

SPRING 2026

STUDY ABROAD 101



BEFORE YOU LEAVE

Intro to Study Abroad



Why Study Abroad

Exploring the Academic, Personal, and Professional Benefits of Global Learning



Broaden your Global Perspective

- Gain meaningful intercultural understanding and appreciation



Boost Career Opportunities

- Stand out in the job market and increase your earning potential



Develop Essential Life & Career Skills

- Build adaptability, communication, confidence, and self-reliance



Study Abroad Options at SHSU

An Overview of Programs Available



Exchange

- Take courses at one of SHSU's partner universities outside of the country



Faculty-Led

- Enroll in an SHSU course and travel with your SHSU professor and class for 1-4 weeks in the summer or winter



Affiliated/Non-Affiliated

- Study abroad through a third-party provider



National Student Exchange (NSE):

- Exchange with a student within the U.S or Canada



Learn more: [Study Abroad Programs](#)



Comparing the Program Types

	Exchange Programs	Faculty-led Programs	Affiliated Programs	NSE
Tuition Costs	SHSU tuition	SHSU tuition + program fees	Program's tuition	SHSU tuition + related fees
Financial Aid	Applies (verify with Financial Aid)	Applies (verify with Financial Aid)	Applies (verify with Financial Aid)	Applies (verify with Financial Aid)
Course Registration	Courses transfer back to SHSU	Registered as SHSU course	Courses transfer back to SHSU	Courses transfer back to SHSU
Application Process	Exchange + SHSU Study Abroad application	Only SHSU Study Abroad application	Program + SHSU Study Abroad application	NSE + SHSU Study Abroad application

Funding Study Abroad

Scholarships, Financial Aid, and Resources to Support Your Experience



Studying abroad can be affordable with the right planning!



Visit the **Study Abroad Funding** page to explore:

- Scholarships
- Financial Aid options
- Budgeting tips
- External funding resources



Start early to maximize the chances of receiving funding!

