International Engineering Minor
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Introduction

In our increasingly global economy, it becomes essential that the US engineering and technical workforce clearly understand how engineering is done in other countries. This includes knowledge of and about international standards, overseas markets and the engineering cultures of other countries that give rise to those standards and responds to these markets. Global corporations such as Boeing, Ford, Toyota, Siemens, Sony, Hitachi, GM, IBM, GE, Microsoft and many others boast engineering and technology workforces that operate on an international scope. They have research laboratories, engineering design centers, manufacturing facilities and sales offices all over the world. Advances in communications have helped companies work multinationally, with teams of engineers around the world working together to design and manufacture products.

Such a global economy means that engineering and technology education must provide students with the tools and experience to compete and work in an international market. Although the equations of motion, Ohm’s Law and software tools work the same whether in China, Germany, Brazil or the USA, the cultural differences in the engineering work place are much different. The International Engineering minor at the College of Engineering and Computer Science at UCF addresses these issues by exposing the interested students to different cultures and languages - professional, technical as well as social. These provide an insight into how engineering is performed abroad and what ramifications that has on the US economy.
International Engineering Minor

The new International Engineering minor provides engineering, computer science and engineering technology students with a structured path for obtaining formal credit for their work towards internationalization on a technical, professional and cultural level. It requires a minimum of one semester abroad, plus coursework taken at UCF in preparation for the experience abroad. The minor has three components:

- Study of language of intended country of study. This includes two semesters (6 to 8 credit hours) of coursework at UCF (or at the partner foreign institution if UCF does not offer courses on that specific language). Alternative requirements exist for students who are already fluent in that language or who are going to a country where English is the primary language.
- Cultural studies of the country you will visit (3 credit hours).
- Technical coursework that applies to your degree at UCF. This portion is the most important and must consist of courses equivalent to those at UCF. Another option is to take an engineering internship abroad with one of our associated industrial partners.

The program is designed to be highly flexible within the above requirements. It is designed around the needs of individual students. Thus, we recommend that you speak with the coordinator for the International Engineering minor in your department to ensure that all academic needs and coursework are satisfied.

Our partnerships with foreign institutions will also bring students from those institutions to UCF for one or two semester stays. This will allow the returning UCF engineering student to continue their international experience and education by collaborating with these students in joint coursework and design projects.

Official Catalog Description
What are the benefits?
Many employers that build products worldwide look for engineering and computer science and engineering technology graduates who can function comfortably in an international setting. Studying overseas indicates a willingness to explore new cultures and learn from new experiences.

Many of our students talk about their time abroad as life changing. Traveling to new countries and meeting new people is culturally enriching and exciting.

"This has been the best three months of my life and I've met so many amazing people. This experience has opened my eyes to the world around me. So far I have visited Paris, Copenhagen, Amsterdam, Budapest, and Kiruna for the northern lights!"
-Wyatt Champion, Environmental Engineering, 2008

"Studying in Sweden was probably the best experience of my life. Not only did it allow me to travel all over Europe, see and try new things, but it gave me the opportunity to meet people from all over the world who will be life-long friends. Professionally, it has opened door after door. An international school experience makes a remarkable impression on your resume. If there is the slightest bit of interest on your part to participate in this program, don't hesitate. Jump at this opportunity. I promise, you won't regret it."
-Leah Russell, Computer Engineering

"Studying in Jönköping was a great adventure, it opened my eyes to new cultures and really brought me out of my shell. I met people from literally all around the world and got a chance to learn about many different places and cultures. I'm looking forward to traveling around Scandenavia and through the rest of Europe. If you have the chance to study abroad don't let the opportunity pass you by."
-Matt Draper, Computer Engineering

"The best piece of advice I have for all college students is to take advantage of the opportunity to study abroad (and don't worry...it doesn't cost as much as you might think). The time spent in another country was extremely valuable and introduced me to a whole new world, culture and people and is something I will never forget. As a student, I was able to participate in courses related to my major while seeing it from a whole new perspective (more hands on and more international ideas). Studying abroad was an experience that encouraged me to grow out of my personal shell and my cultural cave while expanding my knowledge and ability to show compassion. Honestly, words don't do the experience justice."
-Kimberly Raymond, Civil Engineering

