

## Learning Outcomes for Studying Abroad

The following document outlines learning outcomes and some possible reasons for student in your department to study abroad. Departments may use them as a provisional set of program elements that help hone their rationales for education abroad in relation to home campus curricula. The bullets under each learning outcome indicate elements within a program that can help to achieve the particular outcome or set of outcomes. This list is not intended to be exhaustive, please help add to it.

- A. Discipline-specific learning.** Study abroad can permit students to take:
- Courses that supplement their home campus curriculum
  - Courses designed to take particular advantage of local resources
  - Courses that substitute for courses at home in order to allow for study abroad
  - Courses with outstanding local pedagogues, and/or that expose students to different perspectives on that discipline
  - Courses that supplement or substitute home campus curricula, offering access to different pedagogical styles.
  - Courses that have US students learning in discipline-specific courses with host country students
  - Field research projects through the International Degree Program
  - Discipline-specific internships through IE3 Global Internships
- B. Placement of a discipline in its international context** Many different experiences can help students understand other ways of knowing, other perspectives on disciplinary content and methods, etc., including:
- Instruction by host country faculty
  - Study in the classroom with host country students
  - Study in host country classrooms, laboratories, and workshops
  - Apprenticeships with host country practitioners
  - Research in collaboration with host country researchers
  - Attendance at international meetings and conferences
  - Internships and work experiences
  - Research and writing of an International Degree undergraduate thesis
- C. Country/region-specific learning.** Students can learn about another society and culture through such means as:
- Disciplinary or interdisciplinary coursework related to the country or region
  - Coursework on contemporary social mores or on intercultural learning in specific environments
  - Exposure to a different educational system
  - Curriculum-related travel
  - Lecture and presentation series by local speakers, performers
  - Fieldwork
  - Internships and apprenticeships
  - Research and writing of an International Degree undergraduate thesis



**Office of Global Opportunities**

Oregon State University, University Plaza, 1600 SW Western Blvd, Suite 290, Corvallis, Oregon 97333

T 541-737-3006 | F 541-737-6482 | <http://international.oregonstate.edu/osugo>

**D. Language acquisition.** Students can develop or improve language skills through such means as:

- Coursework
- Homestays
- Selection of site in favor of language-immersion
- Conversation partners
- Opportunities for formal or informal presentations in the target language
- Oral proficiency testing
- Language pledges
- Community involvement
- Internships and apprenticeships using target language
- Conducting research for an International Degree undergraduate thesis using target language

**E. Student (Personal) Development.** Study abroad can be transformative for its participants.

Among the outcomes often cited are improvement in critical thinking skills, cross-cultural skills and perspectives, tolerance for ambiguity, self-confidence, independence, flexibility, self-knowledge, appreciation of difference, re-evaluation of personal values, new direction and skills for job/career path, and new perspectives on American society and culture and on the US role in the world.

- Orientation program
- Intercultural training
- Journaling
- Opportunities for local engagement, including internship, research or community service
- Homestays, host-country dorm roommates, or other integrated living situations
- Career-related opportunities
- Re-entry workshops
- Appropriate mechanisms for fostering independence and self-direction