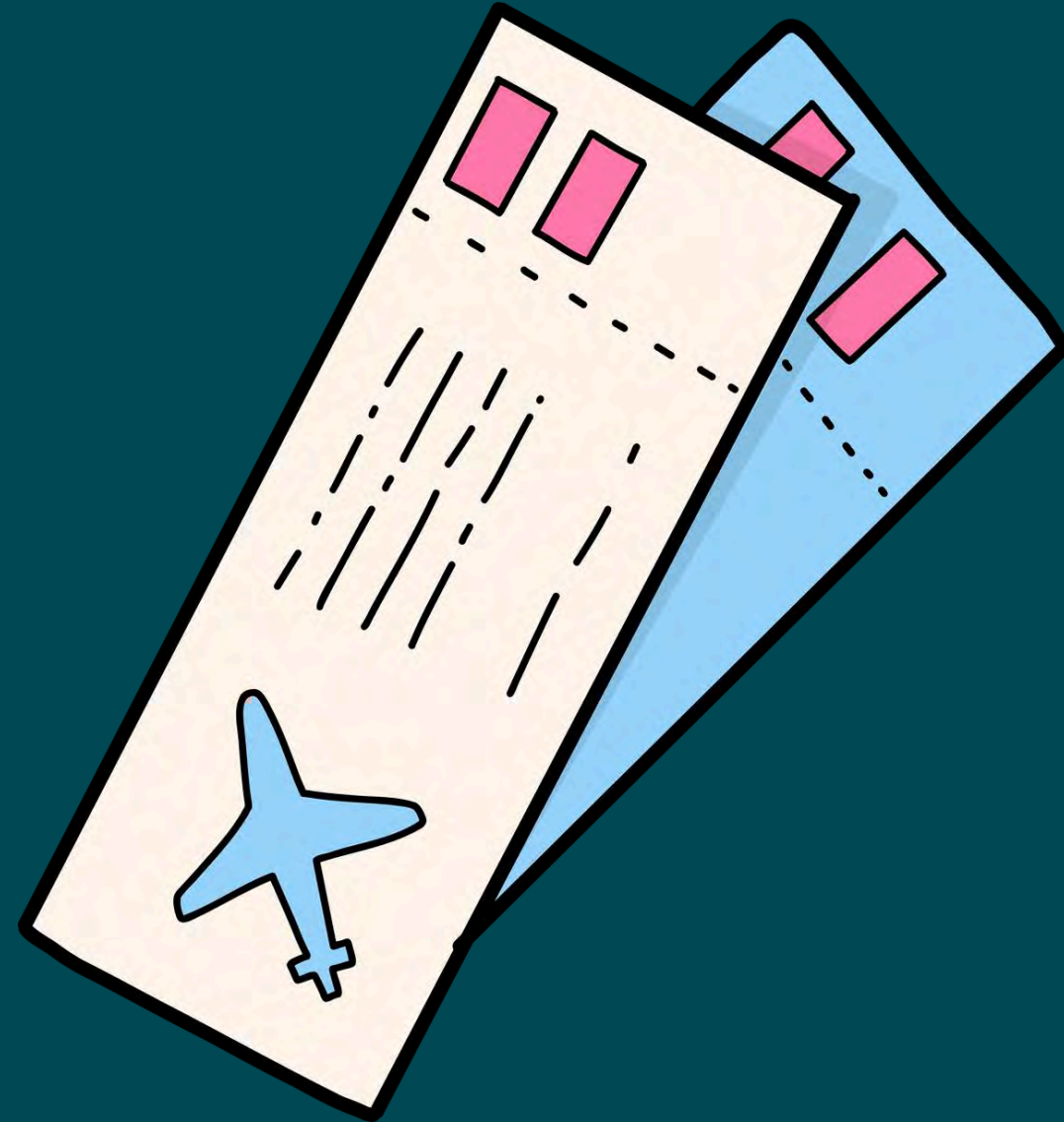


General Cost Breakdown of Each Program Type

	Tuition	Housing	Financial Aid	SHSU Fees	Additional Costs
Exchange Programs	SHSU tuition under full-time status + related fees	Separate	Based on Award	SHSU Study Abroad fee, Insurance fee	Flights, Meals, Visa (if applicable), Personal Costs
Faculty-Led Programs	SHSU tuition for course + related fees	Included	Based on Award	Program fee, Study Abroad fee, Insurance fee	Flights, Meals, Visa (if applicable), Personal Costs
Affiliated Programs	Program's tuition	Separate	Based on Award	Study Abroad fee, Insurance fee	Flights, Meals, Visa (if applicable), Personal Costs
NSE	SHSU tuition + related fees	Separate	Based on Award	Study Abroad fee, Insurance fee	Flights, Meals, Visa (if applicable), Personal Costs

APPLYING TO STUDY ABROAD






Applying to Study Abroad



Application Details for Exchange & Affiliated

An Overview


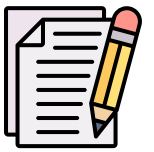


All students must complete two sets of applications:

-  1. Bearkat Abroad Portal
 - a. Only one application is required - apply to your top choice program
 - b. Free to apply
 -  c. *Side Note: Non-affiliated programs (not listed in the Portal) are also allowed but have additional conditions*
 -  2. **Apply to Your Program(s)**
 - a. You may apply to multiple programs while exploring your options. **Once you've selected your top choice, notify the Study Abroad Office**
 -  • Program Requirements Vary
 - Some programs may have their own application fees
-  **If your program requires approval, email requests to studyabroad@shsu.edu**



Application Details for Faculty-Led Programs

An Overview

-  All students must complete the application through the Bearkat Abroad Portal
-  Only one application is required - apply to your top choice program
-  Free to apply
-  Consult with the program's faculty leader for specific program details



Bearkat Abroad Portal: What to Expect

PHASE I

Before your application is approved, you'll need to:








- Attend a Study Abroad Appointment (*required for all programs except faculty-led*)
- Attend a Student Money Management Appointment
- Verify faculty-led approval (*for faculty-led programs*) & confirm Judicial Standing
- Submit your unofficial transcript
- Sign responsibility agreements



