

The smartest choice for your future

Your guide to studying abroad
with confidence



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Your study abroad journey starts here

Imagine arriving in a city you’ve only ever seen online. Every street feels new. Every day brings something different. Studying abroad isn’t just an academic choice; it’s the beginning of a story that you’ll tell for the rest of your life.

From your first morning finding your way around a new city to late night chats with friends from across the world, every day feels like a discovery. You’ll find your favourite coffee shop, discover the best late-night food spot, celebrate festivals you’ve never experienced before and build friendships that last long after graduation.

In the classroom things begin to change. You’ll debate ideas, challenge your thinking and work alongside people whose experiences are completely different from your own. And along the way you’ll discover strengths you didn’t know you had.

Somewhere between arriving and graduating, something shifts. You become more independent. More adaptable. More confident in yourself and your future. Through real-world experience, global connections and new opportunities, what began as an adventure becomes something more.

What you’ll gain beyond your degree

Studying abroad doesn’t just change where you learn, it changes how you see yourself. A university qualification is only part of the experience. You’ll also develop:

- Confidence and independence
- Strong communication skills
- International experience
- Lifelong friendships
- Cultural awareness
- Career-ready skills

Inside this guide you’ll discover:

- Which study route is right for you
- Where you can study abroad
- How to prepare before departure
- What to expect during your first weeks
- The support available throughout your studies
- How studying abroad can help build your future career

Getting into university is only the beginning. The smartest choice is choosing a route that helps you succeed once you’re there.

University degree preparation – Gain the advantage

A degree preparation programme is a powerful first step if you want to begin your degree with certainty and strength.

You'll build the confidence to walk into your first university lecture knowing you're ready. With smaller classes, personalised support and guaranteed progression opportunities, you'll receive the guidance needed to achieve your goals.

There is no guesswork – just better preparation for a more confident start to university learning.

89% of students completing our programmes were eligible to progress to their desired university course in 2024/25.

International Foundation Year

The International Foundation Year prepares you academically and personally before you start your undergraduate degree.

- Build subject knowledge and English language skills
- Develop academic writing, research and critical thinking
- Learn in smaller classes with personalised support
- Gain confidence and independence
- Progress to year one of your chosen degree upon successful completion

87% of International Foundation Year students completing our programme were eligible to progress to their chosen university course in 2024/25.



Bellerbys Foundation Programme

The Bellerbys Foundation Programme is ideal if you'd prefer to begin your studies closer to home before progressing to an international university.

You'll benefit from:

- Comprehensive academic preparation
- Personalised support throughout your studies
- Access to a global network of university partners
- Progression opportunities in the UK and internationally



Bellerbys
Global

Undergraduate Degree Year One

The Undergraduate Degree Year One (IY1)* is the perfect choice for students who want a confident start to university life.

- Study real first-year university modules
- Smaller classes and additional academic support
- Personal guidance from dedicated teachers
- Progress to year two with no extra time added
- Combines university experience with structured support

Students gain early exposure to university learning while continuing to receive guidance that helps them adapt quickly and succeed. This helps students progress with confidence, already familiar with university expectations.

91% of International Year One students completing our programme were eligible to progress to year two at their chosen university in 2024/25.



* Known as International Year Two at our International Study Centres in Scotland. By studying this pathway programme, students progress to the third year of a four-year undergraduate degree to complete their final two years at the University (some exceptions apply).

Direct admission

If you meet academic and English language entry requirements, you can jump straight into university of life – but with expert support behind you.

- You'll benefit from:**
- Simplified applications and expert guidance
 - Visa and documentation support
 - Personalised assistance with accommodation and settling in
 - Access to respected universities across Study Group's global network



The smartest choice for your future

Which option is right for you?

