the cost of the program
- Make new friends
- Develop international networks

About the Manual

This manual is an all-inclusive explanation of the policies of the Office of International Study Programs (OISP). It is to be read in its entirety, and referred to later as the student finds necessary. Before calling OISP with a question, or making a decision regarding applying for (or withdrawing from) a program, the student should look up the relevant information on the Website, in order to make an informed decision and to best determine what additional information they require from OISP staff.

2. Steps to Making Your Decision

- ___ Go to an info session (a schedule can be found on our website; they are strongly recommended but not required)
- ___ 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

- __Look over the black binders in our office to hear what past students have to say
- __Start gathering documents, such as transcript and letters of recommendation
- __Complete the online application (remember, for programs with a maximum number of applicants, sooner is better!)
- __Attend pre-departure orientation

3. 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 can learn specific details about our locations, programs of study, as well as how to apply. Study Abroad Coordinators or Study Abroad Ambassadors will also be on hand to answer any other initial questions you may have before you begin your process.

Walk-In Hours

The OISP currently has walk-in hours from **1 to 4 pm** on **Tuesdays and Thursdays** and by appointment. To help better accommodate students, we hold office hours by appointment Wednesdays between 5 and 7 pm. 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. 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 including 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, tumblr and Twitter.

<http://www.northeastern.edu/oisp>

Facebook: Northeastern University Study Abroad

<http://NEUstudyabroad.tumblr.com/>

<http://twitter.com/NUstudyabroad>

Eligibility

OISP offers over 100 programs abroad. Depending on the program, the host institution has various eligibility requirements for study abroad candidates. In order to study abroad, students must meet the requirements outlined by OISP as well as the host institution abroad. To study abroad on traditional programs students must have a minimum GPA of 2.5 and have completed two semesters of academic work at NU. If you have transferred to NU from another institution you must remain on campus in Boston for one full year before participating in a study abroad program.

Depending on the program, the GPA requirements range from 2.5 to 3.6. Some programs require that students meet a language requirement as well. For more program-specific eligibility information please consult the OISP 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 will ease the adjustment phase. When you anticipate the differences, you are much better prepared and well equipped to handle the adjustments and almost inevitable culture shock.

The main thing you should always keep in mind is flexibility. It will help to adapt to your new environment while on your program. Students are about to be exposed to new cultures, foods, and ways of life so adaptability and flexibility are extremely important. Study abroad students should also expect to be asked lots of questions from their peers abroad because, in a sense, students 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 students should be open to an educational system different from their own. The more research students can do prior to departure, the more prepared they will be for their time abroad.

Your lifestyle abroad will most likely be quite different from your current life here at home. It is extremely important to be aware of this fact and keep in mind your levels of expectation before your departure.

4. Types of Study Abroad Programs

Traditional

In a traditional study abroad program, a student will study at one of our more than 80 Northeastern-approved institutions around the world for a full semester in the fall, spring, or summer, or a half-semester in the summer. These programs are generally open to Northeastern students in any major. The student will usually take courses along with the students of the host institution and in the language of the host country. In many cases, however, a foreign university may offer their courses in English. In some instances, students will take classes specifically for foreigners. Normally, our traditional programs involve a semester-long stay and will result in the student receiving 16 semester-hour credits upon the successful completion of four courses. In some locations, such as in Cambridge, London and Rome, it may be possible to have a one-half semester stay, in which case the student will receive eight semester hour credits upon the successful completion of two courses.

In addition to regular course work, some of our traditional study abroad programs, such as those in Beijing, Brussels, Canberra, Dublin, Florence, and London include opportunities for students to intern for a few hours a week with a member of parliament in the country concerned. These programs are selective and competitive.

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 are generally offered only in Summer 1 or Summer 2 and are open to all students regardless of major. For each Dialogue program, a Northeastern faculty member leads a group of approximately 20 or more 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 possible themes are virtually unlimited.

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 increasing.

5. Applying

For All Programs: 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 and come prepared in order to take full advantage of your meeting time.**

Cost and Financial Aid

NU Billing

Your NU student account will be charged with the cost of your program several weeks before your departure. Students must have a zero balance on their NU student account at this time. 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 Registrar's website:

<http://www.NEU.edu/customerservice/billing.html>

NU Financial Aid

Students retain their full-time student status while abroad. This ensures that you remain eligible for your financial aid and payment plans. 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, students must attend 1 full-time academic semester (16 SH) and 1 co-op semester. Students not participating in the co-op program 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 1 study abroad term is equal to 1 NU semester.