Bearkat Abroad Portal: What to Expect

PHASE II

After your application is **Conditionally Approved**, you'll need to:

-  • Sign all required forms
-  • Submit the Consortium Agreement Form (*only for affiliated/exchange*)
-  • Complete the Course Pre-Approval Form (*only for affiliated/exchange*)
-  • Provide your Contact and Emergency Contact Information
-  • Submit your Flight Information
-  • Upload your Student Visa (*if required*) and Passport
-  • Complete the Pre-Health Travel Survey



Important Notes

Time-Sensitive Tasks

Required forms and tasks may vary depending on your program type



Some tasks are time-sensitive and may affect:

- Financial Aid
- Credit Transfer
- Other key aspects of your study abroad experience



All tasks must be completed before departure



PAYING FOR STUDY ABROAD





Paying for Study Abroad



Your Student Account

Payments Charged to Your SHSU Account

The following items will be charged to your SHSU account:








-  • **Study Abroad Fee**
-  • **SHSU Travel Insurance Fee**
-  • **SHSU Tuition & Related Fees** (*applies only to Exchange and Faculty-Led programs*)
-  • **Program Fee** (*applies only to Faculty-Led programs*)



Additional Fees to be Paid Directly

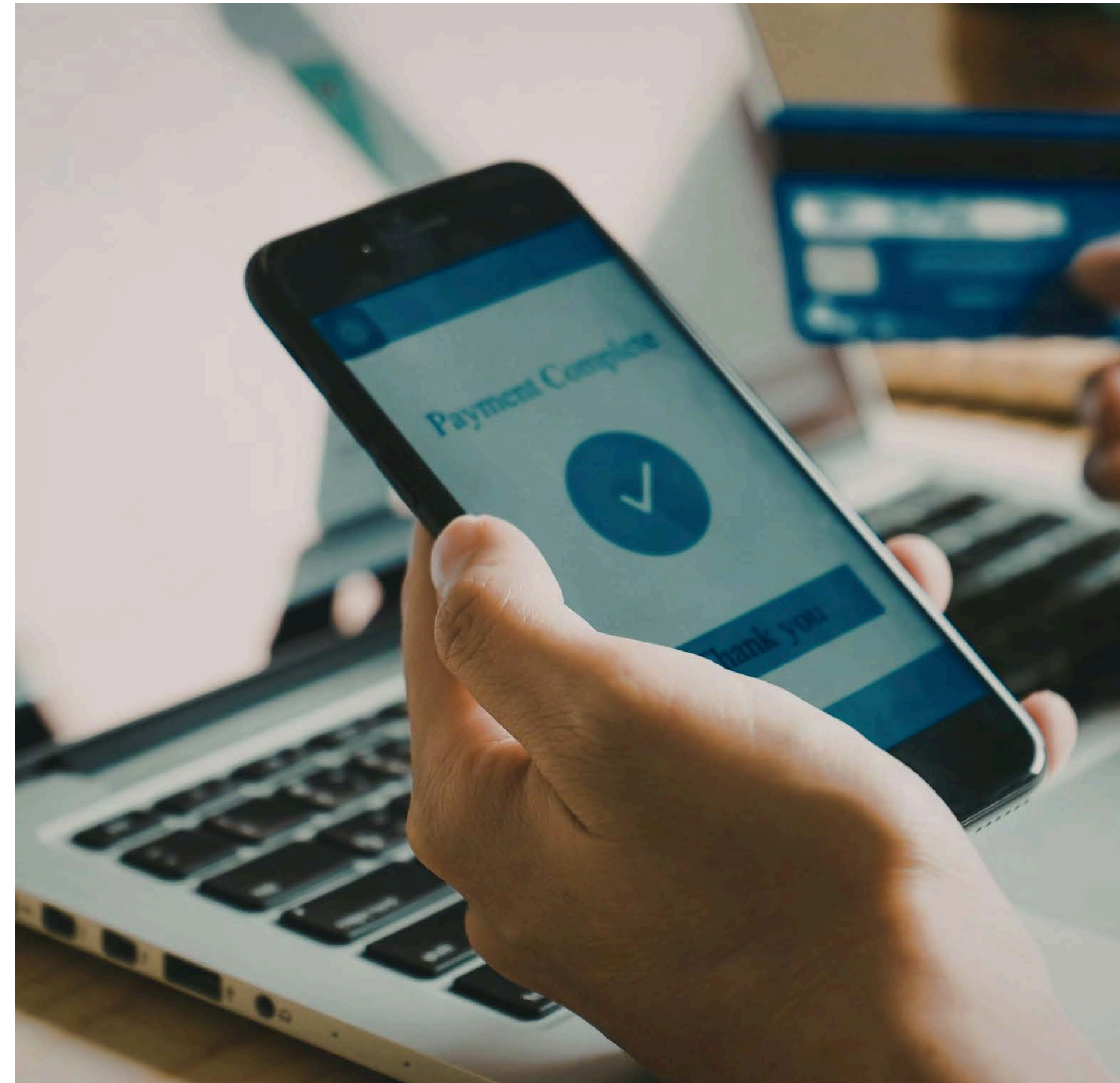
Expenses Not Billed to Your Student Account