A degree preparation programme may be the smartest choice if you:

- ✓ Want to build confidence before starting university
- ✓ Would benefit from smaller classes and additional support
- ✓ Need time to adapt to a new education system
- ✓ Want to strengthen your academic and study skills
- ✓ Are ambitious about achieving strong results

A degree-level study programme may be right for you if you:

- ✓ Meet the academic and English language requirements
- ✓ Feel confident studying independently
- ✓ Want to begin degree-level learning immediately
- ✓ Are ready to adapt quickly to university expectations

Direct admission may suit you if you:

- ✓ Know exactly what and where you want to study
- ✓ Already meet entry requirements
- ✓ Feel ready for independent university study
- ✓ Want to start your degree right away

Still not sure?

Our advisors can help you explore your options and find the study route that best matches your goals.



“My tutors were absolutely amazing. The one thing that always sticks in my mind is how they accommodated us. They made us know that it was okay to feel nervous. It was okay to be anxious. They made sure we had support every single step of the way. When I think back to the start I was an extremely shy, timid young child. But now completing my degree and standing here I feel like I have definitely evolved. I am more confident to do things. I’ve stepped out of my comfort zones. I am just a whole other person”

Chantel from Nigeria
International Foundation Year
BA Media and Communications

Your guide to studying abroad with confidence

Choose your destination

Where you study shapes more than your university experience. It shapes the people you'll meet, the opportunities you'll discover and the future you build.

Whether you're looking for world-class universities, exciting cities or direct routes into global careers, each destination offers something different.

The smartest choice is finding the place that matches your ambitions.

The UK

Study, work and career opportunities

Picture yourself catching the train to London for the weekend, exploring centuries of history one day and networking with global employers the next. By choosing to study in the UK, you'll learn from internationally respected universities while building connections that can help launch your career.

With shorter degree programmes compared to other countries, strong industry links and opportunities to stay and work after graduation, it's a place where you can start building your future sooner.

- Why you should choose the UK:**
- Internationally respected universities
 - Shorter undergraduate and postgraduate degrees
 - Strong industry connections and placements
 - Diverse international student communities
 - Graduate Route visa opportunities



Ireland

Innovation and global employers

Spend weekends exploring dramatic coastlines, lively cities and a country that's home to some of the world's biggest technology companies. Studying in Ireland creates exciting opportunities that go beyond the classroom.

Modern campuses, practical learning and close links with industry mean you'll graduate with skills that employers are looking for.

- Why you should choose Ireland:**
- Career-focused education
 - Strong STEM and business opportunities
 - Access to multinational employers
 - Two-year post-study work opportunities
 - Welcoming international communities



The USA

Research, internships and practical learning

The USA offers a university experience that's built around discovery, innovation and hands-on learning. Experience campus traditions you've only seen in films while learning through research, internships and real-world projects.

Whether you're carrying out research, joining student organisations or gaining experience through internships, you'll have opportunities to learn both inside and outside the classroom while building skills for your future career.

- Why you should choose the USA:**
- Globally recognised universities
 - Hands-on learning opportunities
 - Research and innovation facilities
 - Internship opportunities
 - Strong graduate employment prospects



Singapore

Technology, business and innovation hub

Modern, ambitious and globally connected, Singapore is one of Asia's leading education destinations. Live in one of the world's safest and most connected cities, where everything from food to technology reflects a truly global lifestyle.

Singapore's universities work closely with industries including technology, finance and sustainability, giving you direct access to one of the world's fastest-moving regions.

- Why you should choose Singapore:**
- Globally ranked universities
 - Industry-focused education
 - English-speaking learning environment
 - Safe and modern city
 - Gateway to opportunities across Asia



Study abroad, live beyond

Studying abroad changes more than where you learn. It changes how you see the world—and what you believe you're capable of.

You'll meet people from around the world, experience different cultures and discover a new city that's soon filled with your favourite places. You'll say yes to opportunities you never expected, build friendships that last long after graduation and create memories you'll carry for life.

At the same time, you'll develop the confidence, independence and global experience that employers value. Every lecture, every challenge and every new experience helps prepare you for whatever comes next.

Because studying abroad isn't just about earning a degree. It's about building a future that's bigger than you imagined.

