

This guide is provided by the UT Dallas International Student Services Office to current UT Dallas students considering participation in Education Abroad. The information is not intended as legal advice. For legal issues, please consult an immigration attorney.

EDUCATION ABROAD PROGRAMS THAT ALLOW F-1 PARTICIPATION

- Study Abroad
- Reciprocal Exchange
- Independent Study
- Internships
- Faculty-led Programs

DESCRIPTION OF EDUCATION ABROAD PROGRAMS

- **Study Abroad:** Student registers for study abroad courses at UTD, but pursues the courses at an institution abroad
- **Reciprocal Exchange:** Student registers for reciprocal exchange courses at UTD, but pursues the courses at an institution abroad
- **Independent Study:** Student registers for independent study courses at UTD, but pursues the courses at an institution abroad
- **Internship Abroad:** Student registers for internship course at UTD, and fulfills the work assignment abroad (CPT approval not required)
- **Faculty-led Program:** Student registers for a UTD course that includes an international component as part of the curriculum

F-1 ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENT DURING SEMESTER OF EDUCATION ABROAD

Fall or Spring Education Abroad

- Full-time enrollment in semester abroad (12 credits for undergraduates, 9 credits for graduate students)
- Only three credit hours can be online or hybrid
- The remaining credit hours must meet physical presence requirement

Summer Education Abroad

- Full-time enrollment in semester abroad (9 credits for undergraduates, 6 credits for graduate students) if summer enrollment is required
- Only three credit hours can be online or hybrid
- The remaining credit hours must meet physical presence requirement

Graduating Semester

- Enrollment in at least one face-to-face course which runs the entire semester required
- If more than one course is required for graduation only three credit hours can be online or hybrid

Physical Presence Requirement

Meet Requirement:	Don't Meet Requirement:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Face-to-face • Internship Course • Independent Study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online • Hybrid • Distance Education

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT FOR F-1 PARTICIPATION IN EDUCATION ABROAD**Fall or Spring Education Abroad**

- Enrollment in a full-course of study in the U.S. for one academic term prior to semester of education abroad

Summer Education Abroad

- Enrollment in a full-course of study in the U.S. for one academic term prior to semester of education abroad

AUTHORIZED EARLY WITHDRAWAL ALTERNATIVE

- Students who cannot meet F-1 requirement in semester abroad may consider applying of an Authorized Early Withdrawal by submitting the request form to ISSOdocuments@utdallas.edu
- Student is allowed to suspend F-1 status during semester abroad
- Student may be enrolled at UTD during semester abroad but not an immigration requirement
- Student may return to the same F-1 status if they re-enter U.S. within 5 months
- Student must apply for a new I-20 and F-1 visa if abroad more than 5 months

PRACTICAL TRAINING CONSIDERATIONS FOR PARTICIPATION IN EDUCATION ABROAD**Impact on CPT and Pre-Completion OPT**

- If approved by ISSO for Education Abroad and meet full-time enrollment requirement semester abroad can be counted towards eligibility for CPT or Pre-Completion OPT

Impact on Post-Completion OPT

- May **not** be eligible for post-completion OPT if participating in Education Abroad in graduating semester for the following reasons:
 - Students outside the U.S. are not in any nonimmigrant status while abroad
 - Student is not residing in the U.S. with a current I-94
 - May not be able to return to the U.S. after program end date.

F-1 CONSIDERATIONS FOR PARTICIPATION IN EDUCATION ABROAD

Temporary Absence

- F-1 students may be absent from the U.S. for 5 months or less to return to the same status
- This provision does not apply to F-1 students who have been approved for Education Abroad by the ISSO

Reduced Enrollment

- F-1 students approved for Education Abroad, by the ISSO, are not eligible for a Reduced Enrollment Authorization during semester abroad
- Notify ISSO & Education Abroad before you drop a course

Program Extension

- F-1 students are not eligible for an extension of their I-20 based upon approval for Education Abroad
- Keep I-20 end date in mind when considering participating in Education Abroad

TRAVEL CONSIDERATIONS WHILE PARTICIPATING IN EDUCATION ABROAD

Re-Entry to United States

- I-20 with study abroad approval and travel endorsement issued within one year
- Passport valid for 6 months beyond re-entry
- Valid F-1 visa
- Study Abroad Status Verification Letter
- Faculty-led only need travel endorsement and F-1 status verification letter in addition to valid passport and F-1 visa

F-1 Visa Renewal

- Recommended to renew F-1 visa in home country
- May apply for F-1 visa in third country
- Check with the U.S. Embassy or Consulate you plan to visit
- Leave plenty of time for unexpected visa delays
- All applicants must participate in an in-person interview

APPLICATION PROCESS FOR EDUCATION ABROAD APPROVAL

- Obtain international travel authorization by completing all application and required documents through Education Abroad
- Submit a Travel Endorsement Request through iComet.utdallas.edu to receive your study abroad I-20 (can apply remotely).
- Submit a Service Letter Request through [iComet .utdallas.edu](http://iComet.utdallas.edu) to receive your study abroad letter (can apply remotely).
- Faculty-led only need travel endorsement and status letter in addition to international travel authorization

CONTACT INFORMATION

For more information on the impact of Education Abroad on your F-1 status and the I-20 approval process:

- E-mail ISSOcurrent@utdallas.edu
- Call 972-883-4189

For more information on Education Abroad programs and the Education Abroad approval process:

- Visit utdallas.edu/ea or utdallas-ea.terradotta.com
- E-mail: EducationAbroad@utdallas.edu
- Call: 972-883-4715