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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **VT FACULTY LED**The programs are usually designed by VT faculty and sponsored by a specific VT departmentVT roughly offers:* **65** short term programs
* **5** semester programs
 | **VT EXCHANGE**VT has forged partnerships with **60** prestigious universities across the world that engage in reciprocal student exchange  | **ISEP EXCHANGE**VT partners with ISEP, a non-profit educational organization, to expand your study abroad options as ISEP has a network of about **170** universities for reciprocal student exchange  | **ISEP DIRECT** VT partners with ISEP, a non-profit educational organization, to expand your study abroad options as ISEP has a network of about **100** universities for direct enroll | **THIRD PARTY**These non-VT affiliated organizations administer study abroad programs and act as intermediaries for logistics (i.e. housing, transcript). Often onsite staff offers orientation, support services, field trips, and cultural activities. | **AUTONOMOUS STUDY**There are many countries where it is very cheap to directly enroll into a university, provided the university allows semester enrollment even if VT doesn’t have a partnership with them |
|  | Cost effective for both **in-state** and**out-of-state** students | Most cost effective for **in-state** students (as you can study abroad at the cost of your in-state tuition) | Most cost effective for **in-state** students (as you can study abroad at the cost of your in-state tuition) | Can be cost effective for both **in-state** and**out-of-state** students(if applying to low cost programs and in an area with low cost-of-living) | Most cost effective for **out-of-state** students  | Can be cost effective for both **in-state** and**out-of-state** students (if applying to host universities with low/no tuition and in an area with low cost-of-living) |
|  | VT tuition is paid to VTYou get a 20% tuition discount For VT summer programs, you pay per credit hour | VT tuition and feesare paid to VT | VT tuition and feesare paid to VT | Host university tuition is paid directly to that university | Program fees (covering tuition) are paid directly to the Third Party(you don’t pay any VT tuition) | Tuition and fees are paid directly to the host university at local rates(you don’t pay any VT tuition) |
|  | Usually requires a non-refundable application fee and/or deposit | $ 300 (GEO fee) will be charged to your account as soon as you’re nominated | * $ 50 (GEO fee)
* $ 100 (ISEP application fee)
* $ 325 (ISEP placement fee if you accept the spot offered)
* $ 86/month (mandatory insurance)
 | * $ 50 (GEO fee)
* $ 100 (ISEP application fee)
* $ 325 (ISEP placement fee if you accept the spot offered)
* $ 86/month (mandatory insurance)
 | $ 50 (GEO fee)Additional fees vary per Third Party provider | $ 50 (GEO fee) |
|  | * The cost of room and board is included in the total cost of the program
* Housing will be arranged
* Trips may include a home-stay (living with a local family) option, or ho(s)tels
 | * You pay room and board to the host university
* You work with the host university to determine most affordable housing
* Housing varies from a home-stay (living with a local family) to dorms or apartments
* For some exchange programs, such as Kansai Gaidai and Caen, a $5,900 room/board fee will be assessed by Virginia Tech.
 | * You pay room and board to VT (about $ 5,900 a semester)
* Might require finding housing yourself
* Housing varies from a home-stay (living with a local family) to dorms or apartments
 | * You pay room and board to host institution
* Might require finding housing yourself
* Housing varies from a home-stay (living with a local family) to dorms or apartments
 | * The cost of room and board is included in the total program cost
* Housing will be arranged
* Housing varies from a home-stay (living with a local family) to dorms or apartments
 | * You pay room and board to the host university
* You need to work with the host institution to determine most affordable housing
* Housing varies from dorms to apartments
 |
|  | * VT credit
* Grades transfer
* affects GPA
 | * Transfer credit (T-credit)
* Grades do not transfer
* Does not impact GPA
* Must achieve a "C" at least to receive T-credit
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 |
|  | Some programs are competitive(Check with the program director for details) | Overall, our exchange programs tend to be competitive (especially the UK, Australia and Germany). We strive to place you in one of your chosen universities depending on exchange space and your academic need. | ISEP will try to place you in one of your top ten choice universities depending on exchange space and your academic need | Placement at the university of your choice is guaranteed (unlike with an exchange). This is helpful if applying to a university / region that is in high demand. | Placement is usually guaranteed | Depending on the university, spaces for international non-degree seeking students may be limited |
|  | Min. 2.5 GPA (some programs may require a higher GPA) | Min. 2.5 GPA (some programs may require a higher GPA) | Min. 2.75 GPA(some programs may require a higher GPA) | Min. 2.75 GPA(some programs may require a higher GPA)  | Usually require a minimum 2.5 GPA (UK programs often require a min. 3.0 GPA) | Usually require a min. 2.5 GPA (UK programs often require a min. 3.0 GPA) |
|  | * Summer
* Wintermester
* Short term spring
* Short term fall

\**Limited semester programs* | * Summer
* Semester
* Academic Year
 | * Semester
* Academic Year
 | * Semester
* Academic Year
 | * Summer
* Wintermester
* Semester
* Academic Year
 | * Summer
* Wintermester
* Semester
* Academic Year
 |
|  | Limited immersion level as you travel for a short term with VT students / faculty\**semester programs excepted* | High immersion level (live and study with local / international students) | High immersion level (live and study with local / international students) | High immersion level (live and study with local / international students) | Immersion level varies by program (often you go with students from other U.S. universities) | High immersion level (live and study with local / international students) |
|  | Application through GEO My Study Abroad account | Application through GEO My Study Abroad accountAfter that, your on-campus Exchange Coordinator will advise you through the nomination process: Chelsey Watts (cbwatts@vt.edu) | Application through ISEP[www.isep.org](http://www.isep.org)After that, your on-campus ISEP Coordinator will advise you through the placement process: Chelsey Watts (cbwatts@vt.edu)  | Application through ISEP[www.isep.org](http://www.isep.org)After that, your on-campus ISEP Coordinator will advise you through the placement process: Chelsey Watts (cbwatts@vt.edu) | Application through Third Party website  | Application through host university website |
|  | NOT REQUIRED\*Applying through your My Study Abroad account automatically registers your trip with GEO | NOT REQUIRED\*Applying through your My Study Abroad account automatically registers your trip with GEO | REQUIREDAfter you’ve applied you will be contacted by your on-campus ISEP Coordinator with registration instructions:Chelsey Watts (cbwatts@vt.edu)  | REQUIREDAfter you’ve applied you will be contacted by your on-campus ISEP Coordinator with registration instructions:Chelsey Watts (cbwatts@vt.edu)  | REQUIREDRegister right after you’ve applied to your study abroad program | REQUIREDRegister right after you’ve applied to your study abroad program |
|  | Application deadlines vary and are unique to the program you selected | For fall: February 15For spring: September 15 | For fall: January 25For spring: August 25\*Your application is due by the dates above, not the dates on the ISEP website, as we need to process and approve your application prior to the ISEP deadline | For fall: January 25For spring: August 25\*Your application is due by the dates above, not the dates on the ISEP website, as we need to process and approve your application prior to the ISEP deadline | Application deadlines vary:check with the Third Party providers  | Application deadlines vary: you can often enroll until close to the start of the academic year |
|  | * Is the program open to all majors?
* Is the program open to all years (freshmen)?
* Are courses taught in English? (If you want to study in the host language, we recommend that you have successfully completed a 3000-level course in the local language)
* Are there specific requirements (i.e. GPA, pre-requisite courses)
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