YOU are Generation Study Abroad! You are part of a national movement to increase involvement in overseas study. Overseas study at Birmingham-Southern College is a valued part of the Explorations Curriculum. Give yourself the academic and professional edge while exploring what the world has to offer you.

All students planning to study abroad must meet the minimum requirements below:

- Maintain a minimum 2.5 GPA
- Complete first year at BSC (transfer students must be enrolled one semester at BSC prior to departure.)
- Be in good social standing
- Satisfactorily complete the required Pre-departure Topics for Study Abroad course, IS101A the semester prior to studying abroad.

Apply to study abroad through BSC by the appropriate deadline above:

- **Study Abroad Application** (fall, spring and summer terms only): on OrgSync under Study Abroad (Sklenar Center)  
  The study abroad application form requires two well-crafted essays that you upload from a word document. This form will not save information for editing purposes. You will need to complete the application in one sitting. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Sklenar Center.  
  - Essay 1: How will this study abroad experience apply to your major and allow you to meet your academic and intellectual goals? Write a well-crafted 250-word essay.  
  - Essay 2: What do you hope to gain personally and professionally from the study abroad program(s) you have chosen? Write a well-crafted 250-word essay.

- **Request a faculty recommendation**: Ask a faculty member to send an informal e-mail to Anne Ledvina (aledvina@bsc.edu) commenting on your ability to succeed academically and socially abroad.

- **Apply for scholarships for study abroad**: (application and material found on OrgSync under “Study Abroad”)
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ): Study Abroad

1. **Do I have to know where I am going to study before I apply for study abroad?** No. This study abroad application is to approve you as a study abroad candidate through BSC. This means that you can be nominated for exchange programs and that you will receive a positive endorsement on the home school nomination form.

2. **When do I have to decide the program and country where I will study?** By the start of the Pre-departure Topics for Study Abroad course.

3. **If I am approved to study abroad, do I automatically get into the program I choose?** No. You have to apply to the university/program of your choice; however, because your application has been vetted and approved by the Sklenar Center, this means that as long as you meet the host institutions minimum requirements, you should be accepted. The only issue that students have had is that some university partners require a higher GPA (ex. 3.0) than the minimum we require for study abroad.

4. **There are so many options. How do I choose the best program?** Come see Anne Ledvina in the Sklenar Center. She can help you narrow down the choices by telling you how various programs are structured and priced.

5. **Is study abroad going to set me back academically?** No. In fact, studying abroad helps students fulfill Exploration requirements, major/minor credits, elective credits, EEIS credits and Area Studies credits. Simply studying abroad full time for the semester fulfills one Civic Engagement.

6. **How much does semester study abroad cost?** Study abroad varies in price and program structure. Exchange programs cost the same as or less than what you pay at BSC. Direct and partner programs vary in costs ranging from $10,000-$17,500. Scholarships and Federal Financial Aid both serve to cover unmet need and to minimize these costs for students and their families. Come meet with Anne Ledvina in the Sklenar Center to learn more.

7. **Are there scholarships available?** Yes! Check out the scholarship page under study abroad on the website or on OrgSync/study abroad to learn more.

8. **Is there a deposit due?** No. Deposits for studying abroad are not charged through BSC. Any deposits would come from partner programs. Once students commit to studying abroad, BSC does charge a study abroad fee that covers the cost of the HTH Worldwide insurance required of all students pursuing global opportunities through the Sklenar Center. The cost for semester is $500, for summer is $250 and for the academic year is $800.

9. **Can I pursue RISE3 overseas?** Yes! Through our study abroad programs, internships, research or service opportunities are available. Talk to Anne Ledvina about it when you meet about overseas study.

You are done with the application process!

“Your journey to global citizenship begins on the first day you step into the semester-long pre-departure class.” Melanie Robinson studied abroad Spring Term 2012 in the Dominican Republic