Helpful Hints for Advisors

We encourage all academic advisors to ask their students if they have considered study abroad during their advising sessions. Talk to students about study abroad and its benefits. In addition to the personal benefits, address how it will enhance their degree and how it will enhance their intended career.

My student has mentioned a desire to study abroad: What should I do?

- Identify the best semester(s) for your student to study abroad, based on remaining degree requirements and program restrictions.
- Are there specific courses that would work well for the student to take abroad? Are there specific courses the students must take at SHSU as part of their degree?
- Encourage your student to visit the SHSU Study Abroad website www.shsu.edu/study-abroad for program details, course offerings, funding information and application deadlines.
- Suggest that the student attend a Study Abroad 101 information session, available several times a semester. All sessions and other events are listed at www.shsu.edu/study-abroad.

My student is applying to a study abroad program: What am I responsible for?

- Engage in an initial discussion of the study abroad program in question. Why has the student chosen this program? What degree requirements does the student hope to complete abroad?
- For Exchange & Affiliated programs you will be asked to review and sign a Study Abroad Course Equivalency Form for the student (after courses have been approved by department chairs). That provides you an opportunity to review the student’s remaining degree requirements and to identify any that cannot be completed overseas.

My student is currently overseas: What might he or she need?

- Your student may make changes to their schedule after the program begins and may ask for your advice on the changes. Remember that you may always refer your student to their Study Abroad Coordinator in the Office of International Programs, who can assist.
- Your student may need to be advised online/over email for the semester following the study abroad program.

My student has returned from a study abroad program: Now what?

- It may take some time for your student’s grades to post. If grades have not posted after a significant amount of time has passed, preventing you from effectively advising the student, you or the student may contact the Study Abroad Coordinator for more information.
- Many students will benefit from assistance from their advisor to process how study abroad has impacted them – it can be a transformative, yet challenging experience that continues to affect them upon return. Advisors can support students by asking some targeted questions to help students reflect upon their experience and by providing a listening ear.
  1. Tell me one highlight of your academic experience abroad – tell me something you learned?
  2. Was there anything that really surprised you about living abroad?
  3. What did you think of your classes when you studied abroad?
  4. Do things feel different now that you’ve returned back to campus?
  5. How do you feel about your continued studies and career plan now that you’ve returned?
  6. What’s something you wish you would have done differently?
  7. Do you have any advice for other ______ majors who are considering study abroad?
- Encourage your student to visit Career Services for tips on updating their resume and how to best leverage their abroad experience in their future career.