

University of Sunshine Coast Exchange Guide

for GVSU Applicants 8/4/2016

The information in this document is subject to change. PIC aims to provide students with the most up-to-date information; however, information at the host university may change. Updated information will be provided to participants when it becomes available.

If you find a link does not work, please copy and paste the website into your browser. If the link still does not work, please let us know.

1 Home School Approval

All GVSU students who want to earn credit at GVSU for a study abroad program must first apply for home school approval through the OASIS online application system, www.gvsu.edu/oasis.

The study abroad application through the GVSU online system (OASIS) allows students to apply for home school approval to participate in a specific study abroad program. If you change your study abroad program at any time, you must submit a *Study Abroad Change Form*. All programs are subject to approval. **The OASIS application entails:** Conditions of application, essay questions, release of information, faculty references, emergency contacts, risk and release, and a required deposit of \$105.

- **Keep your information updated.** The Padnos International Center refers to the information in OASIS for up-to-date program information, and student contact information. Please let us know if information changes.
- **Message System/connect with other program participants.** Students can easily get in contact with other program participants using the OASIS messaging system.

✓ Study Abroad Orientation

All study abroad participants are required to attend one Study Abroad Pre-Departure Orientation. Students who attend one of these required sessions will be eligible to receive their full deposit refund. We will not refund the deposit to students who do not attend one of the many sessions offered throughout the semester prior to your departure.

✓ Required Documents

Once you are “accepted” to participate in your chosen study abroad program, your OASIS account will give you access to additional information, including required forms.

The documents below are due to PIC by: JULY 1 (Fall departures); **DEC 15** (Winter departures)

All students must submit the following required forms in order to be eligible to receive their deposit refund:

- Flight Itinerary
- Medical insurance
- Passport copy

	<input type="checkbox"/> Health information Students who plan to use financial aid to help cover the cost of their study abroad program must submit: <input type="checkbox"/> Expense Form <input type="checkbox"/> Accept the financial aid you plan to use for your semester abroad in MyBanner. Students who plan to take course abroad that will fulfill specific degree requirements must submit: <input type="checkbox"/> Course Approval Form and/or email confirmation specifying the departmental approval.
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<p>✓ Study Abroad Advisors</p>	<p>The Padnos International Center has a number of advisors available to answer question you may have throughout the process.</p> <p>General advising: Stop into 130 LOH to speak with a Peer Advisor or email studyabroad@gvsu.edu.</p> <p>Pre-acceptance advising: Meaghann Myers-Smith, Study Abroad Advisor, myersmea@gvsu.edu.</p> <p>Post-acceptance advising, host university application information, and while you are abroad: Rebecca Hambleton, Director, Study Abroad & International Partnerships, hambletr@gvsu.edu AND Chris Borda, Coordinator of Study Abroad & International Partnerships, bordac@gvsu.edu.</p>
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<p>✓ Course Approval Process</p>	<p>For detailed instructions on securing approval for the courses you want to take abroad, visit: http://www.gvsu.edu/studyabroad/partnership-academics-517.htm</p>
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2 Host University Application



Once a student has been approved by the Padnos International Center to participate in a partnership program, the student will be invited to begin working on the host university application materials. Students are still subject to approval by the host university and must also complete the required application materials to formally apply for this program. Again, the OASIS application is for the home school approval only.

<p>✓ USC Application</p>	<p>Students must submit the completed USC application to the Padnos International Center. USC will not take applications from students directly.</p> <p>Applicants will receive specific instructions from the Padnos International Center regarding the list of documents required to apply for this program. Completed USC application materials should be submitted to PIC by the following deadlines:</p> <p>Fall departures: February 15 Winter departures: September 20 (Please bring your completed USC application materials to PIC by the deadline listed above.)</p>
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Timeline for Winter (USC's Semester 1) and Fall (USC's Semester 2)

This is a general timeline and is subject to change from year to year.