Getting ready to go

Preparing well before departure helps you arrive feeling organised, confident and ready to make the most of your experience.



Accepting your offer

Once you've received your offer, you'll need to complete any required steps to confirm your place.

After accepting, you'll gain access to important information, guidance and resources designed to help you prepare for arrival.



Applying for your visa

Visa requirements vary depending on where you plan to study.

- **UK** - Students require a Student Visa and a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS).
- **Ireland** - Students may need to apply through the Irish immigration system depending on nationality.
- **USA** - Students require an F-1 Student Visa using an I-20 form issued by their university.
- **Singapore** - Students typically require a Student Pass issued through Singapore's immigration system.

Applying early helps avoid delays and ensures you have plenty of time to prepare.



Booking accommodation

Once your place is confirmed, it's time to arrange where you'll live. Whether you choose on-campus accommodation or a private residence, securing housing early helps ensure a smoother transition.

If you choose to study a degree preparation programme, the International Study Centre can provide guidance on securing your accommodation.



Planning your travel

Book travel arrangements once your visa is approved. Aim to arrive before classes begin so you can attend orientation activities and settle into your new surroundings.

What to pack

- Passport and travel documents
- Visa documentation
- Laptop and chargers
- Academic materials
- Prescription medication
- Weather-appropriate clothing
- Important contact details
- Personal items that help you feel at home

Student preparation checklist

- ✓ Accept your offer
- ✓ Apply for your visa
- ✓ Arrange accommodation
- ✓ Book travel
- ✓ Organise insurance
- ✓ Join pre-arrival activities
- ✓ Research your destination
- ✓ Prepare important documents

Your first weeks abroad

Your first few weeks are all about settling in, meeting new people and building confidence. Everything will feel new at first, but that's all part of the experience. With the right support and an open mind, you'll soon start to feel at home and find your place in your new community.

Arrival and orientation

Orientation is your chance to get to know your new university, explore your surroundings and start building connections before classes begin.

Orientation activities help you:

- Understand university expectations
- Meet support teams and your tutors
- Learn about campus facilities
- Discover student services
- Build connections with classmates
- Join social events and activities
- Get familiar with your new city

Taking part helps you start your studies feeling informed, prepared and connected. It's also one of the easiest ways to make friends, ask questions and begin your study abroad journey with confidence.

Making friends and building confidence

One of the most exciting parts of studying abroad is meeting people from different countries and backgrounds. Every conversation, group project and social event is an opportunity to learn something new, build confidence and create friendships that can last long after graduation.

Settling-in milestones

- **Student ID** - Collect your student ID card and gain access to campus facilities.
- **Timetable** - Review your schedule and familiarise yourself with class locations.
- **Bank account** - Set up a local bank account to manage everyday expenses.
- **Mobile phone** - Arrange a local SIM card or mobile plan.
- **Healthcare registration** - Register with healthcare services where required.

Completing these tasks early helps you focus on your studies and enjoy your new experience.



Everything you need to know about living abroad

Living abroad is one of the most exciting parts of studying internationally. Every day brings something new, whether that's finding your favourite coffee shop, navigating public transport or discovering places you've never been before.

As you settle into your new home, you'll become more independent, build practical life skills and create experiences that stay with you long after graduation.

 **Accommodation**
Where you live plays a big part in your study abroad experience. Finding accommodation where you feel safe, comfortable and supported helps you settle in quickly and focus on making the most of university life.

On-campus vs off-campus
On-campus accommodation offers easy access to classes, campus facilities and student activities. Living close to other students also makes it easier to build friendships and feel part of the university community.

Off-campus accommodation offers greater independence and flexibility while giving you the opportunity to experience more of your local area.

 **Managing your money**
Learning how to manage your finances is an important part of student life. Creating good budgeting habits early helps you stay in control of your spending and enjoy your experience with fewer financial worries.

A simple monthly budget can help you plan ahead, track your spending and make room for both everyday essentials and the things you enjoy.

