

# How do I choose an off-campus program?

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## Consider your goals

- Consider your goals** for studying abroad first and foremost. What do you want to get out of the experience? What personal, academic and professional goals do you have? Find a program that will best help you achieve those goals.
- Meet with the Off-Campus Programs Office** to learn how to shape your goals.

## When should I go?

- Everyone who decides to study abroad is asked to **meet with their advisor(s)**. Your advisor can advise you on where you stand with distribution and major/minor requirements. This will help you narrow down your program options, discuss how courses abroad can fulfill requirements, as well as decide on the time frame that would work best for you and your schedule.
- Do you plan to go for **a term, semester or entire academic year?** The longer the program, the greater immersion and exposure to the culture and/or language you will have.
- Consider the academic calendar abroad** as you plan. Some programs, especially in the southern hemisphere, overlap with the U.S. summer calendar. Many of our programs also run on semester calendars. Fall Term would be a little longer if you choose to go Fall Semester and Spring Semester would take up both the Lawrence Winter and Spring Terms.
- Meet with the Off-Campus Programs Office** to discuss when programs run that would work with your

## Where should I go?

- Location can be one of the most important factors in deciding on a program. **Research regions and cultures of interest** to you, or ones you may have never thought of that might have a program that would fit your goals.
- Do you plan to explore an identity or your own heritage? How will your intersecting identities impact your experience?
- Do you feel comfortable in a **city/large urban** setting or do you prefer a more **rural** location?
- Would you prefer to study in a **target language or in English?** Would you like to learn a new language while taking your content courses in English?
- Study program websites and read student reviews. Speak with other Lawrence students that have participated in a program of interest to you.
- Meet with the Off-Campus Programs Office** to learn more about programs that interest you and how they would fit your goals.

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## What kind of program should I choose?

- What are you looking for-** Language immersion? Rigorous academics? Field experience? Independent research? Internship opportunities? Service learning? Community engagement? Travel opportunities?
- What sort of **housing** would you like? Would you like to live in a dorm or student apartment or would you prefer to live in a homestay with a local family? What would be the benefits of either option and how would they fit with your goals?
- Would you be most comfortable in large or small university? **Consider the different types of immersion experiences** and how they best relate to your goals. Do you want to be engaged in local academic culture or experiential learning opportunities, using your host location as a primary source for learning?
- Do you plan to take courses **within your major or would you prefer to take courses of interest outside of your major?**
- Meet with the Off-Campus Programs Office** to learn more about what different programs offer.

## Thinking it out

- Remember that the right choice for your roommate or friend may not be **the right program for you!** Consider your own personal goals and be willing to leave your comfort zone.
- Study abroad is not a way to travel the world.** It is a way to expand your education and view of the world, as well as engage in opportunities of professional exploration.
- Look at your budget.** Consider both program costs, as well as out-of-pocket expenses for your time off campus. Look into your scholarship options and be sure to meet with Financial Aid to discuss how your aid package will travel with you.
- Meet with the Off-Campus Programs Office** and attend Off-Campus Program events and information sessions.

## Contact us

- Visit <http://www.lawrence.edu/academics/off-campus>
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