	Winter semester	Fall Semester
Apply to study abroad in OASIS (GV application system)	Final Deadline for COMPLETED application is September 10	Deadline for COMPLETED applications: FEB 1
PIC will send host university application instructions to students	By September 15	1-2 weeks after deadline
Host university Applications due back to PIC	By September 25	By February 16
PIC will send host university applications to partner universities	By October 1	March
USC will send an email acceptance to students. Once students have acceptance from USC, they can purchase flight and apply for visa.	Offers by early October Acceptances by early November	Offers by March/April Acceptances by April
Orientation/arrival dates are confirmed	With acceptance materials	With acceptance materials
Housing placements are sent to students	N/A – students sign up on their own for one of the housing providers. Information available on the USC website.	N/A – students sign up on their own with one of the housing providers. Information available on the USC website.
Tuition payment due to GVSU	Mid-December	Mid-August
Travel to Australia	Late February	Mid-July
USC sends transcript to GVSU	By late August	February

✓ Timeline

✓ Course options

<http://www.usc.edu.au/study/courses-and-programs/courses/study-abroad-courses>

Students will be required to sign up for a minimum of 4 courses for the semester in order to receive at least 12 credits here at GVSU upon completion of the program.

✓ Program Costs

A detailed budget breakdown is available on the PIC website at:

<http://www.gvsu.edu/studyabroad/program-details-university-of-the-sunshine-coast-616.htm>

✓ Accommodation

<http://www.usc.edu.au/study/support-and-services/accommodation-and-housing>

Students studying at can apply for an apartment either at Uni Central, Varsity Apartments, or the Village. There are different rates for each of these complexes. Many past participants have recommended UniCentral; however, preferences vary from person to person. There are details regarding each complex on the link above.

<p>✓ Program Dates/Calendar</p>	<p>http://www.usc.edu.au/study/calendars-and-timetables</p>
<p>✓ Special Accommodations</p>	<p>If you require any special accommodations, please let us know right away. Some accommodations may be easy to arrange through the host university, but others may require weeks or months of advance planning. PIC will work collaboratively with you to identify whether or not an accommodation can be made at the host university. It is important to understand that a particular accommodation may not be possible. There is additional information about the process for requesting accommodations on the website listed below. Also, if you have not yet met with your DSR advisor to discuss the accommodations you may need, we strongly recommend you start this conversation. http://www.gvsu.edu/studyabroad/students-with-disabilities-656.htm</p>
<p>✓ Partner University Contacts</p>	<p>Admissions staff Nadine Lepp, Brenton Owens, or Ilana Boon, email: study@usc.edu.au Nadine Lepp International Officer USC International University of the Sunshine Coast Ph: 07 5459 8521 Fax: 07 5430 2836 Email: nlepp@usc.edu.au Web: www.usc.edu.au/international http://www.usc.edu.au/study/international-students</p> <p>After students receive USC acceptance they may contact USC International Student Services: Mandy Cilento, askusci@usc.edu.au</p>
<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="background-color: #2c5e8c; color: white; padding: 10px; border-radius: 15px; display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center; gap: 10px;"> 3 Travel Resources </div> <div style="margin-left: 20px; display: flex; align-items: center;"> } <div> <p>Become a <u>WELL-INFORMED</u> traveler! Research you host country before you leave, and avoid going abroad unaware and unprepared. It is up to YOU, the participant, to research and educate yourself before you leave.</p> <p>Visit: www.gvsu.edu/studyabroad, select “Before You Go.”</p> </div> </div> </div>	
<p>✓ Flights/Arrival City/Travel to host institution</p>	<p>USC pre-departure and arrival information can be found at: http://www.usc.edu.au/learn/international-students/steps-to-study/step-3-enrol-at-usc http://www.usc.edu.au/learn/international-students/frequently-asked-questions-faqs-for-international-students</p> <p>Students typically fly into Brisbane Airport. Students can choose an airport greeting to be met at the airport and taken to your accommodations. This service is often provided by the housing complex; however, USC may also offer this service to students.</p>