"I can honestly say with the utmost confidence that studying abroad has really changed me as an individual and has also helped me in preparation for the professional working environment. Choosing to study abroad was indeed the best decision of my life; the amount of diversity of cultures is simply mind-boggling as you step into the midst of an entirely foreign country and a rush of new sensations hit you as you truly open your eyes for the first time. Studying abroad really gives you an opportunity to take risks and really push yourself to your limits in trying anything out of the ordinary, something different, perhaps even bizarre, without any kind of stereotype and prejudice. As a result, you get to travel around in exotic and beautiful landscapes, and make new friendships from all over the globe. Some of my closest friends right now are in fact thousands of miles away from me whom I would never have met if I did not choose to study abroad. This invaluable opportunity has also provided me with a great deal of exposure to living and working in another country as well as enabling me to refine my
team development skills with others from all over the world."
-Linda Nguyen, Computer Engineering
Am I eligible?

Undergraduate students in engineering, computer science and information technology in the UCF College of Engineering and Computer Science who meet the following requirements are eligible.

- A cumulative 2.50 GPA or better
- Completion of a minimum of 45 credit hours prior to the study abroad experience
- Not be in academic probation

Click here for a copy of the catalog description

Students interested should contact the minor coordinator, Dr. Avelino Gonzalez, at gonzalez@mail.ucf.edu or at x35027.
Where can I study?

Our academic partners are carefully chosen for their education and cultural enrichment opportunities that are challenging and rewarding for our students. The safety of our students is paramount and we do all we can to ensure that our students are studying in a safe and supportive environment. Our list of international partners is expanding and currently includes:

- **Jonkoping University**, Jonkoping, Sweden. Twenty of our students have attended Jonkoping. A mid-sized city in southern Sweden on Lake Vatern. Classes are in Swedish and in English.
- **Pierre and Marie Curie University (Paris VI)**, Paris, France. UPMC is one of the most prestigious technical and scientific universities in Europe. Located in the famed Latin Quarter on the River Seine near cultural activities in the heart of Paris. Classes are in French.
- **Malardalen University**, Vasteras, Sweden. Malardalen is located in Vasteras and Eskiltuna. Both are industrial cities near Lake Malaren and approximately one hour by train from Stockholm. Classes are in Swedish and in English.
- **Technical University of Ilmenau**, Ilmenau, Germany. TUI has been established technical university since the turn of the 20th century. Located in the former German Democratic Republic, it has quickly enhanced its facilities to meet the demands of the 21st century. It is located in Ilmenau, a small industrial town in the province of Thuringia, commonly called the green heart of Germany because of its forested hills and valleys. Classes are in German.
- **Dalarna University**, Borlange, Sweden. Dalarna is located in the cultural heart of Sweden, near Lake Siljan. Rolling hills and wooded lands dominate the landscape, dotted by small and medium sized lakes. It is known for winter sport activities. Classes are in Swedish and in English.
- **Universidad de Cantabria, Santander, Spain**. Unican is one of the newest members of our partner network.
- **University of the West of England, Bristol, UK**.
- **Universidad de Costa Rica, San José, Costa Rica**.
- **Instituto Tecnológico de Costa Rica, Cartago, Costa Rica**.
Where can I do an internship?

Doing a four to six month internship abroad is one interesting and exciting option for students enrolled in the International Engineering Minor program at the UCF CECS. It not only provides a unique insight into the professional technical culture overseas, but could set the stage for future employment opportunities with truly multi-national corporations. Such employment could be in the US, but also possibly overseas. Additionally, such paid internships can also help to alleviate cost issues in studying abroad. Students interested in the foreign internship option have several companies from which to choose. We are currently looking for partner companies.
**How do I apply?**

Students in the International Engineering Minor should work in conjunction with the minor’s advisors and the Office of International Studies to understand and complete the timeline of important tasks in order to prepare for their study abroad experience.

1. Meet with a minor advisor. See the list below.
2. Officially declare the minor by submitting the Minor Declaration Form in EN I - 107 and select a semester for study abroad.
3. Select the country and institution that best meets your academic and personal needs.
4. Obtain departmental course approvals.
5. Apply to the UCF Study Abroad Program. Admission is guaranteed for International Engineering Minor students.
6. Apply to the foreign institution previously selected. Review that institution’s policies, procedures, and deadlines.
7. Obtain passport and the required visas.
8. Take language courses and any coursework at UCF to meet any requirements prior to the semester to be spent abroad.

