**STUDY ABROAD CHECKLIST FOR VA BENEFIT RECIPIENTS**

**Step 1** Attend a Study Abroad First Step Meeting to learn about the various study abroad options available.  
**NOTE:** VA benefits cannot be applied to third-party providers. Students using VA benefits to help pay for the cost of study abroad can select from the following program options:  
(1) GVSU faculty-led programs,  
(2) GVSU Exchange Programs*,  
(3) GVSU independent study or GVSU internship credit as long as it is meeting degree requirements.  
(4) faculty-led program run by another US degree-granting institution (school certifying official will be at the host institution – GV student registered as transient or guest),  
(5) direct enrollment in a foreign institution*,  

*The overseas host university must be approved by the VA prior to participation. A list of approved universities can be found on the WEAMS Database at: [http://inquiry.vba.va.gov/weamspub/buildSearchInstitutionCriteria.do](http://inquiry.vba.va.gov/weamspub/buildSearchInstitutionCriteria.do)

Any institution NOT approved in the WEAMS database must first be approved prior to a student’s participation. See link below for host university approval process.

**Step 2** Visit the PIC Resource Room to research and select a study abroad program that fits your academic, personal, and professional interests.

**Step 3** Meet with Director of Study Abroad & International Partnerships to review study abroad budget and to verify that program is an approved program.

**Step 4** Verify benefits with your GVSU VA Certifying Official.

**Step 5** Apply for study abroad in the Padnos International Center’s OASIS system at: [www.gvsu.edu/oasis](http://www.gvsu.edu/oasis)

**Step 6** Meet with GVSU’s School Certifying Official (SCO) to review your plan. Students must provide evidence for how the selected study abroad program will help them meet degree requirements at GVSU.

**Additional Resources:**

Approval process for foreign universities  