Cost of living
Living costs vary depending on where you study, but typical expenses include:

- Accommodation
- Food
- Transport
- Study materials
- Social activities

Planning ahead helps you make informed decisions and get the most from your student budget.

 **Campus life**
University is about much more than lectures and assignments. It's your chance to meet new people, discover new interests and make the most of everything your campus has to offer.

Clubs and societies
Joining a club or society is one of the easiest ways to make friends, develop new skills and try something different. Whether you're interested in sport, music, gaming, volunteering or culture, there's something for everyone.

Facilities
Our campuses provide everything you need to study, socialise and stay active, including:

- Libraries
- Study spaces
- Student unions
- Sports facilities

Careers services
Take time to explore your campus – you'll soon discover the places that help you study, relax and connect with others.

 **Life outside the classroom**
Some of the best memories happen beyond your lectures. Explore your new city, try different foods, attend local events and discover places you've only ever seen online.

Every new experience helps you become more confident, adaptable and independent while making your study abroad journey even more rewarding.

Transport
Learning how local transport works gives you the freedom to explore your city, travel with friends and make the most of your time abroad.

Shopping
Getting to know local supermarkets, cafés and essential services helps your new surroundings start to feel like home.

Independence
Managing your own schedule, responsibilities and finances helps you become more confident and prepares you for life beyond university.

Social and nightlife
From student events and cultural festivals to live music, cafés and nightlife, there are plenty of opportunities to relax, have fun and experience your new destination responsibly.

Support when you need it

Studying abroad is an exciting adventure, but it's normal to have questions or face challenges along the way. The good news is that you won't have to figure everything out on your own.

From your first day until you progress to university and beyond, support is always available to help you feel confident, connected and ready to succeed.

Your support network
From the moment you arrive, you'll have access to dedicated staff and services designed to help you settle in, succeed academically and enjoy your experience.

Whether you need help understanding an assignment, adjusting to life in a new country or simply want someone to talk to, there's always someone ready to support you.

Personal tutors and progress coaches
Your Personal Tutor or Progress Coach is there to help you throughout your journey. They can support you with:

- Academic guidance
- Progress monitoring
- Goal setting
- Study advice
- Personal support

Regular check-ins help you stay on track, celebrate your progress and tackle any challenges early.

Wellbeing support
Looking after your wellbeing is just as important as your studies. Dedicated wellbeing teams are available to help with:

- Homesickness
- Stress management
- Mental wellbeing
- Cultural adjustment
- Personal challenges

No matter how big or small the issue feels, reaching out for support is always encouraged.

24/7 Student Assistance Programme
Support doesn't stop outside university opening hours. You will have access to confidential professional support whenever you need it.

Services include:

- Helplines
- Counselling
- Wellbeing advice
- Translation support

Whether you have a quick question or need someone to talk to, help is always available.

Safety and safeguarding
Your safety is always a priority. Study centres follow clear safeguarding procedures and have trained staff who are ready to help if you have any concerns. From your first day on campus, you'll know where to find support, who to speak to and how to access help whenever you need it.



Academic success

Success at university requires more than subject knowledge. Developing effective study habits and academic skills helps you perform at your best from day one.

Learning at university

University learning encourages you to become an independent thinker.

You'll be expected to manage your workload, participate actively and take responsibility for your progress.

Tutorials and feedback

Alongside classes, tutorials provide opportunities to ask questions, review difficult topics and receive individual support.

Regular feedback helps you understand your strengths and identify areas for improvement.

Study skills for success

- Academic writing – Learn how to structure arguments, reference sources and communicate ideas clearly.
- Research – Develop the skills needed to locate, evaluate and use information effectively.
- Critical thinking – Build the ability to analyse evidence, evaluate ideas and form informed opinions.
- Time management – Learn how to balance study, deadlines and personal commitments.



Building your future career

The choices you make today can open doors for years to come. Studying abroad isn't just about earning a degree – it's about building the skills, experience and confidence that prepare you for a successful global career.

From your first day, you'll be developing qualities that employers value: the ability to adapt, communicate across cultures, solve problems and thrive in new environments.

