

# Getting Started

## 1. Attend a First-Step Meeting

Study Abroad First Step Meetings are informational sessions on understanding program options, defining goals and interests, academic planning for study abroad, and funding. The First-Step meeting schedule is available on the study abroad homepage.

## 2. Create a Goal Statement

Determine your goals and priorities for study abroad. Study abroad programs can help you meet major or minor requirements, fulfill general education requirements (including theme requirements), or proficiency in a second language. You can live with a family, on a campus or in an apartment. You may also be able to participate in an internship or volunteer program while abroad. With careful planning you can study abroad and graduate on time.

Sample goal statement:

"I would like to spend the academic year 2010-2011 in Morocco to fulfill my theme requirement and take classes in my major. I'd also like to take a beginning Arabic course while I'm there. I'd prefer to live with a family, but would be willing to live with other international students. I'd also like to volunteer in the community while studying abroad."

## 3. Investigate Programs to Choose the Program that Fits Your Needs

You can now explore program options that meet your study abroad goals. You can investigate programs by utilizing the Padnos International Center Resource Room (no appointment necessary), located in 130 Lake Ontario Hall on the Allendale Campus. Be prepared to research many different options with an open mind!

## 4. Meet with Your Academic Advisor (optional)

You may choose to review your study abroad plan with your academic advisor.

## 5. Complete the Study Abroad Application Online

Regardless of the program you've selected, you must complete the Padnos International Center online application by the deadline.

## 6. Complete any Additional Applications

Depending on the program you select, you may be required to apply directly to your host institution or program sponsor for final acceptance into your program.

## 7. Complete Required Forms

Complete required forms and attend all pre-departure orientation meetings.

# Study Abroad Application Deadlines

## **Priority Application Deadlines**

The priority application deadline is the strict deadline for all GVSU partnership and faculty-led programs.

### **Semester Abroad:**

Academic Year: February 1

Fall: February 1

Winter: September 10

Summer: February 1

## **Final Application Deadlines**

The final application deadline applies to non-GVSU (including non-GVSU affiliates programs) programs only.

Academic Year: June 1

Fall: June 1

Winter: October 15

Summer: March 1