Some expenses will **NOT** be charged to your SHSU student account and must be paid directly to the program or independently. This may include:

-  • **Application fees &/or deposits required by your program**
-  • **Flights and transportation to and from your destination**
-  • **Visa and passport costs (including renewals)**
-  • **Insurance required by your program**
-  • **Books and supplies**
-  • **Personal expenses**
-  • **Other fees itemized by your program**



Important: if you receive an invoice from your program, payment must be made directly to the third-party provider



Important Payment Information

Financial Responsibilities

Some programs require a **non-refundable deposit**, which you are responsible for paying

The SHSU Study Abroad fee is non-refundable



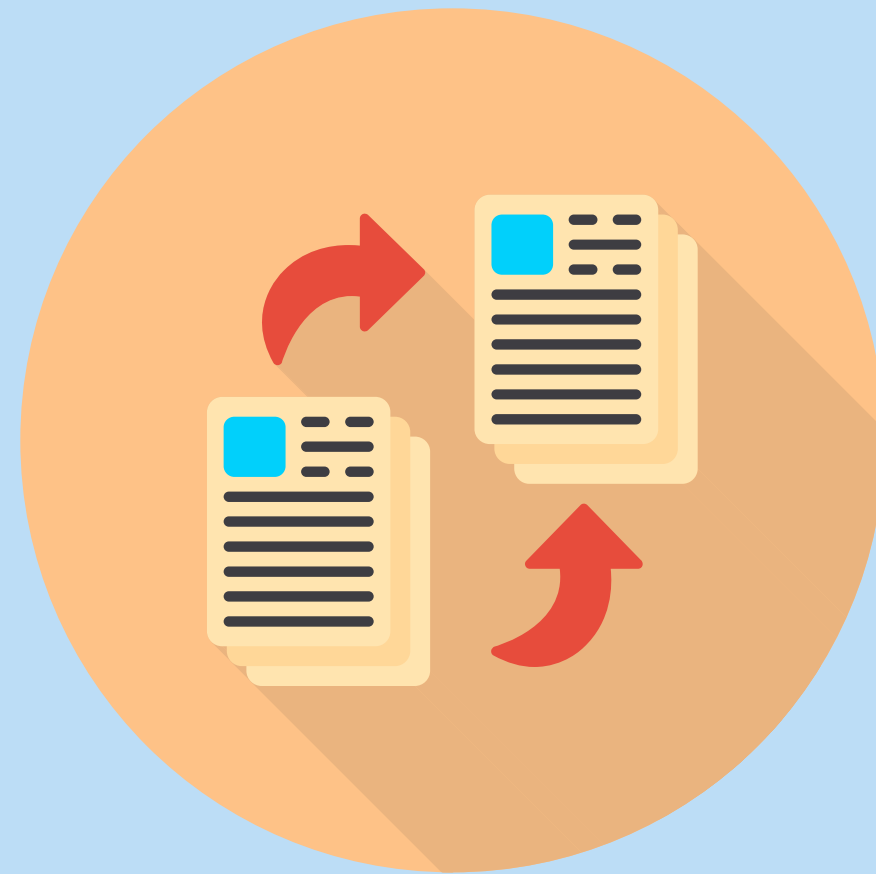
If SHSU received an invoice that includes your deposit, the amount will be credited toward your student account balance