These are the experiences that help you stand out when you're ready to take your next step.

Developing career-ready skills

Throughout your studies, you'll build practical skills that employers look for in graduates, including:

- Communicating effectively
- Adapting to new challenges
- Solving real-world problems
- Working with people from different cultures
- Thinking critically and independently
- Managing your time and priorities
- Presenting ideas with confidence

These skills become part of everything you do, helping you succeed at university and preparing you for the workplace.

Building a global network

One of the biggest advantages of studying abroad is the people you'll meet along the way.

You'll learn alongside classmates from around the world, work with experienced academics and connect with industry professionals. These friendships and professional

connections can become part of a global network that supports your future long after graduation. The people you meet today could become tomorrow's colleagues, collaborators or even future employers.

Placements and industry experience

Many universities offer opportunities to apply what you've learned beyond the classroom through:

- Placements
- Internships
- Industry projects
- Employer networking events
- Careers fairs and workshops

These experiences help you build your CV, develop professional confidence and understand what it's like to work in your chosen industry before you graduate.

Becoming a global graduate

Studying abroad changes more than where you learn—it changes how you see the world and what you believe you're capable of achieving.

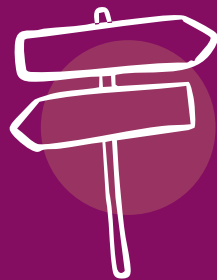
By graduation, you'll have international experience, career-ready skills, a global network and the confidence to pursue opportunities wherever your ambitions take you.

Because the smartest choice isn't simply earning a qualification. It's becoming a graduate who's ready to succeed in a global world.



Why choose Study Group?

For over 30 years, Study Group has helped international students begin their degrees with confidence.



We connect

- Become part of a welcoming international community.
- Build friendships with students from around the world.
- Feel supported from your first day.



We educate

- Learn from experienced teachers who understand international students.
- Benefit from smaller classes and personalised support.
- Develop the skills needed for university success.



We care

- Access academic, personal and wellbeing support whenever you need it.
- Receive regular guidance throughout your studies.
- Feel safe, supported and valued.



We prepare

- Develop independence and confidence.
- Build future-ready academic and professional skills.
- Progress to university fully prepared for success.



Frequently Asked Questions

The Smartest Choice starts with feeling prepared

Will I make friends?

Yes. Making friends is a natural part of starting your journey. Through orientation, clubs, societies and social events, you'll have plenty of opportunities to connect with other students who are also building their new life abroad.

What if I feel homesick?

Feeling homesick is completely normal when you're adjusting to something new. The Smartest Choice means knowing support is always there – including tutors, wellbeing teams and student services to help you settle in and feel at home.

How much support will I receive?

You'll be supported every step of the way. From academic guidance and personal tutors to wellbeing and student support teams, everything is designed to help you start strong and stay on track.

Can I work while studying?

In many destinations, international students are allowed to work part-time alongside their studies. The Smartest Choice is understanding your visa rules early so you can plan ahead with confidence.

What happens after my programme?

Your programme is designed as a clear pathway forward. On successful completion, you can progress to the next stage of your studies, whether that's an undergraduate or postgraduate degree.

How do I progress to university?

Progression is based on clear and achievable requirements, usually including attendance, coursework and meeting your required grades. Everything is structured to help you move forward with confidence.

What if my English isn't perfect yet?

That's exactly what your programme is designed for. You'll build your academic English skills progressively, with support built into your learning from day one.

How will I know what to do before I arrive?

You'll receive clear pre-arrival guidance so you understand every step before you travel. The goal is to make your transition as smooth and confident as possible.

Will I get help finding accommodation?

Yes. Depending on your centre or university, support is available to help you find suitable accommodation so you can focus on settling in, not stressing about logistics.

