Study Abroad Timeline

PREPARATION
- Sketch a rough draft of your remaining semesters to calculate whether a semester abroad is a realistic option for your trajectory.
- Look into summer programs if a semester away is not an option.
- Inquire whether you are eligible for study abroad (3.0 GPA and good academic and judicial standing).
- Investigate options: places, programs, requirements, budget.
- Become familiar with the difference between abroad programs and exchange programs. Check out our list of recommended programs for Human Ecology students.
- Narrow your options and meet with a counselor to discuss further details.
  - Meet with Paul Fisher or Deanne Maxwell in 170/172 MVR for study abroad, or Pauline Morin in 183 MVR for exchange programs.
- Apply for a passport (must be valid 6 months after planned return).

APPLICATION
- Get approval by Cornell (separate from the program application/approval).
- Involves listing proposed courses of study. Application is handed into HE Registrar’s office in 146 MVR. Keep in mind deadlines for the Spring semester to be May 30/Sept. 15, and the Fall to be Dec 20/Feb 1.
- Apply to your chosen program.
  - Thoroughly read application requirements and deadlines - each program may have its own set. Applications usually involve 1 or 2 essays, so prepare enough time! When crafting your essays, seriously consider how an abroad experience will enhance your Human Ecology education. View: https://www.cuabroad.cornell.edu/
  - Ask professors for letters of recommendation, if necessary, well in advance.
    - View flyer on letter of recommendation request etiquette.

POST ACCEPTANCE
- Write thank you letters to your recommenders.
- Check Cornell Abroad for additional requirements and to verify commitment to the program.
- Begin gathering information for a visa application (this can be time consuming depending on the country’s visa requirements).
- Complete the housing application (if applicable).
- Research additional medical requirements such as vaccines or physicals.
- Look into flight options, including airports, dates, and group flights.

This timeline may vary depending on your studies, choice of program, and unique considerations. Please leave ample time to research your options and requirements.
3-1 Months Before Departure

**DEPARTURE INFORMATION**
- Purchase flight tickets
- Ensure you have a credit or debit card that will work, and inform your bank(s) that you will be overseas
- Investigate options for phone plans
- Research climate, customs, and safety information
  - Buy a travel book and a few maps—you won’t always be able to rely on your smart phone!
- Attend the pre-departure meeting offered by Cornell

Week of Departure

**FINAL DETAILS**
- Compile an emergency contact list
  - Include how you can be reached, how your family can be reached, and how local emergency services can be reached.
- Copy important documents (passport, credit cards, photo ID's) to leave one copy at home and take one with you
- Exchange some cash in the currency of your program’s country to have on hand when you arrive
- Confirm flight

Departure

**GO ABROAD!**
- Immerse yourself in the culture!
  - Many students find it helpful to keep a journal or blog about day to day happenings, as a form of reflection and a keep sake. Take photos and have fun (but don’t forget to study)!

UPON RETURN
- Make sure to fill out the qualtrics evaluation form upon return
  - This is a good opportunity for you to reflect upon your experiences and to help fellow undergraduates in navigating their future study abroad opportunities.