

OGE Student Expectations

Information sharing: The OGE expects students to share pertinent information about studying abroad with their families. We expect students to engage directly with the OGE and advocate for themselves.

OGE does not send information directly to parents and guardians. Please share all information directly with your parents or guardians.

Due to [FERPA regulations](#), we can only tell parents and guardians so much if they contact OGE. If a student's parents or guardians contact OGE, OGE will not discuss study abroad decisions directly with them. All communication must come directly from students. OGE expects students to take ownership of the abroad experience and advocate for themselves.

Students will be attending universities and programs that may be vastly different from their experiences at Boston College. Please remain patient regarding the pace of information provided and the response times from your host universities/programs. OGE will provide information throughout the process and offer guidance around class selection, housing, arrival abroad, etc. However, please note that OGE has no direct control over when our partners distribute information to students.

If you are a spring study abroad student, you will receive less communication until late summer and/or into the fall semester. You can contact OGE with any questions, but it is normal for there to be less to do immediately after OGE approval.

Communication: OGE should be your first point of contact regarding any aspect of going abroad, including course registration abroad, course credit, etc. Occasionally, your host university will contact you directly.

Please pay attention to emails from OGE and your host program. These emails will contain valuable and time-sensitive information. Failure to act quickly may result in students missing housing, course registration, or other important deadlines.

Waitlist and program inquiries: The [waitlist](#) will go live towards the end of February and is only for students wishing to switch from fall to spring. We do not maintain a fall waitlist because the timeline for fall programs is more compressed. Please direct any study abroad-related inquiries to your OGE Study Abroad Advisor.

Only a small number of students may be removed from the waitlist. OGE must evenly balance fall and spring semester enrollment. OGE factors in enrollment attrition during the selection process. If a student withdraws from a spring semester program, this does not mean OGE will automatically fill that spot for that program, or in another spring semester program. Several times in the spring and early fall, OGE will review the enrollment balance between fall and spring to determine if any students from the waitlist for spring can be added to a spring program. More information can be found on the [waitlist guidelines](#).

Study Abroad Outside of OGE

Please also note that students **may not** study abroad outside of the approval process overseen by OGE. OGE is responsible for approving participation for all semester study abroad programs. Students may not apply or attend abroad programs without OGE's approval. This approval process ends with the January 5 deadline. Students who attend a study abroad program without the permission of the OGE will not receive any transfer credits for their time abroad. Studying abroad independent from BC is not permitted or encouraged by BC.

Program Dates: Students should be aware that, occasionally, exact program and term dates are not known until shortly before the semester begins. Estimated dates are listed on each [program's home page](#). The start and end dates listed are estimates, but the time frame (i.e., "early January-mid-June") is accurate. Students are expected to attend any mandatory early start programs or university orientations and complete the semester within the provided dates. Please plan accordingly, especially when planning summer internships, as universities abroad may not allow students to leave a program early. We advise students not to plan independent travel or other activities that interfere with their programs' start and end dates. OGE will provide updates, but we cannot control when universities will release dates.

Academics: Often, the final selection of classes does not occur until after arrival abroad. Students should be diligent about their academic course planning, which is a continuation of the [academic planning](#) they did before their study abroad approval.

Housing abroad: Students cannot live independently if the host program or university provides a housing option. The only exception is for programs that expect students to arrange their housing; the OGE rarely approves independent housing. Students are expected to live in the accommodation provided by the host program or university. Housing options and living standards vary across programs and locations. BC/OGE is not involved in the abroad housing process except for a few programs.

Billing: Students are billed by BC only for BC tuition and international health insurance provided by [CISI](#). Payment to BC does not include housing costs abroad unless otherwise noted. Students will be billed directly by their host university for housing, an abroad housing agency, a landlord, or a property management company abroad (the source of housing varies across abroad programs).

Scholarships, grants, and financial aid: Scholarship and grant application timelines can differ significantly. The [Finances page](#) has more information about available scholarships and financial aid.

Travel Planning: Students are responsible for all their travel arrangements, including flights, visas, passports, etc. Different countries have different requirements and timelines. Students should check their passports to ensure they are valid for at least six months beyond the program's end date. If their passports are expired or about to expire, they should begin the [renewal process](#) immediately.

Country-specific entry requirements: Like most institutions, OGE and BC do not have special arrangements with consulates or visa-issuing agencies. While we will provide general guidance on what to expect, OGE and BC are subject to any wait times and procedures enacted by the host country. OGE and BC do not have any special arrangements to expedite the processing of visas or residence permits. Students will have to work individually to secure a visa. Students should note that securing a visa or residence permit can take time, effort, and added costs. Adding your personal travel before securing a visa will likely delay the processing time. Finally, each country has its process and timeline. Be prepared to travel to the Consular office serving your permanent address to submit your application in person, as this is often required.

Preparing to go: Each student must prepare before studying abroad. The [Pre-Departure page](#) has more details. The Study Abroad Advisor for your region/program will conduct multiple pre-departure meetings.