

# The Ultimate Guide To Study Abroad



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# Preface

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Studying abroad is one of the biggest dreams we have in our entire life. However, the path or the process for fulfilling that dream was never been crystal clear. Personally, I have been there and I felt overwhelmed with the process many times. But you don't have to worry about that complex process anymore. Because this guide is written by someone who experienced the pain and burden twice, learned a lot about the process and achieved the goal successfully. The knowledge I gathered from my personal experience and my team members' experiences is well presented here to guide you to reach your goal. Keep in mind, when you have done everything close to perfect and you got what you want as planned, that feeling is priceless.

Dr. M. Karaputugala

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# 1. Ask yourself and people who matters to you

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Going abroad for studies is not a simple task at all. First of all you should have a clear picture of what you need. Remember that your plans and ideas play a huge role in your life. Think a while: what is the purpose of going abroad, who you want to be, what I will achieve in 5 to 10 years by studying abroad? These are your main motivation factors. If you feel like giving up due to the complexity of the process, try to remind your motivation factors. Your parents raised you for almost 16 to 18 years or even more than 20 years and they want you to become successful someday. This is the dream of every parent and that is not a secret at all. If you are still depending on your parents, they should spend a huge amount of money to send you to study abroad, so, don't forget their great commitment.

## 1.1. Why you should study abroad

Planning to study abroad today will affect the rest of your life. So, making the right choice is very important in this scenario. Studying abroad provides many benefits than you ever thought.

Studying abroad helps you to develop your personality. You'll become more independent when living alone apart from home in an extremely different environment. As you go to a different country, it exposes you to new people, a new culture, and a new way of life. So, you'll start to think differently, and it will make your life even better.

If you have made your own decision to go abroad and people who matter to you also agree with it, then you need to need to start the process as described in this guide one by one.

## 1.2. What's the level of the study and discipline, and how long

You might have already chosen a path that you want to go, it might be your dream path, but if you haven't decided yet a way for your higher education, you can do a research on that and find the best and suitable stream for your higher studies. Analyzing the job market will give a better idea in this case. While choosing the way by analyzing the job market, focus on your interests too, because you will be stressed if you do what you don't like, and you might even quit in the middle. So, it is important to do studies that you will be able to enjoy.

As you know, there are different kinds of study levels according to the knowledge you can gain. They are.

1. Foundation program
2. Bridging program
3. Diplomas
4. Bachelor's degree
5. Master's degree
6. Doctoral degree

### 1.2.1. Foundation Program

Foundation programs are the programs that can take after graduating from high school to prepare you before attending the university. When studying abroad, the language and the studying methods might be extremely different from your country, so foundation courses make you an eligible candidate for the university that you are going to attend. The duration of the foundation programs varies from university to university. The usual period of foundation programs will last 3 to 6 months.

### 1.2.2. Bridging Program

With the bridging program, you will be able to study in another partner institution that provides an advanced experience. Mostly, students who have two-year college degree seek advancement in their profession by obtaining a four-year bachelor's degree. As well, there are a lot of bridging programs for post-secondary programs with researches.

### 1.2.3. Diplomas

Usually, diplomas take up-to two years, and if you do it part-time, it will take much more. After you complete your graduation in 2 years, some colleges and universities offer to continue further studies and become a full bachelor's degree in the same institution or in a partnered institution. However, most colleges offer job oriented diploma that paves the way to a professional career. If you really don't want yourself locked for a 4-year bachelor's degree or you already have a bachelor's degree but want to pursue job-oriented education, I would recommend getting a diploma program.

### 1.2.4. Bachelor's degree

Most of the students, after completing their higher studies at their motherland, they go abroad to do the bachelor's degree program. And the bachelor's degree is the most common type of undergraduate degree. Usually, a bachelor's degree program would last 3 to 4 years if you studied full-time. Entry requirements vary from course to course or from university to university, but you'll normally be required to obtain a certain number of UCAS (Universities and Colleges Admissions Service) points to begin. Grade 12/ senior high school or equivalent or diploma completed students are eligible to apply.

*Note: Some universities offer a chance to study the first two years of the bachelor's degree program at the local university and study the last two years in a foreign university.*

### 1.2.5. Master's degree

If you love to study abroad and you couldn't fulfil your dream at the bachelor's degree, it's not too late; now you can complete your master's abroad and live the life you wish. A Master's degree is the most popular type of post-graduation qualification that goes deeper than the bachelor's degree program. Normally, master's degrees include research-based studies that will focus you on a specific area of a broader subject. If you do your master's degree in full time basis, the course will take about two years. And if you do it part-time, it will take up to 2 to 4 years. The entry requirements will be based on the bachelor's degree or academic record of the last two years

### 1.2.6. Doctoral Degree

This is the highest level of degree awarded. If you want to take another step in your knowledge after doing Masters, you can go to a Doctoral Degree. The most common type of Doctorate is the Research base Degree. A Doctoral Degree usually takes up to 3 to 4 years if you do full time, and if you do it part-time, it could last to 6 to 8 years. Usually, your academic record of the master's degree, the past research backgrounds including publication and future research interest play a vital role in the admission process.

## 1.3. What is the Best Country for you

When you choose a country to carry out your studies there are few main factors that you need to consider. Those are

- Security and Safety
- Quality of education
- Cost of Living
- On-Campus and Off-Campus Work Eligibility

- Weather and Climate

### 1.3.1. Security and Safety

The whole premise of studying abroad is that it brings you not to let yourself be afraid of overseas places or foreign people. The world can look scary, but the world is also a beautiful place filled with plenty of kind men and women. Rather than letting your anxiety for potential catastrophes to hold you back, view it instead as a lesson in proper preparation. The best example is COVID19 pandemic. Search on web how those countries treated to international students during pandemic. Some countries like Canada did an extra ordinary steps to protect international student both in security, health and more importantly financially.