Therefore, students must check-in with their 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.financialaid.NEU.edu/contact_us.php.

Students are not 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

The NU tuition waiver policy gives students a partial tuition waiver for their semester abroad. Please consult with Human Resources for the exact tuition waiver amount.

Registration

OISP will register you for your placeholder class at Northeastern while you are studying abroad.

Registrar Hold

If you have a registration, bursar, or judicial hold, 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 not only your study abroad registration being purged, but you will also be withdrawn from NU.

Course Policies

Grades

On your NU transcript, it will show where you studied abroad and the NU equivalent courses to what you took abroad. The grades will be factored 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 waives the NU Core Diversity and experiential education requirements. Classes taken abroad may fulfill major, minor or other core requirements with the approval of an academic advisor.

Pass/Fail Requests*

Students may designate one course pass/fail per semester. However, it cannot fulfill a major, minor or core requirement. If you choose to take an elective course pass/fail, you must email studyabroad@NEU.edu the course name and number before your program end date. Students will not be allowed to change a course to pass/fail once the program has ended. Additionally, Northeastern University students are not allowed to take business courses for pass/fail credit. All business courses taken abroad must be taken for a letter grade regardless of the student's major at Northeastern University.

*The Pass/Fail policy will change beginning summer 1 2012.

A Special Note to GRADUATING SENIORS

For students planning to graduate immediately after a study abroad program, OISP 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 OISP by NU's grade deadline. Also discuss this with your NU academic advisor.

Business Courses Abroad Policies:

Business Courses Policy:

If students have completed ACCT 1201/09 and one additional Business course, students may take one Business course abroad, which may count towards their NU requirement. Students must also have taken the appropriate Northeastern University pre-requisite in addition to any pre-requisites required by the host institution. Students must obtain pre- approval from the Dean of Undergraduate Studies in the College of Business Administration prior to their departure for their study abroad program. Students may take additional Business courses while abroad to fill open electives to the extent that their program allows.

Non-Business Majors

Students may take one Business course while studying abroad if they have taken the appropriate Northeastern University pre-requisite, in addition to any pre-requisites required by the host institution. Business courses taken abroad must be pre-approved by CBA before the student departs for their study abroad program.

Business Course Credits :

You should receive approval for courses from your advisor before you go abroad. CBA students must speak with their academic advisors in CBA before departure. All students interested in taking a business course abroad must clear this course with the Dean of CBA prior to departure. There are some programs in which CBA major students can take more than one business course abroad; please consult the OISP Web site for these programs.

REMINDER ***Business Course pass/fail policy***

Northeastern University students are not allowed to take business courses for pass/fail credit. All business courses taken abroad must be taken for a letter grade regardless of the student's major at Northeastern University.

Abroad Housing Options

Housing varies depending on the program. Students may be housed in university residences on or off campus, apartments, or may opt for home-stays with local families where these options are available. Every program has a different policy with regards to housing. Please see the website's program page, talk to your faculty leader, a Study Abroad Coordinator, or refer to your program-specific information from the pre-departure orientation for more details.

NU Housing Information

If you wish to live on campus when you return to Boston, please contact Housing and Residential Life, 4 Speare Hall, 617-373-2814 or e-mail them 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.

Students who have paid a deposit for a semester in which they are now going abroad are eligible for a refund. Please email one of the Study Abroad Coordinators with your request and OISP will confirm your plans with the housing office for you.

Withdrawal Policies

The decision to enroll in a study abroad program involves a significant investment of money and requires a commitment on the part of the student to fully prepare in order to experience the program's full benefits. Students interested in enrolling in a study abroad program are urged to plan carefully and to be completely familiar with the withdrawal

policies before applying. The study abroad refund policies supersede Northeastern University's on-campus refund policies.

Definition of non-recoverable expenses: *An expense becomes non-recoverable when it has already been paid out to a vendor or Northeastern is obligated to pay a vendor. Non-recoverable expenses vary by program and may include, but are not limited to: airfare, housing, transportation, and administrative fees. Northeastern will return all expenses that can be recovered from a program to a student.*

Summer/Semester Programs (8-20 credits)

If a student withdraws from the program 45 days or less from the date of departure, there will be a \$300 administrative fee charged to the student's account in addition to any non-recoverable expenses.

