

# Study Abroad 101

Choosing a study abroad program is not easy, so don't get trapped into choosing something that's not right for you! Take control of the process! To help you with the process of researching, choosing, and applying for a study abroad program, AmeriSpan offers Study Abroad 101 ... the basic steps to a successful study abroad experience!

## Step 1: When & What Works For You?

### Write down your goals and constraints

In order to find a program that meets your academic, budget, and personal needs, you need to clearly define your goals and constraints. What is it that you want to accomplish? When can you go? What can you afford?

### GOALS

- Meet new people from around the world
- Build my resume with international experience
- Bring a new perspective to my academic studies
- Learn to speak Italian
- Ride a gondola in Venice & visit Colosseum in Rome

### CONSTRAINTS

- Spring semester is the only time I can be abroad
- Need a 3 credit business course during spring semester
- I only have one semester of Italian

## Step 2: Where To Go?

### Select a location BEFORE you select a program

AmeriSpan believes that atmosphere is the key ingredient in the overall learning recipe. You will learn more in an environment where you feel comfortable. Are you a big city person, or do you prefer small towns? What do you like to do outside of class? Do you prefer a busy nightlife or fewer distractions from your studies? Are you interested in indigenous cultures, or are European cultures more enticing?

## Step 3: Which Programs Meet Your Needs?

### Research and compare program details

Not every program is right for every student. When evaluating different programs, we recommend that you answer the following questions:

- ▶ What are the deadlines, start dates, and payment policies?
- ▶ What are the requirements? (language, grade point average, etc.)
- ▶ Are the elective courses taught in English or the local language?
- ▶ How big are the classes?
- ▶ Where is the campus located? (near city center, public trans., etc)
- ▶ What facilities are offered? (on-site cafeteria, computer lab, library)
- ▶ What are the housing options?
- ▶ What out-of-class activities are offered?
- ▶ What excursions are included?
- ▶ Are volunteer or internship opportunities available?
- ▶ What other services are included? (travel insurance, cell phone, etc.)
- ▶ What type of transcript is provided? (US college or foreign university)

One of the best tools for researching and comparing study abroad programs is the Internet. You will find the answers to these questions and more at: [www.amerispan.com/study\\_abroad](http://www.amerispan.com/study_abroad).

## Step 4: Who Puts It All Together?

### Find the right study abroad provider

Independent organizations (AmeriSpan) and private/state universities both provide study abroad programs at foreign institutions worldwide. In



your research, you may find that the program you want is offered by several organizations. Therefore, you should select the one with the best service and value, and with whom you feel the most comfortable. Here are some questions for you to ask when evaluating different study abroad providers:

- ▶ Are they reputable? (Ask for references, how many students they send, years in business)
- ▶ Are your questions answered in a complete, friendly, and timely manner?
- ▶ Do they demonstrate a good understanding of the location and the finer details of the program?
- ▶ What do you get for your money? Do they provide extra services? (excursions, cell phones, in-country transportation, extra activities, other lodging options, etc.)
- ▶ Are the payment and refund policies flexible? (credit cards, late registration, postponements, etc.)

## Study Abroad Myths

Too often, students get trapped into choosing study abroad programs that do not meet their needs. Why? Because they fall prey to these common myths:

- ▶ **I can only receive academic credit for study abroad programs offered by my college or university** – WRONG! The vast majority of US and Canadian universities will grant credit for transcripts from accredited foreign universities. Moreover, many study abroad programs issue transcripts from US accredited universities.
- ▶ **The more expensive the program, the better it is** – WRONG! There is little relation between a program's price and a program's quality. Often several different providers work with the exact same foreign university and prices vary considerably. Moreover, different providers include different services, excursions and extras.
- ▶ **I can't get financial aid for studying abroad** – WRONG! Sometimes it takes a bit more work and research but financial aid is available for studying abroad.



# Why Choose an AmeriSpan Academic Study Abroad Program?

## Unmatched Experience & Reputation

### Talk to the experts

Studying abroad can be one of the most valuable, enriching experiences of your life ... IF you choose the right program. To help you through this sometimes confusing and overwhelming process, talk to the experts at AmeriSpan. We understand your questions and concerns because we have personally dealt with the same issues. We have gone to great lengths to make the process of choosing and applying for a quality study abroad program easier than ever.

All of our staff members have studied and/or lived abroad for extended periods of time. Collectively, we have traveled to more than 65 countries and speak 10 languages. Since the early 90's, we have used our expertise and experience to help more than 19,000 people study abroad.



## Many Destination Choices

### Pick a location with the right atmosphere

AmeriSpan offers academic study abroad programs throughout Europe and Latin America in a variety of Spanish, Portuguese, French, Italian, and German speaking countries. We offer programs in big cities, small towns, near beaches, mountains, and more. For a complete program listing, visit: [www.amerispan.com/study\\_abroad](http://www.amerispan.com/study_abroad).

