

# How to Study Abroad for the Kingdom

God is calling out a generation of missionaries who will use their education and learned skills to be on mission. As a student, you have opportunities to take the gospel to university students and professors around the world. You can leverage your study abroad options to share the Good News, disciple new believers, and help start churches. More than 300,000 American students study abroad every year as an increasing number of American colleges and universities encourage their students to have international experiences. You can use this pathway to take the gospel to people in need.

## 4 STEPS TO STUDYING ABROAD:

### 1. FIND A MISSION LOCATION.

**SEARCH AVAILABLE OPTIONS WITH IMB.** We offer pre-arranged missional study abroad locations. These are places where missionaries are working to reach university students and they want you to join their teams. Click on the one(s) you'd like to explore:

- **Southwest London, England**
- **West London, United Kingdom (Brunel)**
- **Hamburg, Germany**
- **Multiple Locations, Malaysia**
- **Southeast London, United Kingdom**
- **Northwest London, United Kingdom**
- **Multiple Locations, China**

**SEARCH OTHER LOCATIONS.** Globally, there are thousands of universities, colleges, and training schools. Many of these are in cities and towns with great need for the gospel. Research locations that have little access to the gospel and available study abroad and degree options.

### 2. ARRANGE YOUR ACADEMICS WITH YOUR UNIVERSITY OR COLLEGE.

There are several ways to arrange your academics to get credit or pursue an entire degree overseas. One way is to arrange an opportunity through your current university or college. Meet with your advisor and/or your school's study abroad office. Take your target school of study information and talk through available options for study abroad credit including independent study, foreign language study, and more. Complete the necessary paperwork and submit it to your school.

Most colleges and universities encourage international experiences and have already prepared opportunities. Here are a few types that may be most compatible with engaging with a ministry team at your city of study:

- **Partnerships** are programs established between two schools in different countries.
- **Exchange programs** are between schools that swap students. They allow you to pay the normal tuition to your own school, but you will attend the international school. This is usually an economical arrangement for anyone paying in-state tuition.
- **Direct enrollment** programs allow you to pay the tuition of the host institution. This can be a financial advantage if the tuition of your U.S. school is higher.
- **Internships** are required for many majors. You must work closely with your U.S. school to ensure that your experience meets all requirements for academic credits.
- **Independent** programs are possible for some students. Acquire a catalogue of the school abroad, making sure to get all the information about available courses including the grading system. Carefully plan your courses and take your course summaries to your academic dean and academic advisor. Get approval in writing on these courses. Confirm that you will return to your university. Upon completion, your sponsoring professor will evaluate your work and award the agreed upon credits.

### 3. CONSIDER A DEGREE PROGRAM OVERSEAS.

Many international universities offer excellent options to earn entire degrees. There are sometimes great advantages to this approach including affordability, prestige, and the option to spend more than one semester living on mission in a location. It is more common for students to complete graduate degrees in an international university, but it is possible for undergraduates as well. Check and see if the degree you are earning applies in your home country as well. Research whether or not you will need extra coursework or certification to practice if you plan to work in the U.S. Also see if the international degree is the same level of academia. For example, is a doctorate in your country of study actually a master's degree here at home?

### 4. BE PART OF A CHURCH PLANTING TEAM.

Studying abroad allows you to strategically be part of a church planting team in the area of your study. IMB is strategically working in several [global cities](#) that may have a university that fits your studies. We'd love to know what you choose. Whether you choose an IMB opportunity or custom make one for yourself, we are available to support you with resources and connections. For assistance or coaching in this process email [studentteam@imb.org](mailto:studentteam@imb.org) or call 804.219.1515.