**Minor advisors:**

**Primary contact:** Hilary Falcon, Coordinator, Academic Support Services, EN I 107, hefalcon@mail.ucf.edu

**Faculty Minor Coordinator:** Dr. Avelino Gonzalez, Professor, EECS, HEC 329, gonzalez@mail.ucf.edu

**Departmental Minor Coordinators – For course approval only**

- **Civil, Environmental and Construction Engineering Dept.** – Carol Ann Pohl, EN II – 211G cpoohl@mail.ucf.edu
- **Electrical Engineering, Computer Engineering and Computer Science** – Charlese Hilton-Brown, HEC 245F, chilton@mail.ucf.edu
- **Industrial Engineering and Management Science Dept.** – Dr. William Thompson, Undergraduate Coordinator, EN II 308, wthomps@ucf.edu
- **Mechanical, Aerospace and Materials Engineering Dept.** – Dr. Kurt Lin, EN I 307, klin@mail.ucf.edu
How much does it cost?

The cost of a study abroad experience is not trivial. However, with preparation and advance planning, it need not be sufficient reason to avoid embarking on this rich experience. In general, we say that the cost of living abroad is roughly equivalent to living off campus at UCF. However, with the loss of value of the US dollar in recent months, this may no longer be true. Furthermore, this does not take into consideration the cost of air fare, which has been steadily rising lately in response to higher fuel costs, or the cost of any travel that the student may undertake to visit other areas of the region, either during the study abroad period or afterwards. Lastly, it should be mentioned that some of our study abroad destinations are more expensive than others. If expense is a critical issue (and it almost always is), then the student should take this into consideration when selecting a partner institution at which to study.

There are things a student can do to partially mitigate the cost of this experience. There are sources of financial assistance. These are listed in (link). Additionally, we have worked hard to identify potential partners for paid internships abroad of which students can take advantage. While this list is relatively small at this time, we are working hard to expand this list of industrial partners and expect this list to grow over the next few years to provide our students with practical technical experience as well as a means to subsidize their experience overseas.

With the varying value of the dollar in recent months, the exact costs can be difficult to predict with any certainty. However, some things we do know.

- Students will be registering and paying tuition at UCF. Therefore, any financial aid they may already have (i.e., Bright Futures, merit-based scholarships, outside financed scholarships or financial aid, etc.) would still be in effect.
- There is a fixed fee of $250 for applying to the Study Abroad program.
- Those attending universities in smaller cities will find the living costs to be more in line with those in Orlando than those attending universities in large cities of first world countries.
- Cost of living in the large cities can be mitigated for by making living arrangements early so as to live on a university housing where it is less expensive.
- Air fares also vary with destination, cost of jet fuel and time of year. However, one should generally budget between $500 to $1,000 for Latin America, $1,000 to $1,500 for Europe and $1,500 to $2,000 for Asia. It is likely that these costs will go up in the next few years as the cost of fuel rises.
- Cost of passport and visa (yes, a visa is necessary in most cases because of the duration of the stay), is between $200 and $300.
- It is unlikely that you will need or want a car while overseas. Therefore, the cost of gasoline abroad, while considerably more expensive that in the US, will be largely irrelevant to your expenses.

We have some information on costs based on the experiences of our past participants. For example, in Jonkoping, with which we have the longest relationship, the budgetary numbers are as follows:

Cost Estimates
The following are estimates of the cost involved in studying abroad. Keep in mind that it is difficult to provide an exact estimate because of several variables, such as the exchange rate, the specific location of interest and the individual student’s spending habits. Nevertheless, the following will provide a ballpark estimate of several countries of interest, plus a more accurate estimate of one particular location (Jonkoping University).