The risk is real when you travel. But these risks shouldn't be debilitating or cause you to comply just yet. The world has been becoming a more dangerous place -according to the Global Peace Index. With a feeling of insecurity growing worldwide now, more than ever before, students are worried about staying safe while looking for areas that are safer to study overseas and studying overseas. Note that this risk is more or less applicable even though you are in your own country.

### 1.3.2. Quality of education

Education standards differ between countries around the world. As stated by the international Partnership for Education, education plays a vital role in human, social, and economic development. Education is a basic human right that plays a crucial role in societal, human, and economic improvement. As of 2020, the top ten countries depending on education rankings are[1]:

1. The United States
2. The United Kingdom
3. Canada
4. Germany
5. France
6. Australia
7. Switzerland
8. Sweden
9. Japan
10. The Netherlands

### 1.3.3. Cost of Living

While the overall cost of studying overseas is a valid concern, there is often a lot of doubts and confusion around the question, "how much does it cost to study abroad?". Placing an average price tag on studying abroad can be counterproductive since it masks the full assortment of costs between different countries and programs. The overall cost will depend from person to person. So, our **Budget Calculator** will help you to get an estimate on your final cost and what type of cost to include.

#### 1.3.3.1 Tuition

First and foremost, the primary expense for most of the study abroad programs are tuition. Tuition fees will change depending on the program and the type of financing that your host institution receives. Some countries (such as many in the European Union) have high public education systems and will charge you very little even as an international student. Others, like the U.S., U.K., and Australia, the tuition fee is a little bit high.

### 1.3.3.2 Housing

After tuition, rent, and daily costs of living, like food and entertainment can cost you a formidable expense as well. Many study-abroad programs will include this price on their upfront program charges, such as if you are living in a homestay or dormitories with meals provided. If you have friends in that city, you can even ask about the cost from them or if you have a friend who lives in that specific country, he might help you to find out that information easily. If you have no relatives or friends from that country, you can ask through the university international center.

### 1.3.3.3 Transportation

The last significant cost to take into consideration will be traveling costs. Some programs include the fee of flights to your host country, and some won't. You will need to make sure you understand just what your program fees cover beforehand. Beyond the significant flights to and from your study abroad destination, you want to take into consideration that you'll probably be using public transport daily along with doing some travel on the side while you're overseas. These prices (as with rent and other daily expenses) are much lower in specific areas of the world than others, depending on the economic status of your host country. Many universities can help rollover tuition so that you won't be paying twice, and so you may wind up paying less study overseas than you'd to study in your home.

### 1.3.4. On-Campus and Off-Campus Work Eligibility

Finding a part-time job as you study abroad can be an excellent chance for you to gain some job experience, to make some cash and make new friends. However, you need always to remember that working while studying won't help you cover all your costs.

The biggest problem that international students face is not being allowed to work while studying. One country that makes it practically impossible for international students to obtain a working permit is Italy. In theory, it is possible to work while studying, but it is very tough. Some countries like China allow international students to work but make the application procedure for a working license tricky. The United States also has rather complicated laws and strict rules regarding working while studying. There are some countries, such as Costa Rica, completely prohibited to international students to work while studying.

Fortunately, there are lots of countries that offer a fantastic education and let international students work part-time while attending university. Some have high restrictions, while others are quite lenient. The following countries make it easy for international students to earn some extra money while studying.

Top 10 countries which allow international students to work while studying:

- United Kingdom
- United States
- Canada
- Ireland
- Germany
- France
- Sweden
- Singapore
- Australia
- New Zealand

Note – Please note that government base information can change over time.

### 1.3.5. Weather and Climate

Another factor when choosing a country for your higher studies is the climate of that country. Sometimes, it might be challenging to live in an extremely different environment with an extremely varied climate, or sometimes the climate of the country you are choosing might be closer to your country. In this case, it will be ok, but in the first case, it might be a bit difficult at first. But don't make the climate of the country as a significant factor for consideration, because if the environment of the country you decide to study is different from your country, you'll get used to that new climate by time. You can check the climates of different countries [\[2\]](#).

## 1.4. Discuss the plan with your family and check the financial affordability.

The student who has been awarded a full scholarship will not have much financial an issue as the full scholarship provides enough money to have a normal life while fulltime studying. However, if you are not awarded a full scholarship then this step is crucial for you. So you have to have a sort of a clear understand how much money you can earn while studying and how much of money you have to find as a support for your studies such as financial aid, parents and etc. So to make that comparison we specially developed our **Budget Calculator** for international student to help to get an estimate on their final cost and what type of cost to include in the calculation.

## 2. Find the best university for your interest

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This is one of the most important decisions that you will be taking through your whole process. So, what will be the best university for you? You have a lot to consider about: First the country, then the university and all the sub factors. Now you might have an idea on the country by reading the above topic. So, let's try to find the university that suit for you. In fact, now you can easily find your an interest university by using the [Gradhopper University Finder](#)[3].

### 2.1 Tuition Fees

Tuition fees vary widely between universities. Living expenses, insurance, and travel costs also differ between different countries and regions. So, there is no easy answer. On average in worldwide, the tuition fees will go around \$14,295 per semester. If you study in Europe, a semester will cost average \$15,797. And if you study in Asia, the average of cost per semester will go around \$8,886. And you can find more about the tuition fees through [Gradhopper University Finder](#)[3].

