Are you “thinking” about going abroad for a full semester? Here are a few things for you to consider.

- Come and talk with us about the different semester abroad options (Exchange programs, Pitt Panther Programs and Pitt Recognized programs)
- Interested in engineering semester abroad programs - Have you reviewed options on the engineering semester abroad page? [https://www.engineering.pitt.edu/exchange/](https://www.engineering.pitt.edu/exchange/)
- Review what courses you need to take in the semester you want to go abroad
- Review the programs you are considering and see if they offer the courses you want to take.
- Begin to narrow down your search to 2 choices and identify 8-10 courses you think you’d like to take, and you think will transfer for the credits you need.
- Contact the faculty director of your department to review the courses to find out if the courses identified will transfer back for the requirements you need.
- Review specifics on the programs website to ensure the program dates, cost and logistics work for you (i.e., housing, etc).
- Contact OAFA to verify how your financial Aid package can be used abroad (Tim Bush- tim.bush@pitt.edu).
- Talk with your parents to figure out if this program can work with your budget.

Now you feel comfortable about 1 to 2 programs. Now you should apply to go abroad!

- First apply on the Pitt program website and then follow the instructions.
  - ONLINE (abroad.pitt.edu)
  - Passport Information Questionnaire
  - Pitt Exchange Program Application Questions Questionnaire
  - Disciplinary Record Review
  - Financial Aid Instructions
  - Pre-Existing conditions Notification

- Attend a meeting with either Diane Saran or Kristine Lalley. If you are applying for a university wide semester abroad program, you will need to set up a meeting with Jessica Sun. For Pitt-Recognized programs, you can meet with Diane or Kristine. With Panther programs, please meet with the program manager.
Review the supplemental application to Global E3, UAS7, or the program provider. This will have to be completed upon their deadline.

Congratulations on your nomination by Pitt to apply at a university abroad! You are almost ready to begin your semester abroad! There are a few things that will need to be completed prior to your departure:

- Attend the required pre-departure meeting - This is mandatory
- Ensure your passport is valid at least 6 months after your return date. If it is not, you must renew your passport ASAP
- Submit Program Agreement to Engineering International programs' Study Abroad Office by their deadline
- Pay the deposit by the deadline
- Meet with undergraduate coordinator/advisor about courses you plan on taking abroad and get those courses approved for transfer (Fill out Transfer Credit Pre-Approval Form) and Plan your remaining semesters to make sure you are still on track to graduate on time once you come back from abroad
- Submit the course approval form by the deadline
- Submit Course Approval form to Pitt Study Abroad Office
- Plan on attending the Pre-departure meeting - Exchange Specifics with students who have gone to your country! This will help you plan specifics
- Ask the Engineering International Programs office for the names of students who have gone abroad where you want to go to ask questions and connect.

Once you have been accepted by your program abroad!

- Once you get a copy of your acceptance letter, provide a copy to Engineering International Programs and keep your copy for your records as you might need it to apply for a visa.
- Apply for housing at your Host Institution (if the Institution does not apply for you on your behalf)
  - Some universities do not offer housing. Check with the university about alternative housing options.
- Confirm orientation and semester dates at host university/program.
- Book flight to host country. Make sure you arrive a day or two before orientation.
- Fill out flight information questionnaire on abroad.pitt.edu site
- Fill out the Dept of State Traveler Enrollment program
- Fill out the Medical Report by the deadline
- Visit a Primary Care Physician prior to travel
  - Your host institution may require a physical exam. Check with your host to see if there is a form you need filled out by a doctor
  - Check medications and make sure you have enough to cover your time abroad (ask doctor for a 90 day prescription!)
Complete any immunizations necessary for your host country/any countries you may travel to. You may need an immunization record!

- Some countries require a TB test for your Visa application. Check with your host institution and ask your doctor for a TB Test if necessary.
- Check CDC Warnings for your host country

☐ Alert bank/credit card company that you will be travelling abroad
☐ Make several copies of your passport and bring some with you/leave some with a trusted family member or friend
☐ Make an emergency contact card to keep with you at all times. Include the numbers of family back in the US, as well as the Emergency Pitt Study Abroad hotline (we will give you this information during orientation)

☐ Visas:
  - Your host institution should provide you with some information, but check out the visa process for your country online (Student Visa)
  - Some countries will require you to travel to a consulate in the US for your visa. Start the process early!
  - Most Visa applications require proof of acceptance
  - Start the visa process early in case there are any issues

☐ Phones: Check with your current provider if you can get an international plan. Otherwise, research getting a local prepaid SIM card (SIM card is recommended, as long as your phone is not locked by your wireless provider)

☐ Packing:
  - Research the weather in your host country and pack clothing accordingly. For instance, if you are going to a country of tropical climate, you do not need a winter parka while you are abroad!
  - Check with the airline on baggage restrictions to make sure your luggage stays under the size and weight limit

☐ If you plan on traveling while abroad (which you should!)
  - Research the countries where you plan on traveling. You may need a Visa to travel to these countries!
  - Make sure your immunizations are up to date according to what these countries require
  - Bring a backpack or a light piece of luggage to take with you on these excursions. If you do not have one, plan to buy one while abroad

☐ Go abroad and have the time of your life!