

# Student Guide for **STUDY ABROAD**



## WHAT IS STUDY ABROAD?

At TRU, study abroad refers to all student mobility opportunities outside of Canada, including student exchanges, field schools, practica, internships and research.

TRU offers a comprehensive student exchange program through our network of international partnerships. Students can study for one or two semesters in another country while earning credits towards their TRU degree.

Make your degree stand out and enhance your education. There is no better teacher than life experience, and no better classroom than the world.

## BENEFITS OF STUDY ABROAD?



### **Courses taken abroad will count towards your degree.**

If you plan your courses ahead of time, then you will not delay your graduation.



### **Gain valuable life skills.**

Discover new countries, cultures, and opportunities. Living abroad can change your life by helping you grow personally and intellectually.



### **Showcase international experience on your résumé.**

Companies are looking for employees who can work in a flexible, diverse environment and have cross-cultural and intercultural communication skills, as well as global awareness and understanding.



### **Non-competitive application process.**

At some universities, exchange placements can be highly competitive. TRU's commitment to access means you qualify to study abroad by meeting the minimum requirements.



### **Employability**

Develop what employers refer to as soft skills: critical thinking, resilience, presentation skills, intercultural competence, problem solving and self confidence.



**THOMPSON  
RIVERS  
UNIVERSITY**



## Can I afford it?

- **Very affordable:** TRU Study Abroad students pay tuition at their home institution, so there are no international tuition fees.
- **Study Abroad Mobility Award:** Every student will receive a \$1000 award for each semester they study abroad. This award can be used to cover flight costs, medical insurance and/or Visa costs.
- **Other scholarships or bursary awards:** Students can apply for other TRU or external awards for their time abroad.

**Each student receives a \$1000 award per semester!**

## How do I Study Abroad?

Before studying abroad, students must:

- Complete at least 1 full semester at TRU or 3–4 open learning courses.
- Have a cumulative GPA of 2.5 to 2.75 depending on the type of exchange you apply for.
- Take at least 3 courses per semester abroad (9 TRU credits minimum).
- Plan to return to TRU to complete your studies.
- Have the support of their Program Advisor.

Notes:

- International students are eligible to study abroad. They will continue to pay international student tuition to TRU while on exchange.
- Degree seeking Open Learning students are eligible to all study abroad programs.

## Application Deadlines

Application deadlines are subject to change every year. Please check the Student Exchange website [tru.ca/studyabroad](http://tru.ca/studyabroad) under "How to Apply" for exact dates.

### Next Steps

Attend an information session

[tru.ca/studyabroad](http://tru.ca/studyabroad)



# FAQ

## **When should I study abroad?**

Ideally, study abroad should be done during the second or third year of your degree.

## **Do I need to speak another language?**

No. Many programs offered abroad are in English, or are offered in countries that speak English. However, if you are looking for a study abroad experience to help you improve your additional language skills, there is a place for you no matter what your current language ability.

## **How hard is it to be accepted?**

The process is non-competitive. You need a cumulative GPA of 2.5 to 2.75 depending on the type of exchange you apply for. If your GPA is too low to apply, you can continue to work to improve it and apply at a later date.

## **Do I earn a degree abroad?**

No, you earn a degree from TRU.

## **Can I afford to study abroad?**

Yes. In most cases, studying abroad costs roughly the same or even less than a semester in Kamloops. Each student will receive a Study Abroad Mobility Award and student loans qualify.

## **Do I need past travel experience?**

No. For many students their first time outside of Canada was when they studied abroad.

## **Where will I live?**

Most students choose to stay in residence or other types of accommodation near the partner university. University personnel in the host university's international office assist with this step after you have been accepted.

## **Can I take a course outside of my program, even if I don't want credit for it (such as a language course)?**

Yes you can, however you still need to register for these credits and pay for them. They will just be additional credits on your TRU transcript, not ones counting towards your degree.

## **Can a Diploma student go on exchange?**

Yes, however they are really confined by the classes they can take and their choices of schools are smaller.

## **I am returning to TRU after taking a few semesters off. Can I apply to study abroad now that I have returned?**

Yes, however you will need to have completed at least one full-time semester at TRU before you apply.

## **Can I go in my last semester?**

It is not recommended. If you are planning to participate in Convocation, transcripts from the host university may not be sent to TRU in time to be assessed.

Studying, traveling, and living abroad in Europe for six months allowed me to grasp a global perspective in my education and be open to international employment.

Thanks to TRU, I completed a study abroad, three internships, a hands-on research project, and volunteered for a fantastic humanitarian initiative.

Overall, I was able to enhance my educational experience, structure, and quality while working toward my Bachelor's degree. I am thankful for the challenges and achievements at TRU. If I could say one thing: be fearless in the pursuit of all the opportunities this university holds.

**Victoria**

Graduate, BBA | Italy



 TRU Study Abroad  
[tru.ca/studyabroad](https://tru.ca/studyabroad)