PLANNING YOUR INTERNATIONAL PLAN OVERSEAS EXPERIENCES

A central component of the International Plan (IP) is the overseas experience. IP students will spend a minimum of 26 weeks abroad over two terms. Students may participate in any approved study abroad, global internship, and/or research abroad program to meet the requirement.

The IP international experience differs from the typical study abroad experience in a couple of ways:

- With the IP’s focus on developing global competence, participants are encouraged to step outside of their comfort zones by participating in independent experiences such as exchange programs, overseas internships, and independent studies or research abroad for at least one of their terms abroad.

- Your two international experiences are expected to be coherent, which means that they will share a connection to each other, your major, and, in most cases, your IP foreign language. Coherency can be fulfilled in one of two ways:

  - **Linguistic Coherence:** Both of your terms abroad are spent in your linguistic area. For example, if your IP language is French, you would spend your 26 weeks abroad in a Francophone country. Adhering to a linguistically coherent plan will make it more likely that you will develop advanced language proficiency.

  - **Intellectual Coherence:** Your international experiences might not share the same language but are appropriate choices for your particular field of study. Students going abroad on the basis of intellectual coherence must be studying and/or working with a specific aspect of their field during both terms abroad. For example, an Industrial Engineering student may participate in the ISYE Beijing-Singapore summer program and intern with a logistics company in Panama. (This scenario assumes the student’s IP language is either Chinese or Spanish.) Students pursuing intellectually coherent plans may sacrifice language proficiency but should develop a deeper understanding of their major in different cultural contexts. Intellectual coherence must be approved by the IP faculty representative in the student’s major department.

IP TRACKS: SUGGESTED PATHWAYS

IP Tracks is a great resource available to help you start identifying coherent international experiences.

[http://www.internationalplan.gatech.edu/iptracks](http://www.internationalplan.gatech.edu/iptracks)

Based on actual past examples of what previous IP students have done, and on known opportunities for various majors, TRACKS provides feasible and coherent combinations of international experiences that are appropriate for your major and that are available in your linguistic area.

Note that you are not limited to these examples, but they are a great starting place to help you imagine the possibilities!
As you start to think about what you might like to do for your 26 weeks abroad, keep in mind that you have many options:

- GT offers **over 100 exchange programs** with elite universities around the world such as National University of Singapore, University College London, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Tsinghua University, Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, University of Queensland Australia, Ecole Polytechnique, Technische Universität München, Lund University, Tokyo Institute of Technology, University of Cape Town, and RWTH Aachen University. On an exchange program, you take your courses with local students and have a wide range of courses from which to choose. Exchange programs allow for greater cultural immersion and the opportunity to take major and other degree-related courses taught from different perspectives.

- GT also offers **over 35 faculty-led group study abroad programs**. Most of these programs take place over the summer, with GT Lorraine and the spring semester Pacific Program being the two exceptions. Courses offered on faculty-led programs are taught by GT professors and are available in a variety of disciplines. Some programs are major-specific, some focus on language acquisition, and others offer courses that most students need for GT degree requirements. Due to their group nature, cultural immersion is somewhat limited, although some programs feature home stays, the chance to meet or learn with local students, and other opportunities for cultural exchange. Keep in mind that **only one summer program** may be used toward your IP 26-week overseas requirement.

- The **Global Internship Program** (GIP) is designed to help students prepare for the global economy by assisting them in interning outside the US. Over the past eight years, GIP has sent over 1,000 students to work in 47 different countries. GIP assists students in developing an internationalized resume, cover letters and job search techniques. Internships can be from 10 weeks up to an entire year, most are paid and some have language requirements, but many do not. Examples of past internships are Google in Australia, BMW in Germany, the US Embassy in Madrid, Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corporation in Japan, Siemens, BMW, and Deutsche Bahn in Germany, Infosys in India, General Electric in Germany and Mexico, and IBM in China and India. Internships may also encompass positions in research labs, NGOs, and non-profits. International internships are an excellent option if you want to gain professional experience in your field and develop valuable workplace skills in a global setting.