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

If an accepted student withdraws from a Faculty-Led and Dialogue of Civilizations program, the student will be financially responsible for the \$300 non-refundable deposit in addition to any other non-recoverable expenses incurred on their behalf as a student with intent to participate on the program.

After the start date of any program: If a student withdraws from an International Study Program, the student is not eligible for any refund of non-recoverable costs including, but not limited to, the following situations:

- Illness or accident
- Homesickness
- Family emergency
- 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.

Medical 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.

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. In this case:

- All students are required to return immediately to the U.S.
- Students will be evacuated by International S.O.S. All transportation and housing costs not covered by S.O.S. will be covered by OISP.
- OISP will make every effort to assist students to find an alternative program for the semester if possible.
- If it is not possible to find an alternative program, participants and accepted applicants are entitled to a refund or credit.
- If the program is suspended or cancelled prior to the program start date, we will work with students to transfer to another NU study abroad program if at all possible.

Traditional and Summer Semester Program Application Process

Policies

You may only apply to one study abroad program, unless you are told otherwise by OISP staff. (For example, CUHK semester program).

Transcripts are not given out to students, but kept on file permanently in the OISP. You will be notified of your grades via myNEU.

Every application must include:

- the OISP online application
- the host institution's application
- official transcript
- a photocopy of your passport photo and signature page (the passport must be good 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 OISP staff.

Course Equivalents

Every student should check the drop-down menu in the Course Equivalents section of the OISP website. If the courses you are taking are not listed in the database, it is because they

have not yet been approved by Northeastern faculty. Before you leave, send the course descriptions to studyabroad@NEU.edu so that we may forward the descriptions on to the appropriate faculty. 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.

Credits

Each full-credit course you take abroad is worth 4 NU semester credits*. Depending on the program, students can earn between 8-20 NU credits (students may only take 8 credits for summer programs, not semester programs). In order to maintain full-time status at NU, students must take a minimum of 12 NU credits during the semester and a minimum of 8 credits during the summer. If your program requires you to enroll in 5 courses, you will be allowed and not be charged an overload fee; however, if you voluntarily wish to take a 5th course, you will be financially responsible for the extra course and your student account will be charged the overload fee.

*Does not apply to, Beijing, Grenoble, or Tokyo programs. Please ask OISP staff for further information.

You should get approval for courses from your advisor before you go abroad. CBA students must speak with their academic advisors in CBA before departure. All students interested in taking a business course abroad must clear this course with the Dean of CBA prior to departure. There are some programs in which CBA major students can take more than one business course abroad; please consult the OISP Web site for these programs.

Due dates

Please be sure to pass in your application on time and complete. It can be mailed, faxed or emailed in piecemeal before the due date. 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 a student's study abroad program will be communicated to students either by OISP or the host program directly. Program dates, airport pick-up information, courses, health insurance and medical coverage, visa information, as well as contact information for when students are abroad will be covered during the OISP pre-departure orientation session. This information is also communicated to students through email and dispersed in the students study abroad post acceptance information packet that is passed out during pre-departure orientation and/or mailed to students directly.

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

Application

You must complete the online Faculty-Led and Dialogue of Civilizations Program application and upload your unofficial transcript, a photocopy of the ID page of your passport to OISP, and the responses to the essay questions by the application deadline on the Website. Incomplete or late applications will not be accepted.

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 OISP. **There is no opportunity for you to refuse acceptance—if you wish to do so, you may formally withdraw and be responsible for the financial penalties. Please see the withdrawal policy for more details.**

Grades

You will be graded by the faculty leader. That faculty leader is the one responsible for posting any and all grades to the Registrar, including the no-credit ABRD course. Please direct any concerns over grading to your faculty leader.

6. Before You Leave

Pre-Departure Orientation for Traditional Semester and Summer Programs

OISP hosts a **mandatory** pre-departure orientation for all students going on traditional study abroad programs. During this orientation important information will be addressed. A general list of topics include: how to book airfare via NU, 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. Lunch is served, and there are break-out sessions for each individual program so you can get to know your peers and learn more about your program specifics (if program representatives from the host institution cannot attend, OISP will do its best to recruit alumni).

