

Title Page:

Hello and welcome to IE 101!

Today we're going to talk about the International Experience and all of the different ways you can fulfill it as a Carlson student.

Goals & Agenda:

The goal of IE 101 is to help Carlson students prepare and plan for their International Experience.

In this session, we'll talk through your main resources and who your contacts are as you find, apply, and prepare for your study abroad program. We'll describe some of the different program models that are available to you, and we'll also discuss the next steps to help you identify and apply for your study abroad program.

We'll also clarify the differences between the Carlson Global Institute and the Learning Abroad Center, we'll review different program models (or WAYS that you can study abroad), briefly discuss finances and study abroad, and finally talk about your next steps.

Carlson Global Institute:

The Carlson Global Institute (or CGI) is the study abroad office specifically for Carlson students. All CGI programs have business content to help keep students on their academic timeline.

There is a wide range of programs and all programs through CGI will fulfill your International Experience. There are short-term, instructor led programs, summer programs, and semester-long programs. Even within semester programming there is variation between the business partner exchanges to study center options.

So, how do you decide which program is a good fit for you? The CGI Program Finder can help you find programs to meet your needs, depending on your interests. Most students focus on where and how long they want to study abroad, and those are both important questions. But what might be even more important is what **program model** is the best fit for you. Additionally, if you're managing any health conditions, determining what countries might best support your health and wellness abroad is equally as important.

For the next few minutes, we're going to highlight the different program models and explain the differences between them. As you're listening, be thinking about which type of program feels like the best fit for you!

We won't cover all the details of the programs, so definitely plan on chatting with an education abroad adviser, too!

Program Model: Instructor-led

All of CGI's instructor-led, short-term programs will have an on-campus class that students take during the semester, but then travel during a break. For fall classes, the travel happens over winter break, for spring courses the travel either happens during spring break or in May when the semester ends, depending on the specific program. The entire class, faculty, and a staff leader will travel together during this time.

These programs focus on a specific business topic, and while you're abroad you go on company visits, listen to guest lecturers, and participate in cultural activities as a group. There is also some free time for independent exploration.

These programs are very structured and are a good fit for a student who is looking for a lot of support while they are abroad and who is excited about traveling with a group of other Carlson undergraduate students. It's also a great option for transfer students and athletes, or others on a very tight academic timeline.

Program Model: Partner University Business Exchange

For semester programs, the most traditional program model is partner university business exchange programs. This is where the Carlson School has an agreement with another business school in a different country and they send students from each institution to the other.

This is a highly independent model of study abroad and in a lot of ways feels like you're transferring to a different school for a semester.

These programs are a good fit for a student who is looking to be fully immersed in another culture and academic environment.

A defining feature of these programs is how immersive they are. Though coursework is in English, typically the students in the classes are locals/natives, and other international students. Students are likely to be one of only a few Carlson students at their university each semester.

Students on exchange programs will register for classes based on their host universities course catalog, live in whatever housing options their host university offers, and follow their host

universities academic calendar, which can differ slightly from the University of Minnesota's calendar.

The Carlson Global Institute has over 30 exchange partners around the world and Carlson students do not need to have any language skills to participate.

All of our partners offer business courses instructed in English, and Carlson students must have completed I-Core before participating on a semester exchange program.

Program Model: Study Center

The other type of semester program is a study center model. With the study center model, students are not on a traditional university campus, but rather take classes in a center.

Another differentiating factor is that the students in the classes are not natives, but are other American business students from universities across the United States, and students will typically live in apartments with those other American students.

So, it is less immersive than the traditional partner exchange model, but there is a higher level of support at the center than what students might encounter on a partner university business exchange which can be an attractive feature.

Most of the true study center programs are run out of the Learning Abroad Center. However, there are two programs that CGI and the LAC run jointly, Business in Dublin and Business in Barcelona. Additionally, with these joint programs, there is also the possibility to choose different tracks and include classes on a university campus and/or add an internship.