- IP students may also choose to conduct **research abroad**. Past IP students have worked on research projects in areas such as Biomedical Engineering in Ireland, Aerospace Engineering in France, Biology in Germany, and Electrical Engineering in Japan. Finding an overseas research opportunity usually involves networking with faculty in your academic department and speaking with advisors in the Office of International Education.

*It is important that you consider how any international experience will fit into your International Plan prior to applying/committing to any programs. It is highly advised that you seek advising from the IP advisor in OIE as well as your major’s IP faculty representative before deciding on which programs you will participate in.*
With so many international options at GT, you may feel overwhelmed when trying to select the best programs for you. But don’t worry; we’re here to help you navigate your journey! Below are a list of upcoming events and info sessions to help you get started:

**STUDY ABROAD EVENTS AND RESOURCES:**

**Open Houses - Aug. 20 & 21, 11am-1pm, Savant Building, 2nd floor**
Each Fall, OIE opens its doors and welcomes students to take a tour of the Study Abroad opportunities available at GT. Advisors will be on hand to answer your questions about programs, eligibility, applications, etc. Plus, there's free food. So, drop in any time for as long or as little as you like.

**Study Abroad Fair - Oct. 2, 10am-2pm, Student Center Ballroom**
Come to the Study Abroad Fair and learn about all of GT’s study abroad opportunities! GT has 80 partner universities in over 30 countries and offers 35 faculty-led programs—that's a lot to choose from, but don't be overwhelmed! The Study Abroad Fair is your chance to see which program is right for you. The Fair puts Study Abroad Program Directors, Advisors, and other campus resources together to answer your questions and help you explore a world of options. Whether you're ready to apply or just exploring, it's never too early to start planning. The Study Abroad Fair is the perfect place to start.

**International Education Week - Nov 17-21 (events all week)**
International Education Week is an opportunity to celebrate the benefits of international education and exchange worldwide. Georgia Tech celebrates International Education Week (IEW) each year with a series of events that highlight Tech’s international opportunities and that recognize the international accomplishments of Tech students, faculty, and staff. With the OIE Photo Contest and International Coffee Hour recurring annually, new events encouraging global engagement are introduced each year.

**Study Abroad Peer Advisors—http://oie.gatech.edu/content/peer-advisors**
Still have some lingering questions about Study Abroad? Want to get the "real deal" from someone who's lived it? The Peer Advisors are students who have recently returned from a GT exchange or faculty-led study abroad program, and they’d love to talk to you! Feel free to contact them with questions about specific programs, countries, or just about study abroad through Ga Tech.

Search your study abroad options: http://oie.gatech.edu/content/study-abroad

Make an appointment with a Study Abroad Advisor: http://oie.gatech.edu/about-us#2_3
GLOBAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM EVENTS AND RESOURCES:

How to Find a Global Internship Workshops - August 28, September 16, September 25, October 7, November 4, November 18, all 11:00am-noon, Student Success Center President’s Suite A

Globally Speaking Workshop: Leveraging the GT Career Fair into a Global Opportunity—September 4, 11:00am-noon, Student Success Center President’s Suite A

Are you planning to attend the Career Fair on September 8 & 9? Well the Global Internship Program has put together a great workshop for you! Our goal is to equip you with the communication skills that will allow you to talk to the recruiters about potential job opportunities all around the globe. This will be a fun and informative session and we strongly recommend that you come. It’ll be a great segue into your preparation for the Career Fair!

German Day Career Fair—October 21, 2:00-4:00pm, Student Success Center President's Suites A-C

Join the Global Internship Program and the School of Modern Languages at the German Day Career Fair. Meet industry representatives from German-speaking countries who are on campus to recruit interns and full-time positions. Dress to impress and have your resume (or better yet, a German-style CV) ready to go. Need help getting ready? Make an appointment to see your Global Internship advisor or e-mail at globalinternships@oie.gatech.edu

Career Buzz—Database containing internship opportunities open to GT students:
http://oie.gatech.edu/gip/careerbuzz

Get in touch with your Global Internship Advisor:
http://oie.gatech.edu/about-us#2_4

CONTACT US TO LEARN MORE!

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