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). OISP will be hosting pre-departure orientation sessions as well to go over general logistics.

Visas

Depending on the duration of the program and country you are studying in, some host countries will require you to obtain a student visa. **It is the student's responsibility to consult with the host country's consulate website to determine whether or not they will be required to apply for a student visa for their time abroad.** If a visa is required it is imperative that students begin this process early to ensure that they can obtain their visa prior to the start date of their program. OISP strongly recommends that students consult with the consulate of the host country you are traveling to in order to determine if you will need a student visa. And don't forget to bring your passport with you; you cannot board the plane without it!

Although this is ultimately the student's responsibility, OISP 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 (405 Ell Hall; 617-373-2310) on campus at NU to clear their semester abroad.***

Currently OISP will assist students with obtaining a student visa for Italy on fall or spring semester programs (as of March 2011, summer session programs that are less than 90 days do not require a student visa at this time for U.S. nationals – please consult the Italian consulate office in Boston to determine if there are specific documents required if you are not a US citizen). OISP will host a batch-processing day to obtain these visas. If the student is interested in this service they will need to submit all of their visa application materials to OISP by the given deadline. Failure to do so will result in the students having to apply for their Italian student visa independently.

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 light-weight, realistic packing scenario.

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.
- 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
- Check the weather - please 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.
- Remember that if you are traveling to Australia, New Zealand, Argentina, Chile, or South Africa, the seasons are opposite those of the US -- December is the start of summer and June is the start of winter.

We recommend you pack the following items...

Documents, etc.

- Passport (and visa if required)
- Airline tickets
- Cash, traveler's checks, credit cards, ATM card
- Insurance information
- Photocopies of important documents (passport, visa, insurance card, etc.)
- International Student Identity Card (ISIC)
- International SOS Assistance Card
- Extra passport-sized photos
- Hostel membership card
- Phone card
- Study abroad journal
- The OISP study abroad orientation manual
- Host country emergency contact sheet
- Travel pass (such as Eurail 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
- Contraceptives/condoms
- First aid kit (including: motion sickness medications, laxatives, anti-diarrhea medicine, antacids, pain relievers, decongestants, antiseptics, and bandages)
- Prescription medicines and written prescriptions
- Sunscreen and moisturizers
- Tissue packets (not every bathroom has toilet paper)

Miscellaneous

- Address book
- Adapter and voltage converter
- Alarm clock (battery operated)
- Bath towel and shower shoes
- Batteries
- Camera
- Day pack
- Flashlight
- Guide books (Let's Go, Lonely Planet, Fodor's) and maps
- Luggage
- Lock and tags
- Moist towelettes, anti-bacterial hand lotion
- Money belt or neck wallet (invaluable for carrying money and important documents)
- 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, ziplock bags (great for keeping things dry, like money belt, when showering at a hostel)
- The Office of International Study Programs highlights the aforementioned as suggested items that students studying abroad may benefit from by having packed prior to their departure. It is imperative that students pack their own luggage prior to arrival in-country as well as after their program ends. **DO NOT ALLOW ANYONE** to pack your bags, you are **RESPONSIBLE** for the contents of your luggage while travelling.

Money

- *Exchange Money into Local Currency* - If you arrive on the weekend or during a holiday, banks may be closed. Therefore, it's 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.
- *Travelers Cheques* - Whether in US dollars or foreign currency, travelers cheques may be an option for you. For more information, please visit American Express online: <http://www.americanexpress.com/>
- *ATM Transactions* - Withdrawing money overseas using your existing ATM card can be very convenient. However, most US 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.
- *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, many companies do charge a certain percentage.
- *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.

- *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

Roundtrip airfare via Boston is included in the study abroad program fee for all students with the exception of SEA Semester students. Flight arrangements will be made through Academic Studies Abroad.