With all semester-based programs, course work is in English. Students will be enrolled in a full course load; about 12-15 credit hours. And about 1-2 classes will transfer directly back to major or minor requirements.

Learning Abroad Center:

The Learning Abroad Center, or LAC, is the university-wide study abroad office that serves the entire University of Minnesota population. They have over 300 different program options in many countries!

The LAC designs programs for all colleges and majors at the University of Minnesota – so, some of their programs offer business content, but many do not.

Any credit-bearing program offered through the Learning Abroad Center will fulfill the

International Experience.

Domestic Option:

Domestic options are on-campus classes with a significant international component; IBUS 3092: Understanding International Business is the primary offering.

Domestic options were created for students needing to fulfill their International Experience during the pandemic when travel was significantly limited. Currently, students with more than 90 credits are eligible to enroll in IBUS 3092.

However, as travel normalizes, we intend to continue to offer IBUS 3092 only **to serve a small population of students who have significant barriers to traveling abroad**, which may include but are not limited to *immigration status, health considerations, disabilities, etc.*

Please note that *scheduling conflicts, changing degree plans, desire to accelerate graduation and/or general lack of planning* are not considered compelling reasons. Ultimately, access to the domestic course will become more limited as the true intent and benefit of the IE is to actually get abroad.

Education Abroad and Mental Health:

About 30% of students studying abroad at Carlson disclose that they have recently or are currently managing a mental health condition, and most are able to have really successful, meaningful experiences abroad.

But, it is very important to factor in any mental health condition that you're managing as you are choosing the program model and/or destination country. It's important to ask yourself the following questions:

Are my current prescriptions legal in my destination country?

If I need counseling or other support, is it available?

Are my current functioning and coping skills adequate for the expected challenges?

Your study abroad Program Manager can help you find answers to those questions.

Your application essay:

Most semester-based programs require an essay with the application.

These essays are an important factor in your acceptance and are an opportunity for you to demonstrate your knowledge of the program you're applying to, and to tell the reader why it's a good fit for you!

A few advisers have compiled a few of their tips and tricks for study abroad application essays to share with you here. Enjoy this insider knowledge!

For CGI short-term programs, there is no essay. Applications for competitive programs are selected via lottery.

Finances & Scholarships:

Finances and study abroad program costs are complicated, confusing, and personal.

Though program costs can be found on the individual program web pages, we encourage you to ask a lot of questions about program costs when you meet with an education abroad adviser.

Financial Aid can help cover the cost of study abroad. Once you are accepted into a program, you can request a Study Abroad Cost Estimate or "SACE form" which outlines the anticipated costs of your particular program. You can take that form to OneStop to adjust your financial aid to help cover the cost of study abroad.

Additionally, scholarships are available at both CGI and the Learning Abroad Center. You are eligible to apply for and be awarded funds from both, so we encourage you to look at ALL of your options.

Comparing Study Abroad Program Costs:

The "Comparing Study Abroad Program Costs" is a chart that you can find on our website.

This chart shows cost comparisons between several different education abroad programs and program models.

This chart is especially helpful because in the first column you see what the cost of a semester on-campus at the University of Minnesota is compared to the costs of participating in a study abroad program.

In the bottom row, you can see the “incremental cost”, which shows approximately how much more money you would be spending as compared to a regular semester at the University of Minnesota.

Q&A and Next Steps:

So what’s next?!

The best thing for you to do is research the different programs out there. Remember the different program model terms we talked about today, and explore the program filters for the CGI and LAC websites.

Next, come talk to us!

It can be really hard to understand the nitty gritty details of a program from a website, so we strongly encourage you to make an appointment with an education abroad adviser in the Carlson Global Institute or the Learning Abroad Center. Both offices have virtual appointments available.

Next, make sure to loop in your academic adviser of your plans for your International Experience. Your academic adviser is always your main contact for questions about your graduation plan.

Finally, apply for your program! Thanks so much for your time today and we look forward to working with you!