It is your responsibility to check your email, Bearkat Abroad Portal and any other application portals to stay up to date with your application status



TRANSFERRING CREDIT HOURS

Transferring Credit Hours



How to Transfer Credits: Exchange & Affiliated/Non-Affiliated Programs

Understanding the Process and Required Approvals

Course Pre-Approval Form

- **Must include signatures from your academic advisor and/or department chair**
- Available in your Bearkat Abroad Portal application in Phase II
- Approved courses may count toward:
 - Major requirements
 - Minor requirements
 - Elective credit



How to Transfer Credits: Exchange & Affiliated/Non-Affiliated Programs

Understanding the Process and Required Approvals

To have courses count toward major or minor:

- Consult with your academic advisor &/or department chair
- Be aware that departments may limit how many courses can transfer back
- Bring course syllabi and descriptions to your advising meeting to help with course evaluation

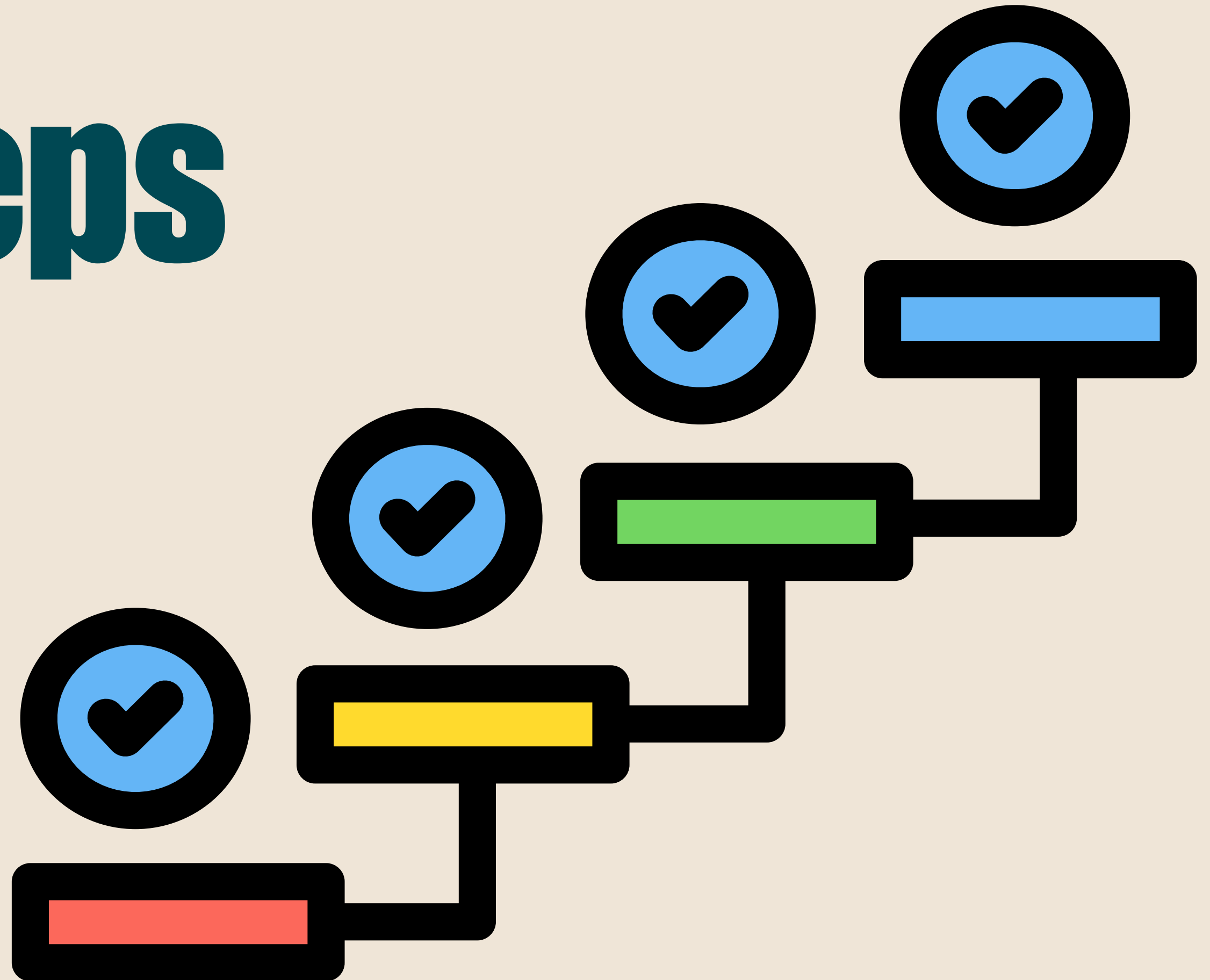
To ensure your courses transfer successfully:

- Have your program's official transcript sent to the Global Engagement Center (studyabroad@shsu.edu)
- Courses will only transfer after both of the following are received
 - Your completed Course Pre-Approval Form
 - The official transcript from your host institution



NEXT STEPS

Next Steps



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What to Do Moving Forward

Talk to your academic advisor



- Discuss how studying abroad may affect your graduation timeline and degree plan

Review the study abroad process



- Visit Study Abroad to understand steps, deadlines and requirements

Research programs that interest you



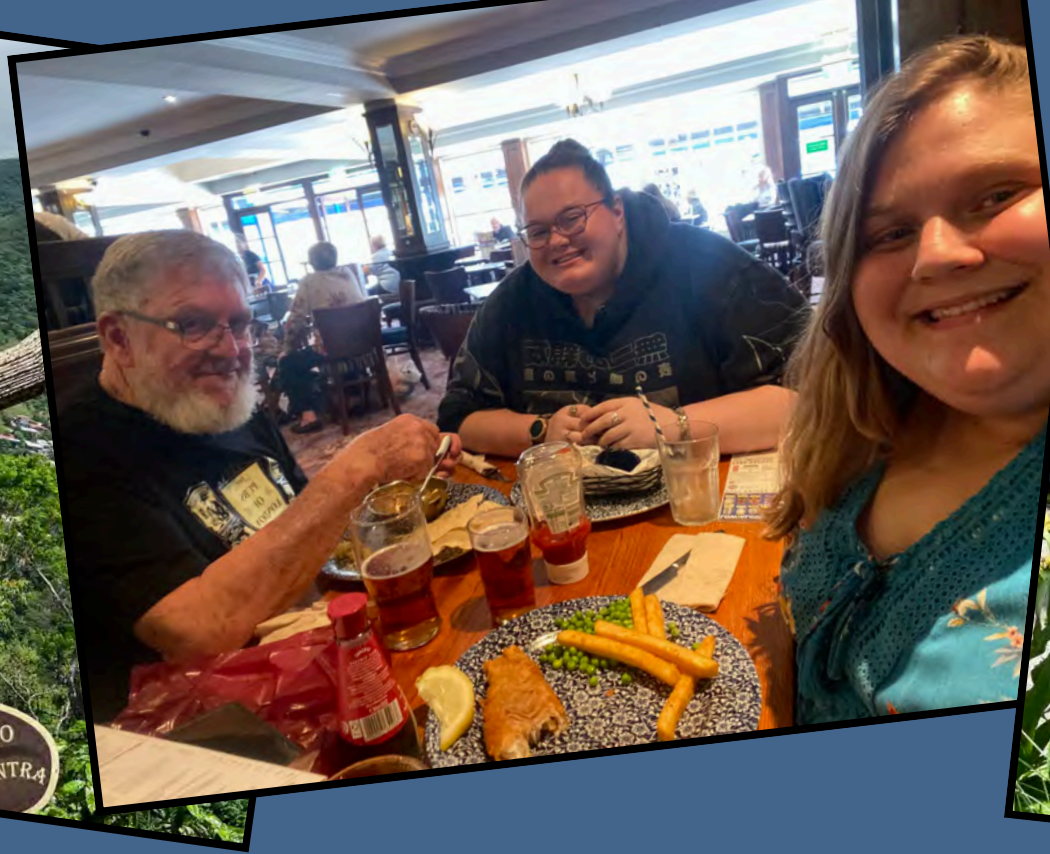
- Explore programs through the Bearkat Abroad Portal, SHSU Study Abroad Programs page or a general search engine

