STUDY ABROAD
Questions & Answers

Q. What are the benefits of going abroad?
A. Both academic and personal benefits can be gained from a study abroad experience. You will be exposed to different teachers, teaching methods, and course content which allows for intellectual growth. However, the opportunities for personal growth are often even more important. This is usually the first time that students are confronted with their American identity, leading to significant cognitive, affective, and behavioral transformations. One of the most frequent comments from students returning from an international experience is that they feel more confident about their abilities and thus themselves. This self-confidence will be invaluable to a student's personal life as well as an asset for graduate school and future employment.

Q. Who is eligible to study abroad?
A. Study abroad is available to any Bellarmine student in good social and academic standing (2.75 GPA for semester and full year programs and 2.5 for summer programs). For study at a non-English speaking university site, proficiency in the language of study is necessary (i.e., a minimum of four semesters of college-level language coursework).

Q. Which majors can study abroad?
A. All majors can study abroad. Students can take general education classes and classes in their major overseas. There is also the option to take the IDC 301 Trans-cultural Experience abroad in a program with a Bellarmine professor or as an online course during a semester overseas.

Q. Why should I take the IDC 301 Trans-cultural Experience abroad?
A. The idea of this course is to experience and learn about different cultures. Taking the course overseas can enhance your international experience and give you a deeper knowledge of the culture in which you are living. In order to be eligible you must have completed the IDC 100 and 200 requirements before the start of your overseas experience.

Q. Will students receive academic credit for study abroad experiences?
A. Yes. All credit earned in **Bellarmine affiliated programs** abroad is transferred back to Bellarmine. Most often, course transfers are determined before the student departs through discussions with appropriate department chairs.

Q. Is it true that studying overseas is expensive?
A. Not necessarily. The cost of a semester or academic year abroad on exchange is virtually the same as study at Bellarmine (tuition, room and board, and student fees). The only additional expenses are the cost of transportation to and from the study site and minimal administrative fees. The cost for summer programs ranges from $2,000 to $4,900. Most forms of financial aid are available.

Q. Will scholarships and grants be applied to study abroad programs?
A. Yes. In a majority of cases, departmental scholarships, KEES money, Pell grants, direct loans, and various other forms of financial aid will be applied to study abroad programs as if the student were studying on campus. Special scholarships of up to $8,000 for summer or semester study abroad are available to full-time Bellarmine students.

Q. When should a student start investigating study abroad?
A. While students are strongly encouraged to check into study abroad opportunities during their freshmen year, all students are invited to investigate their options. General information meetings about study abroad are held near the beginning of each semester. Bellarmine holds its annual study abroad fair in October. Students are invited to stop by the International Studies Office (Miles 111-114, 452-8479) for more information.

For more information see: www.bellarmine.edu/studyabroad