Study Abroad offers a unique opportunity for students to get to know other cultures, gain a greater sense of independence and increase their career potential. And it’s not as difficult, time-consuming or expensive as many might think.

The boundaries of countries no longer can define the limits of our imaginations. The world is becoming increasingly interconnected, and seeing and appreciating the world from the perspectives of others has become a necessity.

Though studying abroad provides students the opportunity to visit foreign locations, meet people from around the world, enjoy their independence and bolster their resumés, many students never leave their home campus. Too often, students believe the myths about studying abroad and never learn the truth: studying abroad is an experience like no other.
The United States Senate has designated 2006 the Year of Study Abroad. During the 2005 - 06 academic year, more than 600 USC students studied abroad in more than 35 countries. 26.2 percent of USC freshmen say that chances are “very good” that they will participate in a study abroad program. In the 2005 - 06 academic year, 53 percent of USC students studying abroad studied in a non-English speaking country without knowing the language of the host country. Each year, USC’s Study Abroad Office guides hundreds of students through the study abroad process. Learn more about study abroad by contacting the office: www.sa.sc.edu/sa sscabroad@gwm.sc.edu 803-777-7557 119 Byrnes Building

Here’s a look at students’ top concerns about studying abroad:

**Expense**: Often, study abroad costs no more than taking classes here at USC. Students can pay tuition at USC to attend a school abroad, and they can still use their financial aid toward this cost. In addition, USC and other sources provide scholarships specifically for students studying abroad.

**Time**: Many students are hesitant to study abroad for fear that they will have to postpone graduation. Students who work with their academic advisers, however, have no trouble creating study abroad academic plans that allow them to study abroad and graduate on time. When studying abroad, most students enroll at least 12 hours each semester. A pre-approved academic plan will ensure that these hours transfer to USC and are accepted as credits toward graduation.

**Language**: For students who aren’t comfortable conversing in another language, study abroad programs in English-speaking countries like England, Ireland and Australia offer a solution. In other countries, classes taught in English are available.

Students interested in studying abroad should start by contacting the USC Study Abroad Office, which can guide students in every step of the process.

Studying abroad isn’t as hard as it may seem, and it’s truly the experience of a lifetime.

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**THE BUZZ**

“I’m in a beautiful place with amiable people, delicious food, pristine beaches and captivating music and dance. For all this and more, I consider studying abroad to be the best decision I’ve ever made.”

-- senior Mica Jenkins is studying in Brazil

“Being away from English-speaking America is scary only for a few minutes, and then traveling is the most exhilarating feeling...it doesn’t get much better than this.”

-- junior Betsy Curry is studying in Italy

“I learned so many things about language and culture while I was abroad that I could never have learned sitting in a classroom. Studying in Spain gave me a different perspective on the world and taught me a lot about myself.”

-- senior Rebecca Spencer studied in Spain

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**THE NUMBERS**

**Destinations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Spain</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>England</td>
<td>12%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>33%</td>
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</table>

**Participation**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Spring</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Academic Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2003-2004</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2004-2005</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005-2006</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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**THE FACTS**

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**THE TOPIC**

QuickTake

Study Abroad: a World of Opportunity

QuickTake