

Academic Advisers and Study Abroad: How to Become Involved and Learn More!

1. Attend activities publicized for students, such as informational meetings, the study abroad fair, etc: this is a wonderful opportunity to learn what students are learning! Informational meetings cover the content of the particular program as well as the application process, financial aid, scholarships, etc.
2. Participate in the semiannual study abroad fairs and staff your college table to advise students from your college who wish to study abroad. Students appreciate your advice on how to fit study abroad into their graduation and major requirements, course sequences, language courses, etc.
3. Read, forward and print out messages sent over the Academic Adviser listserv: these messages can serve as references when students express interest in studying abroad.
4. Check out *Tales from Abroad* at the study abroad web site (<http://studyabroad.msu.edu>): they are wonderful stories from MSU students who have studied abroad.
5. Check out the MSU Office of Study Abroad web site <http://www.studyabroad.msu.edu/advisors.html> for useful documents and references to assist you with advising. The web site has information on internships; integrative studies course listing; MSU study abroad programs with foreign language requirements designated; a Study Abroad Student Checklist; procedures for applying to a Non-MSU Study Abroad Program; financial advice, “You Can't Afford NOT to Go!”; a listing of all courses; and much more! Also check MSU’s study abroad program search at <http://wwwstudyabroad.msu.edu/programs/index.html> to search for programs by location, time frame, or subject.
6. Participate in workshops sponsored by the Office of Study Abroad. Topics have included funding study abroad, internships, transfer credit, and the basics of advising for study abroad.
7. Apply for a site visit grant award. The Office of Study Abroad will fund visits for advisers to visit program sites abroad for one week. Visits to semester-length sites are strongly encouraged. Preference is given for visits to sites that have not reached enrollment limits. The purpose is for hands-on experience for those who are usually unable to go and can promote study abroad upon return. The annual deadline for visits during the upcoming **calendar year** is November 1. Check out the web site for details.
8. Consider becoming a member of the Academic Adviser Study Abroad Focus Group. This group consists of about 15 advisers who meet about three times a year. The goals of this group are to:
a) enhance communication between OSA and advisers; b) educate advisers about study abroad and have the group serve as advocates; c) provide guidance to OSA on materials, information and workshops needed; etc.