

Program Comparison Chart

Which Program to Choose...?

Since you are not limited to GVSU programs, your options are endless and choosing a program can become overwhelming! There are a number of program features to consider when browsing through program options. To help narrow things down, this chart is designed to help you compare different programs side by side to more strategically determine the pros and cons of each program.

Happy Researching!

Program Name				
Country				
City				
City Type				
Host Institution				
Language of Instruction				
Program Type				
Housing Options				
Excursions Provided?				
if so, where?				
<i>Total Estimated Cost</i>				
<i>Degree Progress</i>				
Courses Interested In				
**Think about courses				
that if taken abroad				
would provide a very				
interesting perspective				
Other Notes? (Volunteer/Internship opportunities, Research What do you like about each program?)				

WHICH PROGRAM TO CHOOSE...?

- **Country**
 - What country, or countries, will your program take place in?
- **City**
 - Although many study abroad programs offer opportunities in the same country, many offer studies in different cities.
- **City Type**
 - Each city in a country has a culture of its own, so when researching it's important to think *what kind of city* you would like to be in. A small town? Metropolitan city? A rural village? A quiet historical place? Resources like Youtube or Google Maps can be used as a visual aid when deciding.
- **Host Institution**
 - What university will you be studying at? Maybe use this as an opportunity to research the school - check out their website online or Google photos and such.
- **Language of Instruction**
 - Pay close attention to language requirements. Some classes will be taught in the host countries language. But keep in mind that many programs have classes taught in English even in non-English speaking countries.
- **Program Type**
 - The kind of program you choose is important because it allows you to decide how your experience will be organized
 - GVSU offers 3 different types of programs.
 1. **Faculty-Led** - A professor from GVSU has set up a program and goes abroad with you and a group of other GVSU students. Excursions with the other students are likely included and all arrangements are previously made by the program director.
 2. **Partnership** - A partnership is a strong connection that we personally have made with a university - we send students there and they send students here, so we have a really good understanding of what their programs are like. Generally, these programs are good for directly enrolling in another university giving you full freedom to choose from their class list.
 3. **Providers** - Providers are businesses that are geared towards sending students abroad. With so many countries and universities there is no way we personally could make connections with all of them. The different providers therefore can add unique opportunities and simply offer different options than we offer through our university.
- **Housing Options**
 - Homestay, dormitories, and apartment options vary from program to program. Prices vary for each and each option also offers a different environment. So you should think about how and where you want to live while abroad.
- **Excursions**
 - Different programs offer field trips or other cultural excursions with guided instruction. Where do these excursions take place? How many? This may help decide which program fits better if a program has more interesting places of interest they visit.
- **Total Projected Cost**
 - The total projected cost of your trip should include the program fees as well as airfare, spending money and all other costs essential to your study abroad (See Study Abroad Funding Packet for complete budget breakdown and planning). GVSU Partnerships and faculty-led programs list the total projected cost on the program flyer. For Non-GVSU it takes a little piecing together, but you can find most budget breakdowns on the providers website.
- **Degree Progress**
 - When planning your study abroad, it's important to make sure your classes supplement your degree. Perhaps provide an interesting perspective that will set you apart from others in your degree. But it's also important that they fit academically. We suggest that you work with your academic planner to find the courses will best suit your degree.
- **Courses Interested In**
 - The spaces provided here are for you to check out what classes that you might want to take in each program. Seeing all the classes might help to decide which program is best for you.
- **Other Notes**
 - Every program is very different, and some have extra opportunities attached like internships, volunteer work, or research opportunities. So maybe the inclusion or exclusion of those could be a deciding factor. But other than that this space is for you to write what you like about each program. What stands out? Can you see yourself in this program? What would you be most excited about?