## Two Different Types of Study Abroad Programs

### Find a type of program which meets your needs

Do you need flexibility with dates? What type of transcript do you need? Do you prefer to study in a university environment? Do you prefer to be with a wide variety of people? Do you want to take electives? Do you want small class sizes? Have you studied a foreign language before?

AmeriSpan offers two distinct types of study abroad programs so that you can find the program that meets your individual needs and interests. The table below compares these two program types:

### Language & Culture

<b>Start Dates</b>	Start any Monday
<b>Program Length</b>	12-16 weeks
<b>Credits</b>	12 language credits
<b>Institution</b>	Institute specializes in teaching target language to students
<b>Courses</b>	Language classes, from beginner to advanced Culture taught in context of learning target language
<b>Student Body</b>	Wide variety of ages and nationalities
<b>Class Size</b>	Max 4-12 students per class (depending on location)
<b>Requirements</b>	Minimum 2.5 GPA No previous language study required
<b>Volunteer / Intern</b>	Available at most locations

## More For Less

### Choose the program that offers the best overall value

Although the specific extras vary with each study abroad program and location, ALL AmeriSpan study abroad programs include:

- ▶ Credits issued on an official transcript
- ▶ Cultural activities & weekend excursions
- ▶ Housing (type of housing varies with location)
- ▶ Complete pre-departure packet
- ▶ Comprehensive Travel Assistance Program
- ▶ Airport pick-up
- ▶ Emergency message service
- ▶ On-site support staff

## Simple Application Process

### Sign up for your program today

1. Make sure that you meet the minimum requirements. Many of our programs do not require previous language study. However, students must have a minimum 2.5 GPA. If your GPA is lower than 2.5, we will review your application packet and may require additional information.
2. Make sure that your school will accept the credit for the program you have chosen. We strongly suggest that you make an appointment with your school's study abroad department for guidelines. While you are there, please have the study abroad advisor sign the Permission to Study Abroad Form.
3. Carefully read the enclosed Terms & Conditions and Study Abroad Checklist. Complete and sign all enclosed application forms. Go to [www.amerispan.com/study\\_abroad](http://www.amerispan.com/study_abroad) to download any missing application materials.
4. Mail us your completed application packet, including the following:
  - ▶ Signed Permission to Study Abroad form
  - ▶ Completed AmeriSpan application form
  - ▶ USM application forms (ONLY for Language and Culture programs)
  - ▶ Letter of recommendation (from a professor)
  - ▶ Official copy of your transcript
  - ▶ \$200 deposit - all payments may be made with personal check, money order, VISA, MasterCard, American Express and Discover.

### Language & Culture PLUS

<b>Start Dates</b>	All students start on the same date
<b>Program Length</b>	14-16 weeks
<b>Credits</b>	14-17 credits (language & electives)
<b>Institution</b>	Foreign university or academic institution
<b>Courses</b>	Language classes, all levels Electives taught in English Electives taught in target language (available at some locations)
<b>Student Body</b>	University students from around the US In most locations, local university students attend same school
<b>Class Size</b>	Max 12-25 students per class (depending on location and/or courses)
<b>Requirements</b>	Minimum 2.75 GPA One semester of language study (may be waived in some cases)
<b>Volunteer / Intern</b>	Available at most locations

Spanish, Portuguese &  
Other Language Programs

Volunteer & Internship  
Placements

Specialized Programs  
(eg. SALUD Medical Spanish)

Academic  
Study Abroad

[www.amerispan.com](http://www.amerispan.com)  
Additional Information & Programs

Study & Travel  
Resources

Executive Intensive  
Programs

US & Canada Based  
Programs

Teen Programs &  
Summer Camps

## Past Participants Say It Best

"The program was better than I expected, the homestay was great and I loved the classes and professors. My experience with AmeriSpan was wonderful!" – Student, University of Pennsylvania

"Living with a family was a very worthwhile experience. The professors were thorough and well-prepared." – Student, Columbia U

"The excursions are a marvelous vehicle for learning about the history and the culture of the country. The Faculty are committed to their students progress." – Professor, LaSalle University

"If I had known how rewarding my trip was going to be, I would have stayed even longer. On a recent vacation to Cancun, I was mistaken several times for a native speaker. Thank you!" – Student, U of Texas

"The best part of my program was the homestay. The family was warm, caring and friendly." – Student, University of Pittsburgh

"I often suggest AmeriSpan to interested students and will keep doing so; I like the variety of programs, the flexibility and the ability to design one's best learning experience." – Professor, Northland College

"I enjoyed my family and the school was excellent! The AmeriSpan staff were wonderful and very helpful!" – Student, Baylor University

"I would recommend it to anyone - it was a fantastic experience." – Student, Texas A&M University

"I was very impressed with AmeriSpan's help in planning the trip." – Student, Stanford University



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