1. Brazil (Rio, Sao Paulo)
   **Currency:** Real
   **Approximate Exchange rate:** $100 = 158.00 Brazilian Real, R$
   **Approximate cost of living (in Brazilian Real):**
   - **Rent:** can vary greatly depending on where you decide to stay, but in general, it is cheaper compared to dorm/apartment living in Orlando
   - **Internet connection:** R$3 - 5 per hour
   - **Beer:** R$ 2 - 3 per 600 ml bottle; R$ 1 - 2 per 350 ml can
   - **Taxi:** R$ 3 - 6 per km
   - **Big Mac:** R$ 4 - 5; a comparable local sandwich goes for about half that price
   - **A giant pizza:** R$ 20 - 30
   - **A movie ticket:** R$ 5 - 15

2. Poland (Warsaw, Gliwice, Krakow)
   **Currency:** Polish Zloty
   **Approximate exchange rate:** $100 = 205 Zloty
   **Approximate Cost of Living (in Zloty)**
   - **Milk:** 2.6 Zloty
   - **Mineral water:** 2.5 Zloty
   - **Bread:** 2.00 Zloty
   - **Rent:** 1500 Zloty = $733/month for 2 bedroom flat

3. France (Paris, Toulouse, Bordeaux)
   **Currency:** EURO
   **Approximate exchange rate:** $100 = 63.70 Euros
   **Approximate cost of living (in USD):**
   - Food prices are comparable to US
   - Cafeteria food is subsidized and students can plan $40/day for meals if sticking to cafeteria food
   - Rent in a dorm in downtown Paris is about $980/month; somewhat cheaper in Toulouse and Bordeaux

4. Sweden
   **Currency:** Swedish Krona (SEK)
   **Approximate exchange rate:** $100 = 604 Swedish Krona
   **Approximate cost of living (in USD):**
   - Food prices are comparable to US
   - Cafeteria food subsidized, $40/day
   - Rent is about 30% cheaper in dorms than the US; flats can be as expensive

   **Currency:** British Sterling Pound
   **Approximate exchange rate:** $100 = 50.26 Pounds
   **Approximate cost of living:**
   - Plan on paying DOUBLE for everything in the UK
6. Germany (Berlin, Aachen, Munich, others)
Currency: EURO
Approximate exchange rate: $100 = 63.70 Euros
Approximate cost of living:
Food prices are comparable to US
Cafeteria food subsidized, $40/day
Rent is about 30% cheaper in dorms than the US; flats can be as expensive

7. Greece (Athens, Thessaloniki, ...)
Currency: EURO
Approximate exchange rate: $100 = 63.70 Euros
Approximate cost of living:
Athens is comparable to Paris, and other locations depend on how rural they are to determine cost of living; the loss is a result of the US$ vs. Euro exchange.

8. Italy (Rome, Florence, Bologna, Milan, Naples)
Currency: EURO
Approximate exchange rate: $100 = 63.70 Euros
Approximate cost of living:
Rome and Florence are two of the most expensive cities in the world, the others slightly less expensive.
Cost of living compared to Orlando is about 30% higher.

9. Japan
For Japan, this website is good:
http://gojapan.about.com/od/dailylifeinjapan/a/costlivingtokyo.htm
This is also a useful site:
http://www.finfacts.ie/costofliving.htm

More Specific Cost Example – Jonkoping University, Sweden

We have the greatest experience with this university. Over the past eight years, upwards of 25 to 30 UCF students have spent at least one semester at Jonkoping University. The detailed, but nevertheless estimated expenses for 2008-2009 are as follows:

1. UCF Tuition (12 hours, in-state) - paid at UCF $1,551.12
2. UCF Study Abroad Fee $250.00
3. Passport (for students who don’t have one) $100.00
4. Visa (required) $175.00
5. Mandatory Insurance $175.00
6. Transportation to site $1,400.00
7. Housing Kr 2400 per month Jan.- May $1,725.00
8. Meals $1,800.00
9. Books $300.00
10 Transportation at study site (bus, train) $250.00
11 Train Stockholm Arlanda to Stockholm Central $20.00
12 Stockholm Central to Jonkoping by bus $42.00
13 Bus ticket 220 KR a month $180.00
14 Phone (tele2 sim card free)* $60.00
15 Student Union fee KR 150 $25.00
16 Welcome events first week* $40.00
17 Incidentals (travel, phone minutes, etc)* $500.00
18 Entertainment (estimate)* $500.00

Total Estimated Cost: $9,093.12

* Optional

Sweden's currency is the Swedish Krona: www.x-rates.com/calculator.html

This amount does not include fees and financial obligations.
**When is the best time to go?**

The ideal time to study abroad is the second semester in your junior year. Going abroad in other years is possible, but may limit the variety of coursework available to you. Studying abroad in your final semester before graduation is highly discouraged.