### 2.2 University reputation

So, now let's talk about the university rankings. This also will be one major factor before choosing a university for most of the students. University rankings shouldn't be the only basis of your decision; however, there are lots of good reasons to use them as a beginning point. A university's reputation is more than a number and a ranking. But how does a university exactly make their reputation? Let's look at a few key things about gaining this reputation.

At first the age of the university. As the university-age increases, the reputation builds automatically. As you can see some of the best universities in the world are the oldest such as Cambridge and in fact, Harvard University is the first university in the US to opens its door.

And also, the location of the university affects university reputation too. Universities located in metropolitan areas more likely to receive high rankings which offer more opportunities for employment and growth. When choosing a university, don't go for the quantity, but go for quality. What does this means? A larger number of students studying in a university doesn't means it's the best. Fewer students often mean that the university is competitive and highly selective, which is a good factor.

And also keep in mind, finally, your university reputation affects your employability. So, choose the correct university for you.

There is no easy method to choose which university is right for your precise requirements, so you shouldn't base your choice on rankings and standing alone. Below are some other variables to consider. Keep in mind mostly, tuition fees are also high in most of the prestigious universities.

### 2.3 Scholarship availability

And the third factor on our list, the scholarship availability in the university. You can afford a scholarship in different ways. One is government scholarships such as NSERC, Vanier, Commonwealth or Daad Scholarships in Canada and the other way to get a scholarship offered by the university itself and even there are privately funded scholarships.

If you've got in mind some universities that you would like to apply, you may be better off by calling an Admissions Counselor at each university and asking about the availability of a scholarship to every one of them or you can use trusted online university finder like [Gradhopper](#) to find out which universities offer the scholarships that you prefer.

## 2.4 Program to be enrolled

There are dozens of programs that you can choose in universities overseas. Sometimes you might have already selected a program, that doesn't matter. The [Gradhopper](#) provides you every single program that you can study abroad with every single detail.

## 2.5 English and other entrance requirement

For many universities and programs, your level of comprehension and proficiency in English is going to be a key to the approval of major programs. You have to make sure you have an excellent level of English understanding, and also you can do this by participating in one of these commonly accepted tests of English skill:

- Test of English as a Foreign Language - (TOEFL)
- International English Language Testing System -(IELTS)
- University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate - (UCLES)

If you already have selected a university, check the English requirement on the university site to make sure, the English test you are planning is acceptable by the program requirement.

## 2.6 Credit Transfer

Transfer credit or credit transfer are used by colleges and universities for granting credit to a student for educational experiences or courses undertaken at another institution. This is a sort of recognition of your prior Learning. To transfer credit, the student has to provide his academic transcript(s) which lists the course taken, grade, and other attributes from each institution they attended when applying for enrollment. Each transcript and the listed courses are tentatively evaluated to see if any of the courses taken satisfy the requirements of the receiving institution [4].

## 2.7 Internships

Internships overseas are a superb chance to check the waters in your preferred career path while experiencing life in a civilization that's vastly different from the one you've been confined to for your whole life. An internship abroad is also a powerful addition to your resume, demonstrating to a possible employer that you've got more rounded work experience, understand how to adapt to varied work environments, and possibly even speak numerous languages. And also, an internship paves the way to consider when you are applying for university/scholarships.

There are several ways to do international internships. You've probably figured out there are some faster ways, slower manners, cheaper manners, and more costly ways, but regardless of what--they're all forward manners. You only need to select which one will be the best according to your needs.

### 2.7.1 Through the university

You could be surprised by how much your university can aid you in finding global internships. Many universities organize international courses throughout their study abroad office or work with organizations that perform. They will probably be impressed with your ambition, and they may be able to pull some strings and help you or at least point you in the right direction. You can't, and maybe there

is an alumnus of your campus living in your host town who can provide you an internship for you or a recognized company that has a history of hosting interns previously.

### 2.7.2 Through a provider

A program provider is an excellent place to start when deciding which is the right means for your internship abroad. A supplier can take all your info (expertise, preferred countries, duration, etc.) and then spit out the very best matches for you. You can trust them to guarantee that the businesses in their network are legit and adhere to specific standards. Sometimes, they will also assist with strengthening your contract, pair you up with an in-country planner, assist you in finding accommodation, and supply general assistance to alleviate the process of settling into a new nation and workplace. The services offered vary widely, so make sure you do your research and see the program reviews.

## 2.8 Application deadlines

If you are going applying for either an undergraduate (Bachelor's) degree or graduate studies, universities will generally provide two program deadlines any term - early admission and regular entrance. In North America, usually, Fall and Winter intakes are available. You need to check with the university for important dates in the admission process.

If you are asking for a post-graduate (Master's or Ph.D.) degree, your university program deadline will depend on the term in which you're enrolling (Spring ingestion or Fall intake).

### 2.8.1 What if you miss the deadline

Even if you missed the application deadline for the course, there's still a chance it is possible to apply and get admitted. Here is what you should do:

- Check the university website, and possibly the country's application system site. You may find information on how to apply late.
- Call or e-mail the university and ask if they take a late application. Don't explain too much why you missed the deadline; simply focus on convincing them.
- Once it is possible to confirm that a late application will be considered for entrance, don't squander time: Get all required files and send them off. You may just be in luck!

## 3. Application process

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### 3.1 Contact university admin for info

First of all, before you start your application preparation process, it's better to contact the university before this process because this process may differ from university to university. Below is some advice on various ways of calling universities, such as information about who to contact, what to inquire about, and should inquire, throughout the university admissions procedure.

#### 3.1.1 Email

Email is by far the most popular means of contacting universities. This procedure is both faster than putting pen to paper and much more formal than sending off a tweet. Students are sometimes frustrated with response times, but it's still the most popular procedure for those asking questions about applying for university.

