



February 2014

TO: College Students Wanting To Study Abroad Who Do Not Meet Minimum Academic Standards  
FROM: The College Association Deans

The University of Virginia encourages students to study abroad, but requires them to meet minimum academic standards. Students in the College who wish to study abroad must be in academic good standing and have a cumulative 2.500 GPA at the time they apply to study abroad. Any student wishing to study abroad who is on academic warning or does not have a cumulative 2.500 GPA at the point of application must submit a petition to study abroad to his or her Association Dean. *Students on academic warning should be aware that if they incur a second consecutive academic warning, they become subject to academic suspension and thus would forfeit the opportunity to study abroad; any academic credits earned in a study abroad program would not count toward graduation.*

THE PETITION: A student's petition must include the following:

1. A statement addressing the circumstances for the low GPA or lack of academic good standing, the student's academic and personal goals in studying abroad, and his/her current readiness to do so;
2. An advising transcript from SIS;
3. An official description of the study abroad program to which the student is applying;
4. An interim grade report from **each** current course instructor.

RATIONALE: Students who do not meet the College's minimum standards for study abroad must provide evidence that they are capable of taking full advantage of the opportunity to study abroad despite past academic performance. The student's statement should be an opportunity for honest and thoughtful self-assessment. Faculty members who are knowledgeable about the student's academic progress in the semester of application can provide further insight into the student's readiness to study abroad.

THE PROCESS: Students who wish to study abroad should first contact the International Studies Office. If the student needs to petition to study abroad, he or she should meet with his or her Association Dean to discuss the process. After gathering all the relevant material, the student submits the petition and accompanying documentation to his or her Association Dean who will forward it to the Study Abroad Subcommittee in the College. The student ordinarily will receive a response to the petition from his/her Association Dean within a week.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS: Any student whose petition is approved may study in a University direct credit program or an approved study abroad program for transfer credit. Students who study in a transfer credit program should be aware that a maximum of 60 non-UVa credits may count toward the 120 credits needed in a B.A. or B.S. degree in the College. Non-UVa credits include advance placement credit, dual enrollment credit, and transfer credit from domestic and foreign institutions of higher education. Non-UVa courses cannot fulfill area or competency requirements, with the exception of approved foreign language classes. For non-UVa courses to count toward major or minor requirements, students must get approval from the Director of Undergraduate Studies in the relevant department. Students wishing to study abroad in their 4th year must get prior approval from their Association Dean and their major advisor.