If you are interested in taking the international minor, talk to a minor coordinator as early as possible. Your coordinator will advise you on what courses to take according to your interests, course of study and academic needs.

**Preparing to go Abroad**

It takes at least 18 months to plan your study abroad experience. This includes taking language courses, applying to overseas institutions, processing travel documents and finding lodging.
For Parents

In today’s global economy, international experience is an essential part of higher education. More and more sectors of the economy require working with international corporations, collaborating with foreign teams, or working as member of a multi-national team. To acquire meaningful international experience is one way to prepare your son or daughter for the workforce he or she will enter after graduation. In addition to a strong engineering background, there is a need for engineers with cross-cultural experience and foreign language abilities. This will help them tremendously to get an edge in the competitive job market.

The challenges that come with living in another culture force students to hone their interpersonal and communication skills, increase their sensitivity to other cultures, and become more adaptable, assertive, and independent. Truly, your son’s or daughter’s decision to spend a semester abroad is very likely to be a very worthwhile investment.

The personal experience and new perspectives that students develop while studying overseas are valued by more and more companies, organizations, and employers who seek new employees who can speak a foreign language, thrive outside their comfort zone, and/or live and work comfortably in a multicultural setting and environment.

Finally, a person who spends a significant amount of time abroad learns about themselves and, through the eyes and minds of others, about their own country. These lessons, in addition to broadening their views on issues ranging from foreign policy to ethics and everything in between, can provide students with tools that will enable them to adapt and succeed in the global marketplace.

We highly encourage all students who are academically capable to engage in an international study abroad experience. The testimonials from students who have done it in the recent past are glowing with praise for this experience, not only from an academic and technical standpoint, but also from a social and cultural view. We hope that you and your daughter/son will have a discussion about this issue and agree with us about its benefits.

Frequently Asked Questions for Parents

How much will it cost?

The cost of a study abroad experience is not trivial. In general, we say that the cost of living roughly equivalent to your son/daughter living off campus at UCF. However, with the loss of value of the US dollar in recent months, this may no longer be true. Furthermore, this does not take into consideration the cost of air fare, which has been steadily rising lately in response to high fuel costs, or the cost of any travel that your son/daughter may undertake to visit other areas of the region, either during the study abroad period or afterwards. Lastly, it should be mentioned that some of our study abroad destinations are more expensive than others. If expense is a critical issue (and it almost always is), then your son/daughter should take this into consideration when selecting a partner institution at which to study.

Nevertheless, there are things one can do to partially mitigate the cost of this experience. There are sources of financial assistance. These are listed in our page dedicated to financial issues (link). Additionally, we have worked hard to identify potential partners for paid internships abroad of which
your daughter/son can take advantage. We expect this list of industrial partners to grow over the years to provide our students with practical technical experience as well as a means to subsidize their living overseas.

Will my son/daughter be safe?

The safety of our students is our foremost consideration. While no one can fully guarantee the safety of your son or daughter, we make sure that the social and political climate in the area in which our students will be living and studying is conducive to doing so safely. Our procedure to ensure safety includes monitoring of the U.S. Department of State travel warnings and advisories, regular consultations with onsite resident program coordinators and through communication with responsible officials in host universities. Additionally, the institutions and the country where we send our students is visited by one or more UCF faculty and/or staff members prior to agreeing to send students there. Furthermore, the Office of International Studies holds orientation seminars for students just before they leave for overseas. (Confirm)

What about health insurance coverage?

Medical insurance policies issued in the U.S. are not always valid outside the United States. Furthermore, doctors, clinics, and hospitals abroad often expect immediate payment upon any medical services. For these reasons, we highly recommend that all students traveling overseas have international insurance coverage.

How long will my son/daughter be gone?

The length of study abroad stays are either one or two semesters. This means that your son/daughter will be away either approximately four and eight months. Oftentimes, our students choose to remain in the country of study after their study abroad experience to travel and experience the region. While we generally encourage this from a personal growth standpoint, it is not part of the official study abroad experience and we cannot control where the student goes upon completion of their studies or internship abroad.