Lee Frankel
Academic Studies Abroad (ASA)
4 Belgrade Avenue, Suite 5, Roslindale, MA 02131
PH: 617-327-9388
lee@academicstudies.com

With **Option 1**, students take the group flight from Boston on the designated “official departure date” provided by the OISP staff for the specific program. With Option 1, Northeastern University is billed for your ticket and your airport pick-up is arranged as long as your particular program includes an airport pick-up. There are no disadvantages to Option 1. The requirements for students to select Option 1 are that the students must leave from Boston Logan Airport on the official departure date so to arrive on the official start day of your program and they must also return to Boston Logan Airport on the official last day of their program. Please note that if you want to return on a different day than the last day of the program, there is space to fill out for this on Form 1 that is provided on the Web site. Simply leave that space blank if you want to return with the group.

With **Option 2**, a student can request Academic Studies Abroad (ASA) look for flights from another city or on different travel dates than the Northeastern University program dates. For example, if you want to fly in and out of JFK instead of Boston, you would use this form. Or, if you are flying in and out of Boston but on different dates than the group, use this form. If you want to fly out of Boston and home to LA, use this form. With Option 2, a student can fly from somewhere other than Boston and they can travel before or after the official program dates. On the other hand, students will not receive airport pick-up upon arrival and it may cost a student more money to choose this option as ASA charges a \$25 fee and students will be responsible for any additional airfare cost above the budgeted amount.

With **Option 3**, the student can refuse the Northeastern University flight and book their own flight. The bursar's office will credit the budgeted amount for the group flight to the student's account. With Option 3, if you a student has frequent flyer miles or a parent works for an airline, the student can take advantage of that and get the refund. This option is also good if your ticket will be cheaper than the NU budgeted amount. In contrast, students will not receive airport pick-up with this option and if you need assistance with your tickets, neither ASA nor Northeastern University will be able to assist you.

Students MUST fill out the online airfare request form by the designated date provided by Lee Frankel and OISP staff. The website where the form can be accessed is as follows:

<http://www.neuflights.com>

Airfare and Ticketing Procedures:

- Any change to the tickets after we purchase them will be the financial responsibility of the student.
- Only students who take the group flight are entitled to an airport pick-up when they arrive
- Students who choose option 2 will be charged an extra \$25 by ASA and any additional cost above the budgeted amount
- Tickets cancelled after they are issued will result in a \$50 fee, in addition to the fee imposed by the airline. So, if the airline charges \$100 to cancel the ticket, the student will be billed \$150. This is due to the large amount of time we would have to spend to cancel the ticket. All tickets are booked in Economy Class.
- Read your ticket carefully when you pick it up or access your e-ticket online to make sure there are no mistakes.
- Make photocopies of the ticket and itinerary and leave the copies with your parents.
- Make sure to check the luggage limits for your flights are. Every airline has a website and the luggage limits are generally posted there.
- **VERY IMPORTANT!** You must re-confirm your reservation with the airline 48 hours prior to departure AND return.
- **VERY VERY IMPORTANT!** When you check in at the airport, tell them your final destination. If you don't do this, your luggage may only go to your layover location.
- **SUPER IMPORTANT!** You must bring your passport to the airport. They will not allow you to board your flight without it.

Suggestions for handling your mail while away

Make sure you appoint a responsible person to open all of your mail, pay your bills, and complete & return NU forms/paper work 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

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!) ISSI also offers a mentorship program where a student native to your country of origin will meet with you to help you work on language skills. Finally, you can take a NUCALLS (Northeastern University Cultural and Learning Language Society) course or crash-course, the latter are intensive classes designed to rapidly help you improve language skills over the course of just a few weeks, instead of an entire semester.

Research your destination

Get excited and informed for your time abroad! Read the country profiles from BBC or the US 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, or the Travel Blog Exchange.

Talking to alumni

Get in touch with as many alumni as possible. If you don't know any from your program, try coming to our office. We have past evaluations from several years' worth of study abroad experiences. You can read all about the best places to eat, where to find internet and the hidden gems in your new city.

7. 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 and 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:

- 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.
- Antagonistic behavior 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:

Here are some important emergency contacts that will provide you with the most immediate assistance. Please only use them in the event of a genuine emergency. Note: Always keep your emergency contact information with you.