Apply to your chosen program



- Begin applying directly to the programs of interest
- Start your Bearkats Abroad Portal application for your top-choice program



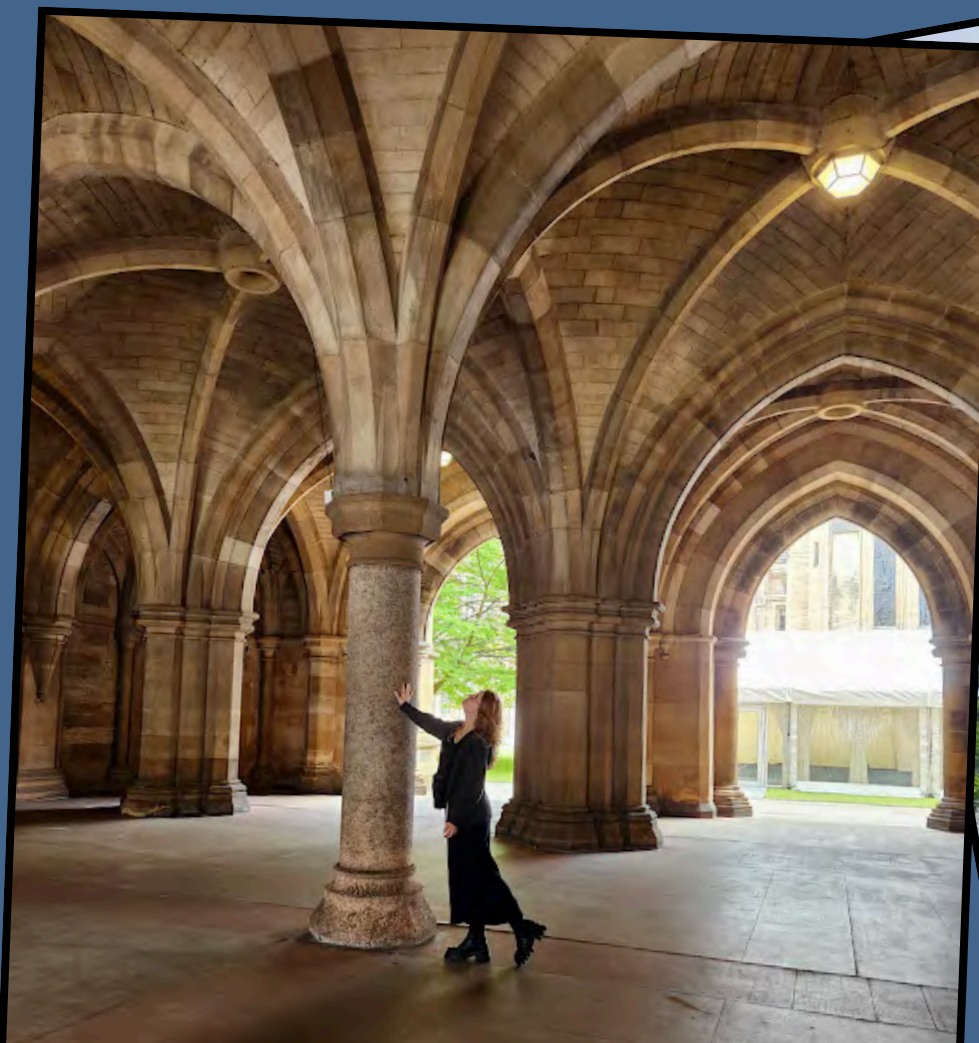


STUDY ABROAD EXPERIENCES





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