Where will my son/daughter live?

Most likely students will have the choice of three different living arrangements:

- Home stay: Families are carefully selected by our partner institutions for our students to stay. This has advantages when your son or daughter is learning a new language, as the host families are not typically fluent in English.
- Student dorms: This is the most typical. Most partner institutions will set aside space in their student dorms for international students. This allows our students to better mix in with the local student population as well as other international students.
- Apartment: On some occasions, a student will rent their own apartment. Sometimes the partner institution can provide assistance for them to find such living arrangements, but this is not common. More typically, the foreign institution has apartments that they use as extensions to the dorms and will assign our students to these apartments. This is not unlike the UCF affiliated apartment housing complexes in around the UCF campus.

Will my son/daughter have a car abroad?
While it is certainly possible for our students to purchase and drive cars abroad in most countries where our partner institutions are located (although not all), we highly recommend against it. Driving in other countries is different from driving in the US. Some of our partner countries drive on the left hand side (England, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Ireland and others). Furthermore, we are not familiar with insurance issues related to driving. On the other hand, public transportation in most of our partner countries is excellent and inexpensive.

**Will a student receive grades for courses taken abroad?**

Yes, of course. Our students will enroll in classes here at UCF and pay tuition at UCF as they would normally. This simplifies the logistics because the student will not need to transfer the classes and credits taken overseas, and avoid the bureaucracy typically involved with such transfers of credits. This also allows your daughter/son to use whatever financial assistance they would normally get (Bright Futures, scholarships, etc.). Part of the agreements UCF has with our foreign partner institutions is that they allow our students into their classes for free, and treat them like any other student. A grade is given at the end of the semester and that grade is transferred back into your son/daughter’s transcript by the UCF Office of International Studies (OIS), who handles such registrations. Sometimes a translation from the foreign institution’s grading scale (e.g., 1 though 5, 0-100%) into the A/B/C/D/F grading scale used at UCF is required. This is done by the UCF Office of International Studies. OIS has extensive experience in this matter, and is in constant consultation with the foreign partner institutions to insure a fair and accurate grade translation.

**What if the student does not successfully complete a course?**

It is same as failing a course here in the main campus. Students will have to retake the course.

**Tips for living abroad:**

- **Cultural Shock**
  - When one goes abroad one experiences new cultures, people, food, music and probably a new language. All of the novelty combined with the lack of things and people with which one might be familiar might cause some anxiety and stress. This type of anxiety is called cultural shock. The vast majority of people quickly overcome cultural shock and gain from it. Not only will the cross-cultural adjustment help in his or her learning and development in a new country, it will make the experience more rewarding and interesting.

- **Discrimination**
  - Nowhere in the world is 100% free of racism and discrimination. Your son/daughter can face racism or discrimination abroad just like they can face racism or discrimination for whatever reason in their home country. However, many times students that go foreign countries find out that in some places people are more accepting of different races and cultures than in their communities at home. Don’t let the possibility of racism or discrimination stop your son/daughter from many benefits of studying abroad.
Financial Aid Resources

There are several potential sources of financial aid:

- UCF general aid
- UCF specific program aid
- Third party opportunities
- Paid internships

Let’s go over these…

1. UCF General Financial Aid
   Several sources of small amounts of money are available throughout UCF
   
   - Burnett Honors College – grants available to members of the BHC ($1,000)
   - OIS – Small need-based grants are available from OIS ($1,000)
   - SGA – Provides small sums of $$ to cover some expenses ($300 to 500)
   - Professors who may have research funds for international collaborations

   Please contact the appropriate unit indicated above to find out more about these opportunities.

2. UCF Specific Program Aid
   Several programs exist at UCF that have funds to support student foreign experiences. These are very attractive, but targeted to very specific locations
   
   - FIPSE – Brazil
     - Provides up to $5,000 for study to Brazil
       - Universidad Federal de Rio de Janeiro (Rio)
       - Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Rio Sul (Porto Alegre)
   - Atlantis DeSIRE
     - Provides up to $5,000 for study to
       - France (Universite Joseph Fourier - Grenoble)
       - Poland (AGH Univ. of Science & Technology – Krakow)
       - The Czech Republic (Brno University of Technology)

   Applications for participation in these programs are done through the CECS office of International Engineering minor. See Ms. Hilary Falcon, hefalcon@mail.ucf.edu.