- **OISP emergency cell phone number: 617-755-5502**
- Contact your host study abroad program coordinator. Reference your program-specific notes.
- International SOS
 - All students are covered by International SOS, a 24-hour, worldwide emergency medical and security evacuation service. While it does not replace health insurance, while students are traveling abroad International SOS can provide students with emergency with medical care or get them to a medical facility. If students are in a dangerous location International SOS can evacuate them.
- US Embassies & Consulates
 - They are your advocates while you are abroad and provide useful assistance in emergencies. It is advisable 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 consular officer immediately. They cannot serve as your legal counsel but they can provide you with a list of local attorneys who speak English and who may have had experience in representing U.S. citizens.
 - 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 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 US 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/ibrs/ui/>
 - 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, airline tickets, and travelers' checks receipts. Take a copy for yourself and keep in a safe place.
- Keep emergency numbers with you: Study Abroad Coordinators at Northeastern and your host school, nearest U.S. embassy or consulate and your health insurance company. Refer to *What to do in an Emergency* and *Emergency Contacts* page.
- When you are traveling independently from a school-sponsored trip, notify a school administrator and at least one friend on your program, 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 US. 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 US 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've 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 US 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
- Drive very carefully AND look both ways before crossing the street. Traffic accidents are actually the number one cause of injury and death among international travelers. A University of California student was recently killed in London because she didn't look in the proper direction before crossing the street.
- Drive responsibly if you rent a car. Be especially cautious since you will be in unfamiliar territory. Learn the local customs and signs. Most importantly, know on which side of the road people drive!
- 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 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 US, 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 this 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. Allow the following issues to guide your discussions with your physician. If you have pre-existing medical conditions, talk with your doctor; inform Northeastern’s Office of International Study Programs and the on-site program director or advisor; alert the host institution, roommates and travel companions regarding your condition and appropriate emergency procedures. In addition, bring medication, prescriptions and emergency medical supplies along with you for the duration of your program. You will need to bring prescriptions, a doctor’s note for all medications and carry them 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 US, but try to maintain a healthy diet. In many developing countries, be careful drinking the tap water (including ice) and eating meat and 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 section 6.

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) internet 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/>), the US Department of State (<http://travel.state.gov/>), or required by your host country for entrance. You can also 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 made at least one month before traveling abroad and students should first contact their insurance company to find out if these services will be covered.

S.T.D.s (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

Students with disabilities or those who are deaf or hard of hearing, who would like information regarding similar services provided overseas, should contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) and the Office International Study Programs. 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)

Lauren Barr

Coordinator of Services, Deaf & Hard of Hearing Disability Resource Center
20 Dodge Hall
617.373.2675 (voice)
617.373.2730 (TTY)

Lucy Annett
Sign Language Interpreter
20 Dodge Hall
617.373.3537 (voice)
617.373.2730 (TTY)

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 the telephone quality is poor. It is suggested that you make arrangements ahead of time with parents, 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 not to call OISP wondering if you have arrived safely—it is **YOUR job to let your parents know you are safe, and to remain in contact with them while you are abroad.**

International SOS Assistance Services (included in your program fee)

Welcome to the Northeastern University Assistance Program, providing all students, faculty, and administrators worldwide with international medical, security and travel assistance, managed and administered by International SOS. International SOS is the world's largest medical and security assistance company, with more than 3,000 professionals in 24-hour Alarm Centers, international clinics and remote-site medical facilities across five continents. International SOS is the leader in their field, ready to help you with all of your medical and security needs. For more information: www.internationalsos.com and refer to the handouts provided in your pre-departure folder. Please note that this is not basic medical coverage. All students are required to have global health coverage while abroad.

ISIC 24-Hour Worldwide Emergency Telephone Helpline (included in your program fee)

1-715-342-4104 (call collect from anywhere in the world)

This service comes with your International Student Identity Card (ISIC). The Assistance Service will help: locate medical care and coordinate with doctors and hospitals to confirm coverage and arrange settlement of medical bills; locate an attorney or bondsman in the event of legal difficulties; arrange emergency medical evacuation (including transportation and treatment en route); assist in the replacement of stolen passports and tickets; relay emergency communications; and other general assistance in problems or questions. Please use only in a genuine emergency. For more information: <http://www.isic.org/student-discounts/services.aspx>

International Student Identity Card (ISIC) Coverage (included in program fee)

<http://www.isic.org/student-discounts/services.aspx>

- This card is primarily for student discounts abroad.
- This coverage includes: sickness hospital benefit, accident medical expense, accidental death & dismemberment, emergency evacuation, and repatriation of remains.
- Please keep in mind that ISIC coverage is basic, and is not sufficient coverage for most serious emergencies.
- Also, like NUSHP, you must pay first and then submit your claim.

