

Why Study Abroad?

Students are exposed to numerous opportunities during their time at UNF, and one of the most transformational of those is study abroad. In my role as director of study abroad within UNF's International Business Flagship Program, I'm often asked by students, "Why study abroad when I can learn the same things on campus in Jacksonville without the extra costs?" In my mind, I reflexively launch into the oft-touted intangible benefits of living and studying overseas, such as increased confidence, resilience, and flexibility, or better intercultural awareness and honed communication skills. But then I catch myself and remember that our business students are generally more interested in the bottom line. The question they are actually asking is, "How will shelling out the cost of a plane ticket – and possibly a little more – pay off for me in a real, practical way?" So instead, I talk about benefits that may resonate better with the Coggin College of Business crowd:

Studying abroad advances you toward graduation...

- Students who study abroad through the International Business Flagship Program are significantly more likely to (1) complete their program of study at UNF and (2) graduate within a shorter period of time than UNF's general population.

...and can actually *save* you money.

- Spending fewer semesters taking classes saves more money than the cost of a typical UNF study abroad.

Studying abroad makes your resume stand out...

- Only 10% of U.S. college students study abroad, and even fewer own a passport.

...and can help you get a job.

- Students who study abroad are nearly twice as likely to be employed within one year of graduation.

Studying abroad gives you something in common with top CEOs...

- CEOs of Forbes Global 2000 companies are significantly more likely to have study abroad experience than other graduates.

...and a higher starting salary.

- Study abroad alumni earn an average of \$7,000 more in starting salaries than their peers who elected not to.

Once students recognize the concrete advantages associated with studying abroad, they are open to learning more about our 35+ international partner universities, our several short-term study abroad offerings and overseas internships, and our unique dual degree programs. We work with students every step of the way – from that initial conversation about why studying abroad is critical in today's economy all the way through their return to the U.S. And maybe, just maybe, they become a little more self-reliant and adaptable throughout the journey.

Learn more about study abroad opportunities offered by UNF's International Business Flagship Program at <https://www.unf.edu/coggin/abroad/>.

Kate Mattingly Learch
Director of Study Abroad
International Business Flagship Program