3. Third party opportunities
   There is a wealth of opportunities available from third party organizations dedicated to promote study abroad by American students. These are:

   1. The Gilman Foundation
   2. The Lincoln Scholarship Program
   3. The Fulbright Program
   4. The Whitaker Foundation
   5. National Security Education Program
   6. StudyAbroad.com
   7. Study Abroad Scholarships
   8. Domestic Exchange and Study Abroad Programs
9. International Financial Aid and College Scholarship Search
10. International Scholarships
11. Financial Aid for Study Abroad
12. Study Abroad Loans
13. SIT Study Abroad
14. Study Abroad Scholarships and Financial Aid

These opportunities are available directly to the student, so it is incumbent upon the student to apply directly for grants and loans through these organizations.

4. Family members
Family members can be a potential source of assistance for students interested in traveling abroad. We urge you to discuss this with your parents or other family members to determine this potential.
Advisor List and Contact

The interested student should contact Ms. Hilary Falcon at hefalcon@mail.ucf.edu, x32796 or the minor Coordinator, Dr. A. J. Gonzalez, gonzalez@mail.ucf.edu, x35027.

Department coordinators whose approval for equivalent course work will be necessary are:

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<tr>
<th>Department</th>
<th>Coordinator</th>
<th>Email</th>
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<tr>
<td>EE and CpE</td>
<td>Dr. Samuel Richie</td>
<td><a href="mailto:richie@mail.ucf.edu">richie@mail.ucf.edu</a></td>
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<td>CS</td>
<td>Dr. Ali Orooji</td>
<td><a href="mailto:orooji@cs.ucf.edu">orooji@cs.ucf.edu</a></td>
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<td>Dr. William Thompson</td>
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FAQ

How much will it cost?

The cost of a study abroad experience is not trivial. In general, we say that the cost of living roughly equivalent to your son/daughter living off campus at UCF. However, with the loss of value of the US dollar in recent months, this may no longer be true. Furthermore, this does not take into consideration the cost of air fare, which has been steadily rising lately in response to high fuel costs, or the cost of any travel that your son/daughter may undertake to visit other areas of the region, either during the study abroad period or afterwards. Lastly, it should be mentioned that some of our study abroad destinations are more expensive than others. If expense is a critical issue (and it almost always is), then your son/daughter should take this into consideration when selecting a partner institution at which to study.

Nevertheless, there are things one can do to partially mitigate the cost of this experience. There are sources of financial assistance. These are listed in our page dedicated to financial issues (link). Additionally, we have worked hard to identify potential partners for paid internships abroad of which your daughter/son can take advantage. We expect this list of industrial partners to grow over the years to provide our students with practical technical experience as well as a means to subsidize their living overseas.

Will my son/daughter be safe?

The safety of our students is our foremost consideration. While no one can fully guarantee the safety of your son or daughter, we make sure that the social and political climate in the area in which our students will be living and studying is conducive to doing so safely. Our procedure to ensure safety includes monitoring of the U.S. Department of State travel warnings and advisories, regular consultations with onsite resident program coordinators and through communication with responsible officials in host universities. Additionally, the institutions and the country where we send your students is visited by one or more UCF faculty and/or staff members prior to agreeing to send students there. Furthermore, the Office of International Studies holds orientation seminars for students just before they leave for overseas. (Confirm)

What about health insurance coverage?

Medical insurance policies issued in the U.S. are not always valid outside the United States. Furthermore, doctors, clinics, and hospitals abroad often expect immediate payment upon any medical services. For these reasons, we highly recommend that all students traveling overseas have international insurance coverage.

How long will my son/daughter be gone?

The length of study abroad stays are either one or two semesters. This means that your son/daughter will be away either approximately four and eight months. Oftentimes, our students choose to remain in the country of study after their study abroad experience to travel and experience the region. While we generally encourage this from a personal growth standpoint, it is not part of the official study abroad experience and we cannot control where the student goes upon completion of their studies or internship.
abroad.

Where will my son/daughter live?

Most likely students will have the choice of three different living arrangements:

- **Home stay:** Families are carefully selected by our partner institutions for our students to stay. This has advantages when your son or daughter is learning a new language, as the host families are not typically fluent in English.