#### 3.1.2 Phone

Phone calls are the most immediate process of communicating and have the advantage of meaning you can find a more personal reaction to your inquiry - presuming you get through to the right individual. You can call through the university's office hours.

#### 3.1.3 Letter

Sending a letter, written or typed, can be quite an excellent way to ensure your question becomes detected. Messages should be reserved for formal requests or queries directed at faculty members, regarding applications or specialized investigation for postgraduates. The response time might take than a week, but if you include an email address and phone number on the correspondence, you may find a quicker response.

#### 3.1.4 Asking about your university application

In case you have sent your application straight to the university admissions section. Your question ought to be directed to the human resources or admissions staff of the university in question. Contact info for these divisions should be available on the university's official website.

#### 3.1.5 Asking about undergraduate, master's and Ph.D. programs

If you're looking for a more sophisticated and looking for an answer about a specific program, email is the way to go. You should either email the university admissions department or exclusive faculty members within your field. Even though you need to take some time to think about whom just to send your email to, it's very likely that, if you happen to deal with the wrong person, your email query will be forwarded on to some correct member of staff. Replies may be slower than on social networking, but with an email, you are more likely to get a response from someone who knows about the path you're asking. If you're looking for a postgraduate program, you will want to learn if one of your shortlisted universities specializes in your path of interest. A suitable means to do this is through their university email address. Well, you can ask from Gradhopper too.

### 3.2 Write to supervisor for graduate studies

Your relationship with your supervisor is going to be one of the most critical factors contributing to the achievement of your studies. Taking the opportunity to find a supervisor who will match your study and

learning style will help to ensure the accomplishment of this relationship. The following are a few essential factors to help you in your attempts. Whenever you're prepared to contact the supervisor, contacting them by email is an excellent method. Make sure your messages have been tailored to every professor, not as generic. You must grab the attention of the professor immediately and create a fantastic first impression. Write a brief and expert letter. The message ought, to begin with, Dear Professor/Dr. (Last name) and finish with "Yours sincerely," followed by your entire name and contact. State why you're writing (e.g., I'm applying to the M.Sc. program in define program). And state why you're interested in graduate research (such as career goals) and highlight any leadership or research expertise and analytical abilities. You can discuss the funding availability as well for graduate studies. When you write your supervisor for the first time, don't forget to attach the documents to prove your points: Academic CV, list of publications with links to download them such as google citations, transcript, list of awards, etc.

### 3.3 Writing a research proposal for graduate studies

A research proposal is a letter that provides a brief history of your past research and study experience, the present status of your study, and the future work you wish to finish.

The research statement is a regular part of a possible candidate's application for a post-undergraduate study. This may include programs for grad applications or university positions. The study statement is often the primary way a committee determines if a candidate's interests and the experience make them a fantastic fit due to their program/institution. Usually, a research proposal is generally one to two single-page documents. You should be clear enough to read and follow the span and content requirements for each application.

Your proposal should begin with articulating the broader field which you're working within and the larger question or questions which you're interested in answering. It should then move to articulate your interest. The entire body of your proposal should include a brief record of your previous research. What particular questions did you originally set out to answer in your research project? What did you find? How did it contribute to a field? And how did your previous research propel you ahead? But a fresh graduate, he or she may not have enough research experience. In this case, the student can emphasize their final year project.

If you have ongoing researchers, you should describe it too. What problems are you actively trying to solve? What have you discovered so far? How are you connecting your inquiry to the broader academic dialogue? (i.e., would you have any books under review, upcoming conferences, or other professional appointments?) However, if you are directly writing to a professor you have to make sure to go through the professor's website and align your research interest with his ongoing researches or aims of the grants/funding.

In the end, it should describe the prospective trajectory on which you mean to take your research. What further questions do you wish to solve? How do you plan to locate answers to those questions? How do the establishment to which you're applying for help you in that procedure? What are the broader assumptions of your possible results?

*Note: Note that you may not get to do the same research once you get there. It all depends on professor's funding*

### 3.4 University admission application

University admission application is the process through which students enter higher education at a university. The procedures vary widely from country to country, and sometimes from institution to

institution. Most of the countries accept admission from the student who is in high school. But some universities only accept application once they are done with high school or A/L.

### 3.5 Scholarship application when applicable

This application has to be filled carefully and should explain your research capabilities and experience in a precious manner. Use this document to show off your technical writing skills while highlighting your research experience. It is recommended to get review this document from an experience professional. The Gradhopper provide professional service for evaluating those documents.

### 3.6 Prepare supporting documents

The next step is to prepare the supporting documents. These are the documents that support your application. Keep these documents related and specific. And you should **not** upload any documents that are not specifically required to apply for your program, such as documents relating to training courses or study below degree level. Below are the main types of documents that you should prepare to support your application.

#### 3.6.1 Transcript

Academic transcripts provide the complete university information regarding the classes and modules you've studied at the undergraduate or post-graduate degree and the grades and GPA you've obtained. Academic transcripts are necessary since seeing what classes you took can assist universities in determining when you've got the essential background and techniques for the program you're applying to. At precisely the same time, they could see which subjects you've done better, and which topics are "weak spots" you want to improve on. That's why you must have more substantial grades in the undergraduate classes which are most relevant to the program you've picked. The transcript should be sent to the applying university in an envelope sealed by the issued university.

#### 3.6.2 Reference letters

Reference letters allow others to speak on behalf of you. Typically, they are considered additional and confidential evidence of your ability that you'll complete the program you're applying to. If you are only required to submit letters from professors, then those letters will pay attention to your academic skills and accomplishments. If you are required or allowed to submit a reference letter from an employer, universities anticipate that letter to reflect the skills related to your master skills. Make sure you ask the reference letters well in advance to ensure that they get to the university in (in or on) time.