<p>✓ Visa Information/link to consulate/timeline for application</p>	<p>USC offers helpful information for US students studying at USC for a semester or year. http://www.usc.edu.au/learn/international-students/before-you-arrive</p> <p>Students will be required to have a visa to study in Australia for a semester. The visa application is an online application. Details can be found at: http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa/Appl/Student</p> <p>Application requirements can be found at: http://www.border.gov.au/Trav/Visa/Atta</p> <p><u>General Immigration Website Link:</u> http://www.border.gov.au/</p> <p>The cost for the student visa is approximately \$420 USD. Processing times can vary, but the average application takes 2-3 weeks. Students should regularly check their SPAM folder for the visa confirmation email. Several past participants did not receive their email confirmation and had to call the Americas Service Centre for assistance.</p> <p>Students must have their Confirmation of Enrollment (CoE) from USC in order to apply for their visa. Additional information will be provided to you by USC.</p> <p>Do not attempt to apply for your visa more than 124 days prior to your departure. Most students will apply between 30-60 days prior to departure.</p>
<p>✓ CDC Report/WHO</p>	<p>All study abroad students are strongly encouraged to carefully review the CDC report for the country they plan to study in. The CDC report provides information on required and recommended immunizations, health and safety advice, and packing tips. Visit: www.cdc.gov</p> <p>The World Health Organization (WHO) offers extensive information on health topics, critical health situations, statistics, world health reports, country-specific information for travelers. Visit: www.who.org</p>
<p>✓ State Department Travel Information</p>	<p>All GVSU study abroad students are required to register their trip with the US State Department through the Smart Traveler Enrollment Program. Visit: http://travel.state.gov for details. Students should also carefully review the country information posted on the State Department website. Safety and security considerations are often listed in this document.</p>
<p>✓ Mobility International (MIUSA)</p>	<p>MIUSA is national leader on providing comprehensive disability support and resources for students for disabilities going abroad. If you have a disability, we strongly encourage you to utilize the resources available through this organization as you prepare for your journey. http://www.miusa.org/</p>

4 Safety and Security



Concerns about safety and security are very common among study abroad students and their families. PIC offers a pre-departure orientation, online resources, and individual support to students who have concerns about safety in another country.

<p>✓ Resources for emergency situations</p>	<p>http://www.gvsu.edu/studyabroad/health-safety-538.htm</p>
<p>✓ Reporting an incident</p>	<p>If you experience an incident abroad, please contact Rebecca Hambleton, hambletr@gvsu.edu to file a report on the incident. When you file a report, every effort will be made to connect you with resources that are available to you if you.</p> <p>Other important campus resources that are available to GVSU students in need of assistance with a critical incident:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women’s Center, http://www.gvsu.edu/women_cen/ • Counseling Center, http://www.gvsu.edu/counsel/
<p>✓ Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC)</p>	<p>The U.S. Department of State created OSAC to promote cooperation between America’s private sector worldwide and the U.S. government on issues of security. Daily news can be found on this site, as well as country crime and safety reports. https://www.osac.gov/</p>
<p>✓ Association for Safe International Road Travel (ASIRT)</p>	<p>ASIRT offers more than 100 country road travel reports with guides for travelers including information on potentially dangerous conditions, road conditions, common road practices, traffic laws and more. Country reports are available for a fee. Additionally, the website does offer helpful tips for travelers.</p> <p>www.asirt.org</p>

<div data-bbox="58 816 856 963" style="background-color: #2c5e8c; color: white; padding: 10px; border-radius: 15px; display: inline-block;"> <h1 style="margin: 0;">5 Cultural Adjustment</h1> </div>	<p>Attitude is EVERYTHING!</p> <p>You have applied to study abroad to experience something different from what you experience here at GVSU. The most successful study abroad students are those who exercise flexibility and are open to change.</p>
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<p>✓ Culture guides</p>	<p>PIC offers a variety of country-specific resources that you can explore. Visit our website at: http://gvsu.edu/studyabroad/cultural-information-australia-611.htm</p>
<p>✓ Returning home</p>	<p>http://magazine.lifeafterstudyabroad.com/contents</p> <p>Many students indicate that returning home from study abroad is far more of an adjustment than the initial adjustment to the host country. Students have a variety of experiences upon their return home. PIC offers a welcome back event that brings study abroad students together to share what they learned abroad, and to connect about the challenges of returning home after adapting to a different culture for many weeks or months. This event offers a career planning component to help you think about how to articulate to future employers what you learned through your experiences abroad and how this will help you in your career development.</p> <p>Visit the PIC website for information about adjusting to life back home after study abroad!</p>