- **Student dorms:** This is the most typical. Most partner institutions will set aside space in their student dorms for international students. This allows our students to better mix in with the local student population as well as other international students.

- **Apartment:** On some occasions, a student will rent their own apartment. Sometimes the partner institution can provide assistance for them to find such living arrangements, but this is not common. More typically, the foreign institution has apartments that they use as extensions to the dorms and will assign our students to these apartments. This is not unlike the UCF affiliated apartment housing complexes in around the UCF campus.

Will my son/daughter have a car abroad?

While it is certainly possible for our students to purchase and drive cars abroad in most countries where our partner institutions are located (although not all), we highly recommend against it. Driving in other countries is different from driving in the US. Some of our partner countries drive on the left hand side (England, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Ireland and others). Furthermore, we are not familiar with insurance issues related to driving. On the other hand, public transportation in most of our partner countries is excellent and inexpensive.

Will a student receive grades for courses taken abroad?

Yes, of course. Our students will enroll in classes here at UCF and pay tuition at UCF as they would normally. This simplifies the logistics because the student will not need to transfer the classes and credits taken overseas, and avoid the bureaucracy typically involved with such transfers of credits. This also allows your daughter/son to use whatever financial assistance they would normally get (Bright Futures, scholarships, etc.). Part of the agreements UCF has with our foreign partner institutions is that they allow our students into their classes for free, and treat them like any other student. A grade is given at the end of the semester and that grade is transferred back into your son/daughter’s transcript by the UCF Office of International Studies (OIS), who handles such registrations. Sometimes a translation from the foreign institution’s grading scale (e.g., 1 though 5, 0-100%) into the A/B/C/D/F grading scale used at UCF is required. This is done by the UCF Office of International Studies. OIS has extensive experience in this matter, and is in constant consultation with the foreign partner institutions to insure a fair and accurate grade translation.

What if the student does not successfully complete a course?

It is same as failing a course here in the main campus. Students will have to retake the course.

Tips for living abroad:

- **Cultural Shock**
  - When one goes abroad one experiences new cultures, people, food, music and probably a new language. All of the novelty combined with the lack of things and people with
which one might be familiar might cause some anxiety and stress. This type of anxiety is called cultural shock. The vast majority of people quickly overcome cultural shock and gain from it. Not only will the cross-cultural adjustment help in his or her learning and development in a new country, it will make the experience more rewarding and interesting.

- Discrimination
  - Nowhere in the world is 100% free of racism and discrimination. Your son/daughter can face racism or discrimination abroad just like they can face racism or discrimination for whatever reason in their home country. However, many times students that go foreign countries find out that in some places people are more accepting of different races and cultures than in their communities at home. Don’t let the possibility of racism or discrimination stop your son/daughter from many benefits of studying abroad.
Useful Links

American Youth Hostels
http://www.hiusa.org/index.shtml

Birth Certificates
http://www.vitalcheck.com/

Center for Disease Control

City Guides & Entertainment Listings
http://www.timeout.com/

Currency Exchange Rates
http://www.xe.com/ucc/

Destination Info, Health Info, Question & Answer Bulletin Board
http://www.lonelyplanet.com/

Federal Aviation Administration
http://www.faa.gov/

Get a Passport
http://www.americanpassport.com/

IIEPassport
http://www.iiepassport.org/

International Fair at UCF

International Maps
http://www.theodora.com/maps/

International Student Association at UCF
http://pegasus.cc.ucf.edu/~isa/

Office of International Studies
http://www.international.ucf.edu/

Register with the U.S. Consulate
https://travelregistration.state.gov/ibrs/ui/

StudyAbroad.com
http://www.studyabroad.com/

Travel Guidebook Information
http://www.travel.roughguides.com/

Traveler’s Health

UCF International Services Center
http://www.intl.ucf.edu/

U.S. Department of State Travel Info
http://travel.state.gov/

US Passport Application:
http://travel.state.gov/passport/passport_1738.html

US State Department - Services - Consular Affairs
http://travel.state.gov/

US Dept of State - Websites of US Embassies, Consulates, and Diplomatic Missions
http://www.usembassy.gov/

Partner Universities

Corporations and Companies for International Internship