#### 3.6.3 Curriculum Vitae

The curriculum Vitae (CV) is a brief summary of your academic achievements, professional qualifications, contributions and skills also your personal information too. Your CV performs your first impression on the admission staff and thus, must be written or typed very carefully and next, reviewed accurately. Your objective should be reflected in the content and flow of your CV along with the hierarchy of your qualifications and achievements included in the document.

While preparing your CV, you must keep in mind that a CV is not an autobiography and should not be approached in that sort of way. You must treat your CV as a complete and focused reference to your academic history, achievements and your skills. Finally, the font, spacing, tool usage, etc. should be used in a suitable way and in alignment with the standard format of an academic CV.

### 3.7 University Acceptance Letter

You have applied to university, and behold, you have been accepted by the University of your Dreams. You may think you're all set, and you need just pack your luggage, book a flight, and fly to your campus.

But you must take yet another step to ensure your position in the university will be open and ready for you once you arrive: You will need receive an acceptance letter by the university to confirm your position. Admissions officers must make sure you are all set to attend.

### 3.7.1 The Letter of Acceptance of Admission

Some universities and graduate programs require that an applicant submit an official acceptance of admission. University programs sometimes have limited places available for students, which mean that your acceptance letter will protect your position. The acceptance letter for university entrance is an essential part of your university application.

Address your letter to the specific department, graduate application, or individual who signed your acceptance letter. Show yourself in the first paragraph of your message. State that you are writing in response to the offer of admission to the university or program. Express your gratitude to the admissions department or the graduate division that allowed you. For those who know by their names, expand thanks to the individuals who made a choice to accept your application for enrollment. State that you are accepting admittance to the grad program you plan to attend. Offer short as a result of the men and women who wrote letters of advice and encouraged your application for enrollment. Conclude your letter of approval for university by repeating your thanks. State that you are excited about attending the university or grad program. And finally, close with "Sincerely" and sign the letter above your name.

### 3.7.2 Curriculum Vitae

If you are applying for a scholarship, you will often be asked to compose a letter to go with your application. The message generally introduces highlights and the qualifications which make you the very best candidate for the scholarship. Just like any professionally written document, you must follow word length requirements and proofread for spelling and grammar mistakes before turning on your letter and program.

Ensure you address the scholarship letter to the proper person or committee. Read the scholarship instructions carefully to find out who is getting your message and application. Use a business letter format to write this letter. Put your return address along with the date at the top of the message. The addressee's contact information goes, followed by your greeting. Write the body of your letter in a block arrangement. Finally, close your letter and sign your name.

Write an introductory paragraph that is short and states your purpose for writing the letter, including the name of this scholarship. Include a summary statement regarding your qualifications, which makes you the best candidate, for example: "My academic achievement, as well as my leadership qualities and extracurricular activities, make me the perfect candidate for this scholarship." You may have already recorded these accomplishments on your program; however, this is your opportunity to highlight them and explain them with additional details. Check on your scholarship letter for grammar and punctuation errors, and then edit it for clarity.

### 3.7.3 Scholarship Award Letter

A Scholarship award letter is issued by the university to the student and the purpose of the Scholarship Award Letter is to inform the students that they have been settled with the financial support they had needed to follow their future studies. The correspondence should always be formal and yet convey real sentiments to the receiver and enhance their morale. All necessary information about the scholarship is to be cited in the correspondence in this way That There's no misunderstanding or miscommunication between the Scholarship authority and the student who was awarded this scholarship.

## 3.8 Visa Application

An essential thing about your student visa program is that you get it done early as possible when you plan to leave your home country. In some cases, the procedure can take around six months or even more for visa applications with missing info, so it is advisable to apply as soon as possible.

To get started on the application forms and other helpful information regarding student visa requirements, you need to visit the official university. If you have any other questions about the type of visa you need or any more common questions concerning the practical side of studying abroad, it is also possible to request assistance from the university you plan to attend. Most universities will offer support for international students going through this process. To discover whether this is the case, contact the international admissions section of the university and ask if they can help you at all with your application.

To make sure you give yourself the best odds of success, make sure to fill in your visa application as thoroughly as possible, considering all the student visa requirements to that country. If you are not able to supply a necessary document or make an error filling in these forms, this may result in your application being delayed or even rejected. As soon as you have sent your application, be prepared to immediately answer any further questions the visa authorities may have (check your telephone, emails and post regularly) and make sure you have any free time to attend an interview with a visa officer in the coming weeks.

### 3.8.1 Passport

If you are traveling to another country, you will need a passport. To Be Able to apply for a passport, then You Have to Complete the Form, collect the appropriate documents for submission, prepare the charges, and submit your material into an acceptance facility. The average processing period to get a passport is six to eight weeks. But if you're experiencing circumstances delays, you can sometimes expedite the support process, so you receive your passport quickly. Some countries offer you one day service in issuing the passport if there are no more errors or missing documents set. So, you can contact your country government services for more information on this.

Without any explanation, you can apply for expedited service using additional charges. If you are experiencing unusual circumstances, you might be able to get a rush order. For a first-time passport application, you will need one or few of the following documents based on your status of the country:

#### Identification documents

- Driver's license
- Certificate of Naturalization or Citizenship
- Government employee ID
- Valid foreign passport

#### Proof of citizenship

- o A passport (may be expired)
- o A birth certificate
- o Certification of Birth
- o A Certificate of Naturalization
- o A Certificate of Citizenship

#### A current photo

Some passport acceptance facilities will offer this photo for a charge. The photograph size may differ from country to country. So, better to find out more details from the government services .You need

facing the camera, wearing ordinary clothing, without the adornments on your head or face (including hats, eyeglasses, or headphones).