Your study abroad checklists

Before you go

- ☐ Accept your offer
- ☐ Apply for your visa
- ☐ Book your accommodation
- ☐ Book your flights
- ☐ Organise insurance

Your packing essentials

Important documents

- ☐ Passport and visa documents
- ☐ Travel insurance info
- ☐ Flight confirmation
- ☐ Accommodation details
- ☐ University offer letter/enrolment documents

Your student wardrobe

- ☐ Everyday outfits
- ☐ One formal outfit
- ☐ Weather-proof jacket
- ☐ Comfy walking shoes
- ☐ An outfit you feel confident in

Tech & study essentials

- ☐ Laptop and charger
- ☐ Phone and international plug adapter
- ☐ Power bank
- ☐ Headphones
- ☐ Notebooks and stationery
- ☐ Backpack
- ☐ Sticky notes and highlighters

Get excited for your journey

- ☐ Create a playlist of your favourite songs
- ☐ Pack your travel snacks
- ☐ Save places you want to visit on Google Maps
- ☐ Plan your first weekend adventure

Get money smart

- ☐ Open a local bank account
- ☐ Download a budgeting app
- ☐ Work out your weekly food budget
- ☐ Find student discounts
- ☐ Get a student travel card
- ☐ Learn where the cheapest supermarkets are

Get ready to learn

- ☐ Log in to your university email and save the important dates
- ☐ Explore your online learning platform before your first class
- ☐ Read your welcome information and any pre-course materials
- ☐ Organise your study space and tech
- ☐ Download the apps you'll use every day
- ☐ Find out where to get academic support if you need it
- ☐ Plan your first week's study schedule

Make friends

- ☐ Say hello to someone new on your first day
- ☐ Join at least one club or society
- ☐ Go to a welcome event
- ☐ Grab coffee with someone from your course
- ☐ Learn five people's names
- ☐ Swap Instagram or WhatsApp with classmates
- ☐ Say yes to something you'd normally say no to

Make campus feel like home

- ☐ Find the library
- ☐ Find your favourite study space
- ☐ Visit the Students' Union
- ☐ Check out the sports facilities
- ☐ Find the best lunch spot
- ☐ Explore campus before classes start
- ☐ Learn where to go if you need help

Explore your new city

- ☐ Find your favourite coffee spot
- ☐ Learn the quickest route to campus
- ☐ Visit a famous landmark
- ☐ Find a supermarket that fits your budget
- ☐ Try a local food you've never had before
- ☐ Discover your favourite study spot
- ☐ Take a photo somewhere you'll want to remember

Feel confident from day one

- ☐ Save important contacts in your phone
- ☐ Find out where to get support if you ever need it
- ☐ Schedule regular catch-ups with friends or family back home
- ☐ Build a routine that includes sleep, food and exercise
- ☐ Find something that helps you switch off (gym, reading, gaming, walks)
- ☐ Learn your route between accommodation and campus
- ☐ Save emergency numbers and local transport apps

My first week wins

- ☐ I've found my classrooms
- ☐ I've attended my first lecture
- ☐ I've met my tutor(s)
- ☐ I've introduced myself to someone new
- ☐ I've explored the local area
- ☐ I've found my favourite coffee spot
- ☐ I've joined a society or event

My study abroad goals

Before I finish my first semester, I want to...

- ☐ Feel confident finding my way around
- ☐ Make friends from around the world
- ☐ Try five new foods
- ☐ Join a club or society
- ☐ Discover my favourite place in the city
- ☐ Try something completely new

Create your own goals:

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Ready to take the next step?

Your future starts with the choices you make today.

Whether you're preparing for university, starting a degree-level programme or applying directly to university, Study Group can help you begin your journey with confidence.

Make the smartest choice for your future.





Study Group helps students from around the world prepare for university. We offer degree preparation programmes, degree-level study and Academic English courses in partnership with over 50 universities worldwide.

Together, we deliver high-quality programmes that help students build strong academic skills and improve their English. With expert guidance and trusted support at every step, students are ready to succeed at university.

That's why Study Group is The Smartest Choice for students who want to thrive at university.

Help and support

Get the answers you need in one place:
agent.studygroup.com