Guidelines for Non-US Citizens Who Participate on Programs Abroad

We encourage all non-US citizen students to study abroad while at UCSD, but we want to make sure that you verify if participating on a program abroad will affect your US Student Visa status, US immigration status, or your eligibility to re-enter the US upon return. Below are some guidelines and tips:

1. **Set up an appointment with the Programs Abroad Office (PAO)** – http://pao.ucsd.edu
    a. Stop by PAO front desk (2nd Floor of Int'l Center) or call (858) 534-1123
2. **Notify PAO Advisor about:**
    a. Current citizenship status & country of origin
    b. PID
    c. Desired study abroad destination
    d. Duration of program
3. **Visit International Students & Programs Office (ISPO)** - http://istudents.ucsd.edu
    a. Stop by ISPO front desk (1st floor of Int'l Center) or call (858) 534-3730
    b. Verify if studying abroad will affect US Visa/Immigration status
    c. Confirm all requirements, restrictions or deadlines
    d. Ensure you know about all required documentation you will need to bring with you while studying abroad
4. **Be sure to maintain any minimum unit requirements while studying abroad**
5. **Research student Visa requirements and deadlines for study abroad host country**
    a. Some countries require you to renew your US Visa before you can obtain their study abroad Visa
    b. Renewing your US visa may require returning to your home country either before or after your study abroad program

Things to Consider:

- Will you turn 21 while studying abroad?
- Will you study abroad for more than 6 months?
- Do you have minimum unit requirements for your US Student Visa?
- Will you finish UCSD degree requirements while studying abroad?
- Are there any military service requirements in the country where you will study?
- Should you apply for a study abroad Visa in the US or your home country?

Tips:

Start preparing early. It is recommended you meet with PAO and ISPO advisors ***9 months to 1 year prior*** to your expected study abroad start date.

- **For students who pay non-resident tuition fees at UCSD**, it usually is cheaper to participate on an Opportunities Abroad Program (OAP). The UC Education Abroad Program (EAP) still requires you to pay non-resident UC tuition fees if you go on a semester or year-long program (Exception: You do NOT have to pay non-resident UC fees on the EAP Summer programs or UCSD Global Seminars).
- Whether you participate on an OAP, EAP or Global Seminars program, always check with an ISPO Advisor to determine how it will affect any SEVIS requirements.

pao programs abroad office & ispo international students & programs office