### 3.8.2 Supporting documents

#### Police Certificate

The applicant should submit police certificates that meet these guidelines. The police certification must:

- Cover the entire period of the applicant's dwelling in that area.
- Be issued by the proper police authority.
- Contain all arrests, the main reason behind the arrest(s), and the disposition of each case of which there is a record.

#### How to obtain a police certificate

Determine from which countries an applicant is required to obtain police certificates. Some countries may require a Police Certificate Request forms to properly request and obtain the applicable Authorities Certificate(s). Most of the countries need police clearance which is obtained by providing fingerprints. If you are living in another country and want to obtain a police clearance, then you can send the fingerprint via a local police station. You may have to check which police station has those facilities in the country. Further, if you have lived more than 6 months in another country within last 5-10 years then some of the countries needs police clearance from that country as well.

Police certificates from certain countries are unavailable. If your police certificate is inaccessible, if you are unable to obtain a police certificate for any reason, please provide a written excuse when you submit your other documents.

### 3.8.3 Biometry and Medical Examination

A biometric or biometric identifier is the objective measurement of a physical characteristic of an individual that, when recorded in a database, can be utilized to check the identity or assess against other entries in the database. The usually known biometric measurement is the fingerprint, but others include, such as facial recognition and iris scans.

In the first case, you must have to pay for this facility. And after you pay for this, you'll get a confirmation letter to give your biometrics and where you should go.

You have the chance to apply for the biometrics by mail, online, or even at a Visa application center.

Usually, a medical examination is not required if the visit duration is six months or less than six months. But, if you stay for more than six months, you need a medical examination for the visa process. Your family doctor cannot do this examination, and you need to find a panel physician to perform this examination.

The doctor will check your,

- weigh
- height
- hearing and vision
- blood pressure
- pulse
- heart and lungs
- abdomen
- limbs move
- skin

### 3.8.4 Prepare for the interview.

Practice your English if it's not your first language. This can help you communicate with the officers at the interview. And also, this will be helpful in your future research. There are lots of ways that you can practice, such as by watching English TV shows, English films and translating your favorite music songs, reading books in English, and lots more.

Prepare the documents before you attend the interview. This is only one of the most important steps in your preparation for the interview. During the interview, you must show enough proof for you to get a visa. A few of the documents you must submit include your visa program, university acceptance letter, I-20 type in the US, or study permit in Canada, in addition to prove that you have enough money to support yourself. You can even include guarantors, like your parents, who will help you support yourself while you're abroad.

Be sure to listen carefully, think before you answer and keep your responses brief and to the stage. You can study online the most common questions in the visa interviews to prepare yourself along with your answers. It's crucial to prepare a justification for a few of the most frequent visa interview questions. Typical questions may include: Would you like to visit the university you picked, what it is you are going to study, what your career goal is following you graduate, and many others like these.

The officers at the interview will frequently ask about the ties to your home nation. This is done to make sure you have enough things that hold you back, and you will eventually arrive back to your home country after completing your studies successfully. Typically, these comprise your work or business, family, the house you may own, or whatever else you can consider. Be confident; stay calm. Be positive and make a confident image of yourself, and you will have a successful student visa appointment.

## 4. Last couple of months in your home country and first couple of months in your new country

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### 4.1 Before you leave

As you plan to get the higher study opportunity and visa you have to plan the rest of the things you have to do. Otherwise, you will mess-up everything at last moment. Here we discuss most of the important other things that you have to do.

#### 4.1.1 Book your flight

After you prepare yourself and all the documents, booking a flight will be the most important next thing you should do. If you go for a shorter time period, you may need a return flight. As well, don't forget to ask your travel agents about the cheap flying dates and times. Sometimes flying over a country will be an extremely new thing to you. But don't worry, your family members can help with this.

When you are booking a flight, there are few things to consider. One of those is your luggage. Most airlines will let you check two bags without a fee on an international flight. However, for some people, they might need to check the third bag, and that can be costly. You may be required to pay an extra 150 dollars for that. There is not a way around this. Just know about what the costs are and compare airlines as there's an opportunity some may charge you even for a second bag.

#### 4.1.2 Travel Insurance

Comprehensive travel insurance will bring peace of mind to both you and your family since you'll know that you and your possessions are protected if something happens. Granted, it is not going to be the most exciting part of organizing your semester abroad, but it is among the most essential. Many universities require students to acquire travel insurance since they know how important it is.

Even if your trip doesn't begin for several weeks, you must purchase your travel insurance policy once you've put down any cash for your trip, particularly any prepaid charges, such as travel and lodging expenses, which have a tendency to be quite high. As a result, if something occurs - like you fall ill and need to cancel your positioning, you will have the ability to claim back any irrecoverable costs.

There are typically three types of travel insurance coverages that are suitable for someone studying abroad; that one you choose will be largely based upon the length of your trip and travel requirements. Single Trip: This usually covers one trip of up to 87 days. Annual Multi-Trip: This strategy covers multiple journeys for 12 months. Backpacker: This provides constant cover for up to two years and is usually the main kind of policy to pay for students for extended durations.

The cost of a travel insurance policy will differ from company to company, and it is undoubtedly an excellent idea to look around. But when buying travel insurance, do not buy on price alone. Unfortunately, the cheapest policies generally offer the most basic cover, so you really need to be certain the policy you are buying really covers whatever you need it to - like the cost of your trip if you want to cancel, sports that you might be participating in, and other individual concerns.

The cheapest travel insurance policies often include high excesses, the sum you will need to pay in case you need to claim. Prices really shouldn't be more than \$100, and a really good insurance company will usually give you a choice to waive the surplus.