Northeastern University Student Health Insurance Plan (NUSHP)

1- 301-656-4152 (call collect)

NUSHP's Worldwide Assistance Services offers: location of local medical care; medical monitoring; prescription assistance; emergency medical payment advances; visit by family arrangements; and repatriation of remains. They provide additional information services including: passport & visa; cultural events; travel advisories; inoculation & immunization; exchange rates; embassies & consulates location; temperature & weather; legal referral & advance bail; lost baggage tracking; translation & interpretation; emergency messaging; emergency ticket replacement; lost documents; and emergency funds advance.

Health Insurance

All students studying abroad are required to maintain the Northeastern University Student Health Insurance Plan (NUSHP) or a substitute healthcare plan with comparable international coverage. Some programs require coverage in addition to NUSHP or the health insurance plan provided by your parents. If you plan to waive NUSHP, consult with your health insurance provider to ensure that it offers comparable international coverage. You will be automatically billed for it if you do not waive it. If you want to waive coverage for an academic year, you can do so on the myNEU student portal. Below is a BRIEF description of NUSHP. You can read more information on-line or request a booklet to learn about the details of their coverage as well as general exclusions and exceptions.

Northeastern University Student Health Insurance Plan (NUSHP)

<http://www.northeastern.edu/uhcs/access/insurance.html>

If you have NUSHP, you will be covered for most medical procedures while overseas. However, since you will not have access to the doctors and hospitals that are a part of NUSHP's network, you will be responsible for paying 20% of any costs you incur. Note: NUSHP requires that you pay your total medical expenses up front and then submit your claim for reimbursement.

NUSHP includes Worldwide Assistance Services. This is in addition to your medical coverage and gives you unlimited medical evacuation and repatriation of remains coverage

with no up front cost to you. Medical evacuation occurs when you need to be transported from one medical facility to another or returned to the U.S. Worldwide Assistance will pay for this, if you call them first and they make all the arrangements. Emergency evacuation is when you need to be transported from the location of the incident to a medical facility for initial emergency medical care. Worldwide Assistance will NOT provide you with this service nor will they reimburse you for the cost. However, ISIC does provide basic emergency evacuation coverage.

OISP 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, OISP is here for you.

The emergency cell phone is on 24/7, and always manned by a trained member of OISP staff. Please remember: this is **ONLY** for emergencies.

If you have a problem with your program and want to come home, please talk to OISP first. There may be something we can do to help, and we want to reach the best solution possible for everyone involved. Feel free to call or email the office if you're having a problem, and don't wait for it to snowball into a larger one.

8. 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.

http://www.northeastern.edu/oisp/step3/reentry_shock/

Grades and Transcripts

Transcripts can take up to three months to be received by OISP. 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 United

States. It takes about six-eight weeks for these courses to be evaluated, and you do not want your grades to be unnecessarily delayed.

Surveys and Evaluations

OISP 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 OISP 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

OISP will host a re-entry dinner for all study abroad students on traditional study abroad programs returning back to the US. OISP understands that readjusting back to life in the U.S. and NU campus can be challenging. At the re-entry dinner OISP provides useful tips of how to adjust back to life in America. Stories will be shared; there will be a photography contest as well as a variety of activities to 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 OISP are eager to provide you with some opportunities to stay international and continue your international growth.

Study Abroad Ambassadors Program

The OISP Ambassadors program is a great way get involved with OISP initiatives around campus. Our Husky Ambassadors are paid study abroad alumni and assist OISP with the continued promotion of study abroad. They conduct classroom visits, learn more about our programs and policies, and are the student body face of Study Abroad. Up to 15 Ambassadors are picked per semester. You must have at least 1 semester (or 2 Dialogues) worth of experience, and a 3.0 GPA or better. 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.

Tutoring

Contact Constantina Kondopoulos in CAS Tutoring. If you have an A- or better in a class, you are eligible to apply to be a tutor for that class.

NUCALLS

NUCALLS offers free, one hour a week classes in many languages. Maintain skills gained abroad by signing up for a class, or share them 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!

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, and alumni volunteers will be fed. Please see the website for more details, or look for the posters on campus!