How to Go Abroad for Watson Students!

As the world of engineering and technology becomes ever more globalized, studying or having an internship abroad allows Watson students to develop their own cross cultural skills to be competitive in this internationalized field. Plus, it’s a fun time! This checklist will provide way to know what steps needed to find your own international experience

Choosing a Program:

Study Abroad
__ Explore the list of recommended study abroad programs with engineering coursework on Watson International website. If looking at non-engineering related study abroad programs, explore the programs from the Office of International Program’s Website, and attend the Study Abroad Fair
__ Read through the FAQ on the Office of International Programs website to learn more about financial aid for study abroad, grade transfers from courses abroad, etc.
__ Learn more about the specific programs by meeting with a study abroad adviser in the Office of International Programs in LNG 300. Nicole Humphrey (nhumphre@binghamton.edu) is the study abroad adviser for engineering students.

Internship
__ Explore the possibilities of international programs recommended on the Watson International website. Note that some international internship programs will have internships options will vary on the year, time, compensation, support, etc. Read through all the details on the program carefully.
__ Check with companies for possible internships abroad

Applications:

Study Abroad
__ Start application for the program you want to go on. Most study abroad applications are done electronically and a “Apply Now” button can be found on the electronic brochure for that program. However, some SUNYs use paper applications. Typical deadlines are between Mar and Apr for Summer and Fall programs, and Sept and Oct for Spring. Some different items you may need for your application include:
   __ Statement of Purpose (“Why I Want to Study Abroad...”)
   __ Two academic recommendations (can be sent electronically from the application)
   __ Transcripts sent via BU Brain

Once your application is complete, the study abroad adviser for the program will review your application and let you know about your status, either accepted or nominated. From there you may then commit to the program.
After you’ve been accepted/nominated/committed:

__Complete any follow up post-decision items which are required for your program by deadline given__

__Pay program deposit by deadline__

__Speak with an academic adviser about the courses you want to take while abroad and how this may work in your degree plan. If you plan on taking engineering coursework, bring syllabi of the courses you are interested in taking abroad to the meeting. If you are having troubles finding syllabi or course descriptions from the international institution contact your program adviser.\]

Internships

__Complete the necessary application by the deadline. Some things you may be required to provide include:__

__Your up to date CV__

__Academic or Employment references__

__Examples of research experience if applying for a research internship__

Financial Aid/Scholarships:

Study Abroad

__Review cost sheet for the study abroad program you have applied to. If you have questions about costs, contact the program advisor__

__Check with the financial aid office to determine if any part of your financial aid package will transfer for your time abroad.\]

__Make a realistic budget. If you plan on traveling a lot while abroad, or buying local souvenirs, these costs should be added into your budget__

__Apply for available scholarships. Scholarships for studying abroad are available through the Office of International Programs. Deadlines are March 1 for Summer/Fall and Oct 1 for Spring__

__Make arrangements for payment for your program expenses. Some expenses will be paid to Binghamton but some will be paid to the international institution itself or another SUNY if your are on a different SUNY’s program__

Travel

__Apply for a passport if you don’t already have one. If you already have one, make sure it will be valid at least 3-6 months past the point you’d return__

__Apply for a visa, if required. Check with the consulate for the country you will be going to for more info. Students on internships abroad that will be paid may need to apply for a work visa. They should ask their internship contact from abroad for more information__
Before you go:

__Attend your pre-departure orientation for the study abroad program. If you are on a Binghamton program, you will have a site specific orientation organized by your program adviser. If you are on a different SUNY program, you need to ask that study abroad office their pre-departure orientation procedures.

__Make travel arrangements, if they are not organized by your program. If you are on an internship program which does not arrange housing, work with your contact for the internship to find suitable accommodations for your time abroad.

__Learn about the country and culture you will be going to

__Make copies of all your important documents (travel documents and other important documents)

__Find out how to communicate abroad (i.e., phone, email, etc)

__Print off and safely store your HTH International Health Insurance Card if on a study abroad program

__Prepare yourself to be an ambassador of Binghamton and the US

While Abroad:

__Stay in touch with your program coordinator and contacts back in America

__Take great photos to share with the Office of International Program’s Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram, and with the Watson School of Engineering

After Your Return:

Study Abroad

__Complete your program evaluation to have your transcripts processed. This short survey can be found on your electronic Binghamton application