### 4.1.3 Prepare a checklist that you want to pack.

Everything is done; you are selected for a university and have your flight booked. Probably, you are anxiously counting down the days before you depart, and finally, it's time to deal with the toughest part of the process: what should I pack for study overseas? You and pretty much every study abroad that has come to this situation before you've panicked over the same thing.

Attempting to stuff your entire life into a couple of suitcases is daunting, especially since you probably don't know what's waiting for you when you step off the plane.

Each airline has different luggage requirements, so be sure to check this carefully. Even if your airline lets two checked bags plus a carry-on, do you need to lug all of that around? Just because you can bring it does not mean you should. Decide upfront how much stuff you want to carry and then keep it up. Two 50-pound bags do not sound like much until you are sprinting through Heathrow with them!

#### **Clothes to pack for study abroad**

- All your standard shirts, pants, dresses, skirts, and other go-to clothes
- More underwear, socks
- Bathing suit
- shoes
- Flip flops
- Jacket
- Shampoo, conditioner, soap (also you can buy when you arrive)
- Cosmetics, lotions
- Toothbrush, toothpaste, floss
- Feminine products
- Contraceptives
- Medications or prescriptions
- Sunscreen

#### **Electronics to pack for study abroad**

- A mobile device, charger
- Laptop, charger, padded case
- Power adapters
- Portable power bank

#### **Miscellaneous to pack for study abroad**

- Passport, visa (if applicable)
- Travel medical insurance (FYI – some visas require proof of insurance)
- Copies of your passport, visa, IDs
- Small backpack for short trips
- Small lock for hostel lockers
- Space bags
- Small locks for safety purposes

### 4.1.4 Time with family and friends

This is one of the MOST important things that you have to do before you left the country though most of the student does not do this. Don't let suffer you later. Spend some time with your nearest and dearest and cherish all the memories; in those times when you are feeling nostalgic and not able to focus on anything, they might lift you.

Remain in contact with your family and friends as you're abroad using video chat applications, such as WhatsApp, Facebook, or Skype. Your mobile phone might work in another country, but otherwise, you may be able to get a mobile phone locally. Being able to speak with your loved one's members and friends can go a very long way in staving off homesickness.

#### 4.1.5 Accommodation arrangement

So. Now you need someplace to stay in your new country. This is your home for the next few years, where you will live, eat, sleep, and quite often in which your social life is going to be established. So, take a while to investigate and explore before making your decision.

Accommodation is sure to be one of the first things that come to mind when you consider studying abroad, along with your final decision will probably be dependent upon lots of variables.

There is an assortment of options regarding international student lodging. Also, numerous considerations and checkpoints you should go through before making your decision, which is also bound to be partially based on personal preference. No matter your budget, and whether it be a university home or something in the personal sector, there will be a choice for you.

As an international student, this may be the very first time you've lived by yourself, or maybe even your first time overseas. It might also be the first time you have been required to manage costs and cope with any aspect of accommodation. It is, thus, essential to understand at the outset that this is a significant decision. Your student accommodation will be a place you unwind, research, and probably most importantly, meet friends, natives, and fellow travelers. Depending on where you choose to examine, your choices of student accommodation may be quite diverse and provide very different experiences.

#### **Campus accommodation**

Campus accommodation is university-run lodging, and generally within the limits of the university. There are numerous benefits to this, and as such, this is much often the very first port of call and the most beneficial option.

You are likely to be near other university buildings, and safety is very likely to be taken care of from the campus - with protected entries and maybe even security guards on duty.

Additionally, there are social benefits - you'll be living amongst several other students, both local and from other countries.

Of course, there may also be downsides. The quality of facilities is likely to vary significantly, so make sure you check things like location, the size of these rooms, and how many people are sharing the space before you decide.

#### **No university housing.**

In a few countries, campus lodging is uncommon or not offered at all. In these countries, private accommodation will usually be readily available, although sometimes at a higher price.

There are also the extra benefits of becoming closer to other aspects of local life, and more immersed in the life of the city or town where you are based.

## Homestays

Another alternative, primarily well known in countries like the US, Canada, and Australia, is to remain with a local family. Homestays can be a great experience, supplying a different way to get to know the local culture, and perhaps to learn the terminology. Universities can run programs that fit students to suitable families. Costs will usually include meals.

## Rent a room or apartment

Another easy and cost-effective way is renting a room in a house or rent an apartment. The fact I like renting a place, you have your privacy, specially if you move with your family. Though renting an apartment would be a bit hard, if you don't have friends or family in the city to co-sign the application.

### 4.1.6 Transport arrangement from airport

Some universities offer free airport pick-up services while others don't. So, in this case, you must choose your way of transportation to your accommodation or university. It could be by bus, train or taxi services like uber, etc.

### 4.1.7 Set up proper communication method with family

Setting up proper communication with your loved one is so important. Talking on the telephone might not feel like occasionally enough, and it costs a fortune when you're in another country. By using Skype instead, you can see your friends and family members, so it seems more like they are there with you. This gives you a chance to show them where you are residing, what you've been doing, the friends you have made, and much more. Best of all, it is free to use, so you don't have to pay for a costly calling card.

But not only Skype, now there are many apps that you can communicate with mobile data. WhatsApp, Viber, Imo, Snapchat, and Facebook messenger are most popular among this. You can chat, voice call, or even video call through these apps.

## 4.2 After your arrival

Once you arrived to the university there are few important things that you have to do before doing anything else. Most important things are discussed in this section.

### 4.2.1 Register in University

After you have visited your accommodations, the next thing is to register for your university in person. You need to enroll in person to confirm your attendance and to collect your University Card or Student ID and other documentation. The university officers or person in charge will inform you, what to bring to register in person. If not, you should contact the supporting service of the campus.

