Talking to Your Parents/Guardians

Convincing your parents/guardians that you should study abroad is one of the first steps to studying abroad. The following are a few tips:

Show Them You Are Determined
Be prepared to explain your desire to study abroad. Explain to them your reasons for wanting to study abroad in a way that shows that you have thoroughly researched your program.

Persuade Them
Research and learn about your destination country. Talk about how it can benefit your learning, increase your future career opportunities, and give you a valuable understanding of the world around you.

Ease Their Worries
Most programs offer on-site support, which include airport pick-up, orientation activities, embassy registration, and other safety resources while you are abroad. Encourage them to contact Padnos International Staff and/or the provider of your program with any questions.

Show Them the Money
Be sure to do your research and communicate the total estimated cost of your desired program and how it compares the cost of a semester at GVSU. Then, make a list of your funding sources.

Dispel Myths
Many people base perceptions about other countries and its people from media sources, ultimately encouraging myths about social and safety climates abroad. Be informed about where you are going and gain a realistic context around the risks that may concern you and your parent/guardian.

Padnos International Center  studyabroad@gvsu.edu  616.331.3898