### 4.2.2 Medical/Health insurance

Most universities will require you to take part in a student health insurance plan or a health insurance program while you're overseas. First, check to see if your existing plan or the plan you are under covers you abroad, and second, if it ensures you beyond the simple trip to the Emergency room. If not, here are a couple of options to keep you safe:

- Look into whether your university offers a student health insurance plan. That is quite common among universities with well-established and organized study abroad offices. The program could cost around \$1,000 for a year, but it's well worth the money. Often, if your university does provide an insurance program, you will have to physically sign a waiver in case you don't need to participate in it.

- You can always apply independently for an individual insurance plan through providers that work specifically with either study overseas students or international travelers like Cultural Insurance Services International, World Nomads Insurance, and International Student Protection.

### 4.2.3 Orientation

Orientation helps you to know what you should know about your new university from A to Z, but it is useful to do some research beforehand. You need to bring any paperwork or documentation you will need, such as vaccination records.

The most important task that you would like to complete at the orientation is to become acquainted with campus life. You are going to learn about university policies, general principles, the honor code, and much more. You will be supplied with plenty of information in a short period of time. During these days, most universities provide fun activities like sports, celebrations, contests, and games.

The university's aim is that you immerse yourself in campus life so that if you arrive at university in the fall, you can hit the floor running. Orientation provides you the opportunity to make friends, get familiar with roommates, buy textbooks, and be comfortable with navigating the campus.

Universities give incoming newcomers with information about different clubs and organizations available on campus. It's a fantastic opportunity to research and find out about each one and decide what you'd like to be involved in. Whether or not you would like to be a part of a service company, play intramural sports, then be active politically, write to your campus paper, work in the campus radio station or volunteer, this is the opportunity to get information on each.

You might not make lifelong friends at orientation, but you should still socialize with as many students as you can. Bear in mind that everybody is in the same boat--they're just as fresh as you are and probably just as nervous. Consider starting a conversation from the dining hall with someone who you have not met. Take part in all the social activities that are provided by the orientation. This can allow you to get to know one another. As soon as you are out interacting, speak to a lot of people instead of merely clinging to one individual.

### 4.2.4 Photo ID

These Photo IDs make it easy for you to transfer a digital photo of yourself to the University's database for use on your University Student Identity (ID) Card.

Take a Fantastic quality passport-style photo which must meet the following standards:

- The photograph needs to be of you alone
- Color, clear with a good comparison
- Head and shoulders only
- Full face
- Facing front
- No eyeglasses if you don't normally wear them
- No hats or headwear
- At least 300px x 300px in size
- Save in jpeg format (filename.jpg)

### 4.2.5 Make new friends

If you're studying abroad and worrying about that, it might be harder to make friends worry not! Making friends as an international student is simpler than you think. Here are five tips to remain societal and make lifelong friends during study abroad.

Orientation is a fantastic way to meet other international students before they have settled into a buddy group. As soon as you find some students you may be interested in getting to know more, suggest hanging out in a local café or even the campus yard. So it is unlikely that they have plans, and if they do, perhaps they will invite you along!

Every university worth its salt is going to have some active student clubs for you to join. Whether it's based on your hobbies or only a mutual love of getting discounts in local pubs, there will be chances to make new friends. It is a fantastic idea to combine clubs that aren't mostly international students to raise your odds of making local friends.

Even if you make friends but do not get out as often as you'd like, organize some day trips to sightsee, explore the local cuisine, shop, or go to bars and clubs. Do not be bashful from inviting your local friends. They might be able to direct you in the path of restaurants that they've heard about and want to try, exhibitions or book fairs they've been finding for a person to decide on, or perhaps landmarks they've never visited even though they've lived in this city their whole life.

### 4.2.6 Part-time jobs (only if interested)

If you're studying abroad, you may see that a part-time job can really help pay a few added bills or fund leisure activities and travel that could have otherwise been out of your financial plan. If you've been thinking of work while studying abroad, you are not alone, as many international students seek employment throughout their studies. While searching for the right job, it is essential to take several things into account, such as the legislation in your country of research. Different states have different regulations when it comes to work while studying to international students, so it's essential to check them before applying for jobs. Other important things you should take into consideration are your studies and lifestyle -- A job should never interrupt your studies.

An excellent job for international students should:

- Fit a student's lifestyle (Part-time job should not take hours and hours of the week; you should have enough time to do your studies).
- Enable a student to develop more persuasive language
- Assist a student in a new culture and make new friends.
- Ideally, offer some good work experience and potential open opportunities.

### 4.2.7 Don't forget why you came for: focus on study.

First things first; begin with the setting your study goals. Ask yourself why you came here, at university, maybe you have traveled across the world for this opportunity, so make this so important in your life. Having fun is one answer, but not the primary one. Understanding your goals completes half of the job.

Set a routine for everything. Your schedule could incorporate the time you should go to bed, the time you need to have your foods, and most significantly: the very time you should spend on your educational activities. There are no tough and quick rules, and you should allow some flexibility based on how things proceed. But establishing a regular is vital and does try to follow your study timetable as best as possible.

Self-help is the key here. Nobody else is going to prevent you from doing exactly what you want, but you are the one who will face the outcomes if you fail to meet your aims.

Extra: - Find and read “The Secret” book by Rhonda Byrne, based on the law of attraction. This book helps you in focusing on your goal and become a success in your career. Most of the successful people in the world believe in the law of attraction, and they have experienced the results of it. Now “The Secret” movie is available based on the book. You can watch it [here](#). And you can find more on the web about “Law of Attraction.”

## REFERENCES

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